

September 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians of 8J Students:

Welcome to our pod. We're looking forward to working with your families this year. We have been teaching partners since 2013 and continue to challenge ourselves to create meaningful and fun learning experiences for our students. We have taught grade 6 and 7 the last several years, but are excited to get back to teaching grade 8!

About us

Mr. Rob Kemp will be teaching Language Arts, Social Studies, and Careers Education. Mrs. Jas Piché will be teaching Math, Science and French. PE and fitness will be co-taught. However, we see all students as belonging to Pod 8J, not to one homeroom or to specific teachers. Students can expect that class lists will be shuffled throughout the year for a variety of reasons, but they will always belong to Pod 8J. You will notice that both teachers will attend all meetings and be included in emails. If you are sending us an e-mail please cc both of us and one of us with get back to you. As many of you are aware, we often co-teach and plan activities for a group of 60. Your child's ability to work with others, collaborate, communicate and be flexible will be important to their success this year.

Middle school is an exciting (and sometimes overwhelming) experience. There are many opportunities available to students within the pod, as well as around the school. We often tell students they get the freedom that they deserve- the more independent they are of handling their responsibilities, the more "perks" we can offer them! We are intentional about building expectations and helping students feel successful. As such, we will slowly introduce new procedures as the group is ready for them.

Communication

The most efficient means of contacting us is through email (we share all communication with each other as teaching partners).

Remind App

Another form of communication we use regularly is an app called Remind. Remind allows us to send pictures and messages to your cell phone. It is the main source of information for homework assignments and important updates. Cell phone numbers are not exchanged, and you can unsubscribe at any time. Please see attached instructions for both teachers' accounts and sign up this week.

In Grade 8, we also ask students to sign up. This helps students become more independent in managing their time and work. Students without cell phones can use ipads and tablets with wi-fi to join. Please do so as soon as possible.

Abbotsford School District App

We highly recommend that you download the Abbotsford School District App and subscribe to the Clayburn Middle School feed. School-wide information, notices from the Administrators, important dates and opportunities for students are often made available through this app. The Clayburn Middle School Website and Instagram accounts are also a great resource.

Contact information

We are asking that each family sends us an email with parents' names, phone numbers and your child's name. If your child spends time at more than one home, please indicate that in your email as well.

The office will be sending home Emergency Contact forms for verification, but it helps us to have this information handy for anything that comes up in the meantime. As always, please email both teachers.

Supplies

Please see the attached school supply list as well as instructions on how to set up your child's binder, pencil case, 2 zip lock bags (to be stored in their lockers so they don't have to carry so much each day) and duotang. We are using these supplies regularly starting Monday and it helps students feel prepared if the labelling and organizing is done at home.

PE/Fitness

For next week (September 8th), please have your child come to school in athletic clothes as we will be participating in fitness or PE each day. We value the physical and mental break that PE and fitness bring to our well-being and plan to go outside as much as possible throughout the school year. We are asking each student to have a pair of indoor shoes specifically for indoor PE (these will stay in their locker).

The following week (September 15th), gym strip will become mandatory. To make sure we are prepared, please send a labeled gym bag with a clean shirt, shorts/sweats/leggings, light jacket, deodorant and dedicated indoor shoes. **Aerosol sprays such as Axe are not permitted in the school.** If you are interested, there are blue gym shirts available for purchase through SchoolCashOnline. If your child is unsure of the sizing, they are welcome to go to the office and try on a sample.

Technology

If your child had a device on the network last year, we will help them troubleshoot getting online.

If you're new to us, Clayburn Middle is a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) school. If your child has a Chromebook/WinBook/iPad with keyboard for use at school, we will facilitate getting it onto our network and encourage you to purchase insurance. If your child does not have a personal device, we will provide one for them- please don't feel pressure to purchase a device.

If your child does have a device, please support them in charging their device at home and bringing it to school daily. We plan according to the number of devices we expect and hope to add to students' repertoire of technology skills throughout the year. When there is a shortage of devices because students forget to bring theirs, it can add stress and make it difficult for them to participate fully.

Students are held to high expectations around the use of technology. We review these expectations and address behaviours as they come up. If there is a pattern that concerns us, we will get in touch with you.

