



L'École Secondaire Hugh McRoberts

NEWSLETTER

September, 2026

Principal: Mr. Jason Leslie

Vice-Principals: Ms. Bronwyn Fackler
& Mr. Kevin Li

Address: 8980 Williams Road, Richmond BC V7A 1G6 Phone: 604-668-6600

Email: microberts@sd38.bc.ca Website: <https://microberts@sd38.bc.ca>

Instagram: [hugh_microberts](#)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

--Mr. J. Leslie (Principal)

September 8th is fast approaching, and it is time to think about going back to school! I hope this newsletter finds you still enjoying the pleasant weather and the extra week off this summer!

Though there is still some holiday time left it is not too soon to begin thinking about the possibilities offered with the fresh start we are provided every September. Each student can decide on their own, individual goals for this school year. Whether your child wishes to improve academic achievement, become a member of a sports team, get involved in service activities or clubs, or explore post-secondary options, McRoberts has many opportunities to offer. Our goal is for each child to achieve his or her full potential.

Inside this newsletter you will find information about school start up and the schedule for the first day of school. Our **first PAC meeting will take place on September 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the library** and all parents are welcome to attend. In the spirit of protecting our environment and saving on paper, our regular newsletters will be posted on our website: <https://microberts.sd38.bc.ca/> We will also email newsletters to you but please ensure your current email address is filled in on your child's **verification/medical form**, which will be sent home with students on the first day of school.

As parents, you play a key role in your child's education and it is not too early to begin conversations around the importance of good work habits, regular study time, and establishing personal bests as this year's goal.

We have had a significant change in staff this year with several new teachers joining the McRoberts team, including a change at Vice Principal with **Mr. Cook** being reassigned to Steveston-London and **Ms. Bronwyn Fackler** coming to McRoberts. All staff are very much looking forward to having your children meet our newest McRoberts staff members.

The school is clean and looks great and we are excited to get things started again. Enjoy the last days of summer – on behalf of the entire McRoberts staff **we look forward to working with you and your children in the 2026-2027 school year.**

--Mr. Jason Leslie (Principal)



UPCOMING DATES:

Sept 8: Homeroom Day
Sept 9: First Day of Classes
Sept 11: Forms Due
Sept 15: Photo Day
Sept 16: PAC Meeting 7pm
Sept 17 & 24: Gr 12 CLC Meeting
Sept 18: Collaboration Time
Sept 21: Grad kick-off
Sept 22: Grade 8 Aquarium Field Trip
Sept 23: Grade 8 Day
Sept 24: Gr 12 Info Meeting 6pm
Sept 24: Gr 8 Info Meeting 6:15pm
Sept 24: Meet the Teacher 7pm
Sept 25: Pro-D Day (School Closed)
Sept 25: Grad Boat Cruise
Sept 28: Terry Fox Run
Sept 29: Orange Shirt Day
Sept 30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (School Closed)

Notice of Late Return



Our first day of school will be **Sept. 8th, 2026**.

If you cannot attend on the first day of class, please complete the “*Notice of Late Return*” form and email it back to McRoberts at microberts@sd38.bc.ca.

The late return form (can be found on the school website) is to be completed for any student(s) who expects to return to school **LATER THAN 12:00 pm Wednesday, Sep. 9, 2026**. If a student is **not** returning on or before **September 17, 2026**, a school cannot reserve a spot guaranteeing the ability to be enrolled in the school. There may be a need for placement at another school upon the students’ late return.

In the event of an unforeseen critical family circumstance occurring on or after July 1, 2026, that causes an unexpected late return to the school, the parent must advise the school as soon as possible by email via the school website or by letter directed to the Principal.

Homestays Needed

The Richmond School District is seeking short- and longer-term homestays for international students from over 30 countries starting immediately. We have over 20 years of experience supporting students and homestays in the Richmond area. Get in touch with our homestay department to learn more about how you can welcome an international student into your home.

