



School District No. 43 Coquitlam

## KWAYHQUITLUM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Kway Families:

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! Whether you are returning to Kway or joining our school community for the first time, we are excited to have you with us. We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the year ahead. To help your family prepare for a successful start, we have outlined some important information and key dates for the first few weeks of school.

### **Communication**

Home-School communication is very important to us. We know a strong home-school partnership underlies every success for students. Below are some ways to access ongoing information at our school:

- Visit our school public website regularly <https://www.sd43.bc.ca/kwayhquitlum>
- Read direct messages emailed to you. If you have not received correspondence for a long time, please contact the office to verify your email address. We regularly send email updates about school events, reminders, and important information.
- Attend a PAC meeting. PAC meetings are scheduled monthly and information on that first meeting will be sent to parents.
- Always be comfortable contacting your child's teacher by phone or email.

### **Grade 6 students and "new to Kway" students only:**

We are opening the school on Thursday Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00-11:30 am to explore the school, become familiar with the building, and participate in a fun scavenger hunt. We will have Kway Krew students here to greet you, and help you if you need it.

### **First Day of School: Tuesday September 8, 2026**

The first day of school is very short, but very important. We need to know which students are attending Kway, and give you important information about this school year. Students will attend at the following times.

- Grade 8: 9:00 – 9:20 am in the gym.
- Grade 7: 9:30 – 9:50 am in the gym.
- Grade 6: 10:00 – 10:20 am in the gym.

Upon arrival, students are asked to line up at the back of the school outside the gym doors. There will be signs showing the location of the gym for those students new to Kwayhquitlum. Teachers will greet students, take attendance, and share information about the first week of school. Students will then be dismissed from the gym.

### **Team Placement**

Families will receive an email on Friday, September 4, 2026, informing them of their team placement.



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### First Week Plan: September 9 to 11, 2026 (Community Week)

On Wednesday, September 9, students will meet their team at a designated area on the gravel/grass field. Please look for your team sign. Students will spend the day building community through team-building activities, exploring core values, reviewing the Code of Conduct, playing games, completing student profiles, and getting to know their teammates.

**Our goal is to have students start the regular schedule in their assigned classes on Monday, September 14, 2026.**

### Student Placement

Creating balanced learning communities is a thoughtful process that involves considerable time and collaboration among our staff. We consider academic, social, emotional, and learning needs when placing students.

We know that some students may feel nervous about not being placed with particular friends. One of the greatest gifts families can give their children at this time is confidence in their ability to build new relationships. We encourage parents and caregivers to share positive messages such as, "You will meet new friends," "You can be successful in any class," and "Our school is full of caring students and staff who will help you feel connected." Starting with a positive mindset helps students approach the new school year with confidence and excitement.

### First Week Supplies

For opening week (September 9-11), students need minimal supplies (pen, pencil, eraser, a glue stick, some paper, and some pencil crayons). They do not need a device. They can bring their full supplies, including their device, when they are in their permanent classroom on Monday, September 14th.

### School Supplies

Please refer to our school's website for the school supply list or [click here](#).

### BYOD: Bring Your Own Device

Kwayhquitlum Middle School is a *Bring Your Own Device* school. For more information regarding laptops, please see our school website. [Click here](#).

### Personal Electronic Devices – cell phones, electronic games, Smart Watches

Personal Electronic Devices are not to be used and **must be stored in student's locker once they enter the school in the morning, until 2:48pm**. If you have an important message for your child, please call the office and we will relay the message. Texting your child during class time sets them up for conflict with the school expectations. Some exceptions are made for children with medical needs.



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### Bell Schedule

This bell schedule begins on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**\* Start time for the first week, September 9-11, will be consistent at 8:30 a.m.\***

| MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Band and Choir (Extracurricular)   | 7:45 – 8:25 am   |
| Instructional Time                 | 8:30 – 10:24 am  |
| Recess                             | 10:24 - 10:39 am |
| Instructional Time                 | 10:39 – 12:03 pm |
| Eat Lunch (Inside)                 | 12:03 - 12:13 pm |
| Lunch (Outside)                    | 12:13 - 12:43 pm |
| Instructional Time                 | 12:43– 2:48 pm   |

| WEDNESDAY                        |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Band and Choir (Extracurricular) | 7:45 – 8:25 am   |
| Instructional Time               | 9:00 – 10:25 am  |
| Recess                           | 10:25 - 10:40 am |
| Instructional Time               | 10:40 – 12:04 pm |
| Eat Lunch (Inside)               | 12:04 - 12:14 pm |
| Lunch (Outside)                  | 12:14 - 12:44 pm |
| Instructional Time               | 12:44 – 2:48 pm  |