Absences/vacations

If your child displays any symptoms of being ill, please keep your child home and notify the office of the excused absence. Sometimes families need to take time off during the school year. Please let us know if your child will be away so that we can plan our lessons and group work accordingly. We understand absences can cause students stress and we will work to help alleviate any concerns. If a student misses a day or two, we'll have a quick conversation when they get back. If a student misses a more significant period of time, please contact us by email so we can make arrangements that best fit your situation.

Allergies

We are not aware of any life-threatening allergies to foods. However we have individuals who are highly sensitive to scents and perfumes. Please do not send anything containing those items to school with your child and remind them to be mindful about using scented products.

School community

Hallways

Our school is divided into four hallway communities: Eagle, Bear, Orca and Raven. Our pod is located in the Eagle Hallway. Throughout the year, we will be participating in challenges and spirit days where we will encourage your child to wear orange (i.e. bandana, headbands, shorts, socks, etc). Some of these events are purely for fun, others are for points which go toward winning a trophy and other prizes.

Involvement

Staff at Clayburn offer a variety of athletic and leadership opportunities for students to join throughout the year. Please encourage your child to participate, explore new interests and engage with our school community as much as possible. Information is often relayed through the Abbotsford School District app and daily announcements in the building. We know it can be overwhelming for students to keep track of all of the information so we record sign up

information on our whiteboard and help students get to where they need to be. If your child has questions about signing up for something, please have them see us and we are happy to help.

Summary of time sensitive requests:

- ___ **Remind** Adult and student sign up for both Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Piche this week
- ___ Share your **email** addresses and phone numbers with both of us by emailing us Robert.Kemp@abbyschools.ca and Jas.Piche@abbyschools.ca this week. Include your child's name as well as phone numbers for both adults
- ___ **Supplies** (please label everything and bring supplies for Monday)
- ___ **Forms** (walking, BYOD, photo release) signed and **school fees** paid by logging into SchoolCashOnline by September 12th
- ___ Mandatory **gym strip** for September 15

Upcoming dates:

Wednesday, September 24 Photo Day

Thursday, September 25 Meet the Teacher Evening (More info to come)

Friday, September 26 Orange Shirt Day

Monday, September 29 Non-Instructional Day

Tuesday, September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Sincerely,

Jas Piche and Rob Kemp

Organizing School Supplies for Piche/Kemp

Please bring your supplies organized as described below. As a school, we do not go to our lockers during class time so this system helps you have what you need without carrying extra supplies around. We will use everything at some point during the year and will assume you have what you need in your locker.

BINDER

Planner (provided by the school), then some lined paper, then dividers (in this order)

1. Math 1: unit
2. Math 2: review
3. Science
4. French
5. LA
6. Socials
7. Cross-curricular
8. Explos

EVERYDAY PENCIL CASE

Stays with your binder

- 3 pencils
- pencil sharpener
- eraser
- 1 coloured pen (blue or black)
- 1 highlighter
- 2 extra fine tip sharpies
- Calculator- must have +- button and square root button
- 2 whiteboard markers
- ruler

ZIPLOCK 1: ART

- Pencil crayons (not felts)
- Fine tip sharpies (use a lot)
- 1 Glue stick
- Scissors (use a lot)
- Cheap headphones

ZIPLOCK 2: EXTRAS

Everything leftover from supply list

- Extra pens, pencils, sharpies
- Extra erasers
- Extra whiteboard markers
- Extra pencils and highlighters
- Extra glue sticks
- Geometry set, if you have it

1 DUOTANG

WITH YOUR NAME ON FRONT

GYM Strip

- Drawstring bag labelled
- Shirt
- Dedicated indoor runners
- Bottoms (sweats, leggings, shorts)
- Deodorant (no sprays)
- Hair: tie if needed

For Monday
Sept 8th



Sign up for important updates from Mrs. Piche.

Get information for Clayburn Middle School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for 8J Piche:

- A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/8jpiche

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



- B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @8jpiche to the number (778) 402-6346.

** Standard text message rates apply.*



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/8jpiche on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.



Sign up for important updates from Mr. Kemp.

Get information for Clayburn Middle School right on your phone—not on handouts.

Pick a way to receive messages for 8J Kemp:

- A** If you have a smartphone, get push notifications.

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link:

rmd.at/8jkemp

Follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.



- B** If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications.

Text the message @8jkemp to the number (438) 800-2319.

** Standard text message rates apply.*



Don't have a mobile phone? Go to rmd.at/8jkemp on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.