New School Year Information

To help all of you get the year off to an organized start, we have sent home electronically (all of this information will also be available on the school website):

- *A Welcome Back Letter*
 - *with description of the first days of school*
- *Back to School Newsletter (this document)*
- *A Grade 8 Handbook with helpful tips (for Grade 8s only)*
- *Strikers Weekly (Week at a Glance for parents-also attached to this email)*
- ***Coming soon: Information about the Grade 8 Welcoming Activities!***

Staffing Changes

As is often the case, a new school year means there have been some changes to the staff at McRoberts. We are excited to welcome to McRoberts the following new staff:

- ***Bronwyn Fackler-Vice Principal***
- ***Chris Arena-Counselling***
- ***Connor Radil-Business Ed***
- ***Coco Wu-Science/Social Studies***
- ***And we are still looking to hire a new Tech Ed teacher***

With changes are also some goodbyes, and we would like to wish all the best to the following staff members who have left McRoberts for the next chapter of their lives:

- ***Myq Beresford***
- ***Spencer Cook***
- ***Jamie Hudson***
- ***Chris Kelly***
- ***Jon Malchy***
- ***Emily Sherritt***
- ***Matthew Soo***
- ***Cyril Viguer***
- ***Daniel Wang***
- ***Dion Wong***
- ***Rich Xu***

Each of these people made considerable contributions to the McRoberts community and will be significantly missed, but we want to wish them all the best in the next chapter of their lives. Thank you and best wishes.

Course Change Requests

*Please be aware that the Timetable (as it is every year), is incredibly tight. Students will receive their schedule in Homeroom on September 8th. We go to great lengths to ensure that students get what they asked for in the Spring (when the Timetable is built-based upon student requests). If a student changes their mind or did not take a course in the summer that they had originally planned to, it can be very difficult to make changes to schedules. *Corrections are only to be requested if a student has an incorrect course, is programmed into the wrong grade level, or has a gap in their schedule.* Counsellors will be working feverishly to make as many corrections as they can, but not everything will be possible, and we ask that all families remain patient and follow the schedule they were given until they have been advised of a change. If you wish to make a request, it is imperative that you fill out course request change form online provided on your printed timetable that you receive in homeroom. **Please DO NOT line up to see your Counsellor in person.** Counsellors will be busy meeting with students without a schedule for the first few days and will reach out to students if they need to speak with you. Please use the **Course Change Request online form** if you need to make any changes. All course change request forms must be submitted ASAP.*

First Day of School-Tuesday, September 8th

- 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. **Grade 8** students will start with a **Welcome Assembly** in the Large Gym and then be directed to their homeroom classes to receive their schedules, lockers, fee statements and verification/medical forms. Students will be assigned a locker and given a combination.
- 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m. **Grade 9-10** students report to the Large Gym for **Welcome Back Assembly**. In homeroom, students will receive their schedule, locker info and student verification/medical form and will be able to pay fee statements. Students are asked to register for a locker using the online link that was emailed to you (if you want one).
- 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Grade 11 - 12** students will start in the Large gym for a **Welcome Back Assembly** and then will be directed to their homeroom classes to receive their schedules, lockers, verification/medical forms and pay fee statements. Students are asked to register for a locker using the online link that was emailed to you (if you want one).

Mentor students and teachers will be available in the halls to assist students new to the school. Homeroom lists will be posted on the windows at the front of the school on Friday, September 4th by 3:00 PM. If you did not look at the lists at the front of the school, we will also post them on rolling boards in the gym that you can look at following the Assembly. All students will report to the large gym on the first day (September 8th).

Homerooms September 9th – 11th

We will have a brief **homeroom class each morning** for Wednesday-Friday of the first week to provide students with relevant information and obtain accurate attendance figures. Each homeroom teacher will also review the school expectations and procedures, distribute agendas, and answer ongoing questions students may have.