Wednesdays are a 9:00 am start to allow teachers to collaborate and attend meetings. **The Wednesday late start schedule will begin on Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup> 2026.**

### Parent Tasks: Online Payments

As you are likely aware, the district has moved to an online payment system, **School Cash Online**, that allows you to view and pay for your child's school activities such as field trips and school-related fees, safely and conveniently. Visit our school website and click on School Cash Online to set up your account. [Click here.](#)

Once you have registered, you will receive a confirmation email that you have registered your account. You will then have to go back into the link in that email to attach your child(s) to your account.

You can attach ALL your children, no matter what school they are in the district, choosing the appropriate school from the dropdown for each child. You will be required to enter their legal first and last name and date of birth.

Once set up, you will receive email notifications of upcoming events such as field trips and receive follow-up reminders for unpaid events. You will also be able to grant permission online for your child to attend events and notify teachers if you are able to volunteer. You will be able to view the history of payments of each of your children.



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## KWAYHQITLUM MIDDLE SCHOOL

### **Student Forms**

Visit our school website and click on [Parent E-Forms](#) to complete: School Policies, Emergency Release, Volunteer & Driver Forms and Medical Alert.

### **Student Fees**

Visit our school website and click on [School Cash Online](#). All fees can be paid through School Cash Online. Fees are due by September 30, 2026.

- \$35 Student Activity Fee - the cost covers school-wide activities for students, leadership events and presentations. The activity fees also support lock rentals.
- \$5 Emergency Fee - covers the cost of emergency prep supplies for the school year. This includes water, food and first aid supplies that may be required during a large-scale disaster. As many of the supplies expire, this is a yearly cost and is non-refundable.
- \$20 Athletic Fee – this is a one-time/yearly athletics fee for students who play on a Kway team(s) of \$20.00. This can be paid through the School Cash Online payment system.

### **School Calendar**

On our school's public website, you will find the school calendar. This calendar includes any holidays and professional development days, along with school events.

### **Closed campus**

Middle schools in SD43 have a closed campus. This means that students are expected to remain on the school grounds once they arrive at school until the end of the day. Families can of course pick their children up for lunch.

### **E bikes/ E scooters/ skateboards, bikes**

E-Bikes and E-scooters are not permitted on Kway school grounds as students are not legally allowed to ride them. For non-electric bikes, scooters and skateboards, students are expected to wear a helmet and to ensure that their bike, scooter or skateboard are locked or secured.

### **Lockers**

Each student will be given a locker to store their personal items. Locks will be provided by the school. It is important that students DO NOT share their combination with friends. Space is limited and any decorative items must be magnetic. No use of tapes.

### **Band & Choir**

Information about band and choir will be communicated to students during the first week of school. All levels of ability are welcome.



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### Athletics

Our athletic program offers a variety of sports and opportunities for all students. Our Athletics Director, Mr. Bale, will update the Athletics link on our school's webpage with sports being offered each season. Information regarding schedules, practice and game times and coaching information will be posted here. Go Cougars!

### Drop Off and Pick Up

As students arrive at the site, some from different parts of the district, many students will be driven to school. There will be cars converging around the school at the same time. Drop off and pick up times may be extremely congested, and I ask for your cooperation with the following expectations. **Student safety is of paramount concern.** We appreciate your patience and attention to student safety during busy pick up and drop off times.

- There is a drop off lane in front of the school. It is one direction only; the entrance is accessed via Flint Street, and the exit is onto Dorsett Avenue. This is for drive through drop off and pick up **ONLY**. Please pull over to the right and only stop to let your child in or out of the car and keep moving. If there is no room to pull over to the right, please keep moving through the drop off area and re-enter again. There is also ample accessible and safe drop off areas along Flint Street and Dorsett Avenue. **There is NO PARKING in the school drop off lane or in the STAFF parking lot.** Please do not leave your car unattended when it is in the drop off area. This contributes to congestion and is unsafe for students being picked up or dropped off.

We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the coming year. Strong partnerships between home and school help students thrive, and we welcome your questions, feedback, and involvement. Together, we are looking forward to a fantastic year at Kway!

Sincerely,

Laurie Sviatko & Rob Heinrichs