It is very important that you attend this homeroom class each day. If you do not attend homeroom during the early days of the school year, your home will be phoned. If we are unable to contact you, we will assume you are attending another school and you will be withdrawn from McRoberts

Fee Statements

All families should have set up an account for the **KEV School Cash Online system**. Once those accounts have been created and students have been attached to the accounts, parents will get notification of outstanding fees. We should have many of the standard fees (*Basic Fee-\$28, Optional Grad Fees, Grade 8 Activity Day fee, Yearbook fee etc.*) already in the system now and parents should be able to start paying immediately. Credit Card payment is an option. **Please be sure to set up your account and attach your child(ren) so you are aware of upcoming fees. Fees will be activated so that they can be paid starting on September 8th.**

Meet the Teacher

You will be able to meet your child's teachers on the evening of **Thursday, September 24th**. All students will be given a handout that allows parents to copy down their child's classes and teacher names. This event is a great way for parents to put a face to the name of the people who will be working so closely with your children. *More information about this event will be communicated to you closer to the date.* We hope to see many of our parents at this event.

Student Information Verification/Medical and Media Release Forms

Students will receive their Media Release forms via homeroom. Please ensure it is signed and returned to Homeroom teachers by Friday, September 11th so your child's photograph can be displayed in the Yearbook etc. We will also be sending home a Student Information Verification/Medical Form with your child on Tuesday, September 8th. Please ensure that the Student Information

Verification Form is filled out with current, accurate, information. Please be sure to include the name and number of an alternate contact who speaks English. **Please make any changes directly onto the form and return to your child's Homeroom teacher as soon as possible or by September 11th. Please be sure to include an accurate email address.**

Protect Personal Belongings

The best defense against acts of theft is to not bring valuable items to school. Protect your belongings and do not leave money or other valuables in an unattended bag, locker or changing room. Students should **LEAVE VALUABLES AT HOME!**

Academic Honesty

We believe that every student has the responsibility to participate actively in their own learning. When faced with problems to solve or assignments to complete, it is the thinking and the effort a student puts into researching, reading, writing and re-writing that allows one to truly learn.

Similarly, submitting the work of another student, tutor, parent, friend, Artificial Intelligence etc. as your own work (even though it has been properly footnoted and referenced) is plagiarism and not acceptable at school. This applies equally to written work and projects (ie: Web design, tech projects, artwork, and photos). Tutors should not write, re-write or significantly edit large sections of work for a student. It is the student's responsibility to avoid deliberate or accidental plagiarism and to verify and account for all their own work and learning.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Our Parent Advisory group meets on the second Thursday of each month. The first meeting of the 2026 - 2027 year is at **7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 16th**. Come join us as we get acquainted, learn about the school and set our goals for this year. *New Members Welcome!*

Grade 8 Activity Day

Plans are still being finalized for the annual **Grade 8 Activity Day**, scheduled for **September 22 and 23, 2026**. This fun way to connect with all the new people in the **Grad class of 2031** will include some fun team-building games on the first day spent at school. The second day will include a trip to Stanley Park, the Aquarium and a Scavenger Hunt in the Park. *These plans are still being finalized and more information will be coming out soon.* Be sure to sign up for this fun event. **Information, permission forms and cost breakdown will be sent in an email in the first week of classes.** We hope to have 100% turn-out and get the year off to a great start and help connect the students to each other and this great school!

Lockers and Agendas

All students will be given instructions in the first day homeroom about claiming a locker. All students will be able to get a locker and combination by using the provided QR code starting at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, September 9th. Always use your locker to keep from carrying books that are too heavy and be sure to keep it clean. To ensure the safety of your belongings, always use your locker for anything valuable (do not bring money or electronics to the Gym Change rooms), and do not share your locker combination with **ANYONE!** There is no cost for using the lockers and the locks remain with the school at the end of the year.

Agendas are also being provided to all students this year. **We strongly encourage students to use these valuable tools to help keep them organized and aware of any upcoming events, tests, assignment due dates etc.**

School supplies

We recommend that students wait until they have met with each of their teachers before purchasing too many school supplies or equipment. Students should, however, bring a **pen, a binder and some paper** for the first few days of school. The information will come to you quickly, so you will need to stay organized.

School and Grad Photos

McRoberts is having its school photographs on **Tuesday, September 15th**. This photo will be used on student Go-Cards and parents will have the option to purchase packages of the photos. Information on the packages will come from **Artona**.

Formal Graduation Photos will also be taken by **Artona** and they will be bringing a trailer to the school parking lot **January 5-12, 2026**. Graduates will have to make an appointment, dress the part and be ready to take the photo that parents will want to buy and is used on the **Graduation Composite**. For more information, please go to the **Artona** website at: <https://artona.com>

Early Warning Phone Line

McRoberts appreciates all communication from home about students and families. In order to keep us aware of students who will be absent from school, we ask that parents use the **EARLY WARNING LINE** at **(604)668-6600** and then follow the prompts. This number is accessible 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. Please report your child's absence by calling Boyd on this number. Thank you in advance.

Collaboration Days and Personal Learning Time

McRoberts is happy to continue with **PERSONAL LEARNING TIME** for the 2026-27 school year. But it is going to be different this year, extended from 48 minutes to 60 minutes, from **9:41-10:41**. It will be offered twice a week, every **Tuesday and Thursday**, starting **Tuesday, September 15th**. *Students are expected to be in a Learning Space, working on something educational. **Attendance will be taken during PLT!** Be sure to take advantage of this very valuable learning time. It helps to keep marks high and homework low when used properly!*

McRoberts also has **Collaboration time**, which is where students have a late start while teachers meet and plan new activities and lesson ideas for their classes. **Collaboration time** is not new to McRoberts (we have been doing it for several years) and happens **on a Friday of each month** except December and March. The first one is **Friday, September 18th**. **Collaboration Time** runs from **8:30-9:30** and classes will start at 9:35 on these days. End of day dismissal on all these days is unchanged at 3:00 PM.

Register your Bike

It is important to remember to leave your valuables (money, wallets, computers, phones etc) at home or locked up safely in your locker. Please do not leave them unattended anywhere in the school, especially in the gym change rooms. We have also had a rash of bike thefts from our front bike racks at the school. We are working with the RCMP to identify the persons responsible (using our recently installed video surveillance cameras), but we are reminding student to **register their bicycle** with **Project 529**, a program run by the Vancouver City Police to track your bicycle. <https://project529.com/garage>

WHENEVER YOU CAN, PLEASE TRY TO LEAVE YOUR VALUABLES AT HOME!!!

Teen Mental Health

Anxiety, depression and other mental disorders can affect between 15% - 20% of adolescents at some point during their teen years and we anticipate some of these numbers could rise as we emerge from the pandemic. Good mental health is more than just a lack of mental illness, however, as life is full of ups and downs and having the knowledge and strategies to cope with stressors can be effective in preventing a mental disorder from occurring during adolescence or later in life. Please be sure to communicate with your child about how they are feeling and if you need some help, please contact our Counsellors. ***Being a teenager has never been filled with more pressure and we need to be aware of the signals if our kids are struggling.***

Attendance/Early Dismissal

Attendance is taken in each class during the day. If a student misses a class, you MAY get a call from a classroom teacher, administrator or Counsellor to find out why he/she was absent. Recorded messages are also sent home at the end of the day, alerting parents to any class missed by their child. Regular attendance is necessary for successful learning.

If students need to leave the school during the day, please send them to the office with a note, signed by a parent, indicating when they should be dismissed. **Students MUST sign out at the office before he/she leaves, either with a note or phone call from a parent.**

Athletics

McRoberts is excited to welcome back all student athletes for the 2026/27 season! We are always looking for community and parent coaches and sponsors to help coach various teams. We are currently looking for volleyball coaches for our girls' teams and a parent to help sponsor our swim team. If you have some coaching experience and are keen to help out, please contact the McRoberts Athletic Director, Mr. Graham Haigh (gghaigh@sd38.bc.ca). Be sure to stay informed on all the McRoberts Athletic information and tryouts by listening to the daily announcements. We look forward to another fun and successful year in athletics at McRoberts. Go Strikers!

Timetable Structure for 2026-27

McRoberts will again be using a **Semester model** (4 classes for half the year, then 4 new courses in the second half). Start and end times remain **8:30 AM** and **3:00 PM** with 5 minutes between classes, a 15-minute nutrition break, and a **45-minute lunch**. **Personalized Learning Time** will return to McRoberts but is now 60 minutes in length between periods one and two, running from **9:41-10:41 AM** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**, where students can get additional help from the teacher(s) of their choice. See below for the schedule we will follow next year. *If you have questions about this model, please contact the school.*



Weekly Bell Schedule

Rotation 1

SEMESTER ONE	
Rotation 1: Sept 9-Nov 13	Rotation 2: Nov 16-Jan 28
SEMESTER TWO	
Rotation 1: Feb 2-April 16	Rotation 2: April 19-Jun 24

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Collaboration Days
8:30-9:51 A	8:30-9:36 A	8:30-9:51 A	8:30-9:36 A	8:30-9:51 A	8:30-9:30 Collab Time
9:56-11:17 B	9:41-10:41 PLT	9:56-11:17 B	9:41-10:41 PLT	9:56-11:17 B	9:35-10:41 A
11:30-12:51 C	10:46-11:52 B	11:30-12:51 C	10:46-11:52 B	11:30-12:51 C	10:46-11:52 B
12:51-1:39 <i>Lunch</i>	12:03-1:09 C	12:51-1:39 <i>Lunch</i>	12:03-1:09 C	12:51-1:39 <i>Lunch</i>	12:01-1:07 C
1:39-3:00 D	1:09-1:54 <i>Lunch</i>	1:39-3:00 D	1:09-1:54 <i>Lunch</i>	1:39-3:00 D	1:07-1:54 <i>Lunch</i>
	1:54-3:00 D		1:54-3:00 D		1:54-3:00 D

Pick up/Drop off

Help us make McRoberts a safe school and a good neighbor by doing what you can to ease the traffic congestion in the area. Williams can be very busy, and we encourage parents and all other drivers not to enter the parking lot from the West side of the building. We also encourage students to walk or bike to school. If you **MUST** pick up or drop off, please do so before 8:00 AM and do not stop in the parking lot, rather proceed to the drop off area in front of the school.

Smoking and Vaping

Smoking is a serious health hazard and students and adults are **NOT PERMITTED** to smoke anywhere on school property. We encourage healthy habits at McRoberts and will actively dissuade students found smoking or vaping in areas where they are not permitted.

Cellphones/Devices

Cellphones and other electronic devices are not to be used, seen or heard during class time, *unless permission has been granted by the classroom teacher, and only to be used for educational purposes*. These can be very valuable learning tools, but they need to be used appropriately, and must not become a distraction. We ask that parents **DO NOT** call or text your child while they are in class. In case of emergency, please call the school office at (604)668-6615 and we will contact your child for you.

In alignment with the Ministry of Education and Child Care's mandate to all school boards in British Columbia to update their Codes of Conduct to include restrictions on students' personal digital device use, last year, the Richmond Board of Education updated their District Code of Conduct and established guidelines for the acceptable use of personal digital devices. These guidelines are designed to promote online safety and ensure a focused learning environment for all students.

The **Acceptable Use of Student Personal Digital Devices Policy 104-G (A)**, and updated **District Code of Conduct Policy 105** are in effect at all SD38 schools. Please read the following excerpts to familiarize yourself and your child with the new expectations. The full policies can be found on our website.

From "Policy 104-G (A) Acceptable Use of Student Personal Digital Devices":

Use of student personal digital devices for instructional purposes and digital literacy at school, including during hours of instruction

- Secondary School (Grades 8 to 12)
 - Students should not use Personal Digital Devices during instructional time, unless permission is granted by the supervising staff for educational purposes.
 - When not permitted, personal digital devices should be powered off, secured inside a student's backpack, locker or secured location.
 - Personal digital devices are not to be used in areas where privacy is expected or required.
 - Access to social media platforms from personal digital devices may be restricted on the school wireless network during instructional time.

The district does not assume responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of any personal digital devices. The security and storage of personal digital devices is the sole responsibility of the student/user.

Accessibility and Accommodation Needs:

Personal digital devices may be used to support students with disabilities or diverse abilities as outlined in a student's support plan or Individual Education Plan.

Thank you in advance for helping support the implementation of these very important policies.

Welcome back to school! Let's have a great year!!!