



Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year at MidSun!

We are excited for the start of a new year of learning at MidSun School! This year we welcome seven new staff members to our team of talented teaching staff. We are committed to providing quality learning to all of our students. This year we are going green and sending our start up package home electronically. Please read through the material, print off the signature pages and have your child bring them on the first day of school. It is important that you review the student handbook and our new *Students Responsible Technology Use Agreement* with your child. We also encourage you to go to our website and sign up for our blog (www.cbe.ab.ca/b691). The blog has replaced our MidSun Newsletter and lets you know all the interesting things that are going on at the school.

Last year we introduced an RTI (Re-Teach It) period each week to support student learning. The program has had great success and we will be moving the class to Wednesdays. In RTI, students are able to select from a list of topics that their grade teaching team will be offering. No new curriculum is taught; rather students can get support learning the lessons they need clarification on.

MidSun School will be adopting a new, outcomes based report card this school year. You will notice that all of your students work will be compared to a standard and marked on a 4 point scale:

4	Excellent	The student has demonstrated excellent achievement of grade level expectations.
3	Good	The student has demonstrated good achievement of grade level expectations.
2	Basic	The student has demonstrated basic achievement of grade level expectations.
1	Not Meeting	The student is not meeting grade level expectations.

The introduction of this report card has required us to change our Awards system and information on the changes is available in the student handbook. MidSun has two formal report cards (January 29 and June 29). Many of our teachers keep their marks up to date in home logic but you can be assured marks in home logic are current on these dates: October 17, November 28, January 15, March 13 and May 1 and June 5. Information on how to log into Home Logic is in our student Handbook. Other

important school information will be coming home via email so please ensure the school has your current email address.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful School Council and MSEES (MidSun School Education Enhancement Society) who have been working to help us make some much needed upgrades to our building. You will notice our new outdoor classroom evolving in the front of our school. This was made possible through student fundraising, a generous CFEP grant, and the support of our school council. Our primary fundraiser is the Grocery Gift Card Program that allows parents to purchase grocery gift cards and once we meet the store minimum purchase requirement, they give us a portion of the sales back. It is a great system since it is a way to generate funds for school enhancement without costing parents any extra since we all have to purchase groceries! We appreciate your participation in this fundraiser. We are looking for parents to volunteer to be their child's homeroom representative at our monthly School Council meetings. We also are in need of several positions on school council. We appreciate parent participation at Council meetings.

Our teachers have worked hard to create balanced class lists and provide students with the best possible option selections. Because of this, we will not be moving students into new homerooms. We know that school start up can be hard on teenagers if they don't know anyone on the first day and we have planned some activities that will help students make connections during the first week of school. You can help by discussing with your child how they may handle a challenging social situation where they feel they do not know anyone. Share strategies that your child can use to make new friends and assure them that many students have these same feelings on the first day but it will get better.

Picture day is September 11th and that evening we plan to hold our annual *Meat the Teacher BBQ* from 6:00pm -7:30 pm. We hope you will plan to stay for our first School Council meeting at 7:20pm.

Have a great year. We are looking forward to working with you.

Warm Regards,

Veronica Saretsky,
Principal, MidSun School



MidSun School

660 Sunmills Dr SE, Calgary, AB T2X 3R5 t | 403-777-6430 f | 403-777-6432 | midsun@cbe.ab.ca

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am so pleased to welcome all grade 7 students and parents to the MidSun community for what will be an exciting transition year for your child. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the school's organizational structure and expectations as they relate to your son/daughter this year.

MidSun is unique in that it is set up using a 'pod' system. Our students and teachers are divided into four pods; the Grade 7's make up the Red Pod. The major advantage of the Pod system is that one group of academic teachers teaches each group of eight to ten classes. Students in most cases have the same teacher for two of their core subjects. This allows the teachers to become better acquainted with their students. Teachers are also able to consult with each other over student concerns in regular meetings. Discipline becomes proactive and effective rather than reactive.

As the school year begins, your child will be receiving a great deal of information from each of their teachers regarding course requirements and behavior expectations specific to each class. There are, however, common expectations across the Pod for punctuality and lunch. If a student is late for either morning or afternoon attendance, they must check in at the office and will then serve a detention at lunch the next day if their late arrival is unexcused. If we see a pattern of lates being established, contact will be made with you for your assistance in clearing up the concern. Regarding the lunch period, students who will be staying with us at school may eat their lunch in the Pod area upstairs or in the atrium. Weather permitting; we encourage our students to get some fresh air outside after they finish their lunch. Some students may also be involved in activities such as intramurals or clubs.

All students at MidSun should have a student agenda planner/calendar/digital organizer as part of their supplies that helps them to keep track of all their homework, upcoming test/quiz dates and social events. Planning and organization are a big part of any student's success. This year, the school will not be providing a hard copy of our student handbook; a digital version of the handbook is available on our school homepage (<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b691/>). Please carefully read over the policies and philosophies of MidSun with your child and sign the page enclosed with this information package to indicate you understand these regulations. The signed page needs to be returned to the Teacher Advisor (homeroom teacher) of your child.

At the Junior High level, homework is an important part of your child's life and is crucial to their success. Please be aware that homework expectations in Junior High are greater than they were in elementary school. Work assigned during a class period that is not finished is generally expected to be done at home that night for homework. It is our expectation that homework is completed on a daily basis. Parents and students also have access to D2L Online, a program utilized by MidSun teachers to list student homework, provide assignment criterion, host academic discussions and post links that may enrich your child's educational experience. It is recommended that you review this site nightly with your son or daughter in order to ensure they are meeting expectations.

Parents often ask teachers what they can do to help their child be successful. There are four key things we suggest:

- Encourage your child through positive words, actions and affection. Set high expectations.
- Keep the lines of communication open with your child and their teachers. Get in touch with their teachers should you have concerns or simply want to see how your child is doing academically.
- Work with your child to help them set reasonable goals and provide check-in points for your child to establish whether those goals are being met, or need to be refined. Establish homework routines. Check their D2L, agendas and binders on a regular basis.
- Stay involved in your child's education. You are a vital part of the team made up of your child, your child's teachers and you. We cannot succeed in the classroom without your support and we both share the same goal – to have your child achieve success and be happy in junior high.

The Grade 7 team is looking forward to meeting and working with you and your child this year! If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact any one of us at the school. There will be an open house on September 11th at 6:00pm. This would be a great time to come to the school and meet your child's teachers. Again, welcome to the MidSun community.

Sincerely,

Amie Curran

Grade 7 Learning Leader

amcurran@cbe.ab.ca

Ms. M. Marinescu

Mr. R. Sherin

Ms. J. Peterson

Ms. J. Bailey

Mme. T. Ryall

Mr. G. Reynard



STUDENT'S RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY USE AGREEMENT

This agreement shall be reviewed and signed by students, parents, and teachers for all students at Midsun School.

Midsun School provides access to the network and Information Technology (IT) equipment to enhance learning for students and facilitate work activities for students and staff. All users shall adhere to the following standards of responsible use when accessing either school resources (software, hardware, network, and Internet), or their own personal electronic device for educational or business purposes. Midsun School reserves the right to access, audit, and monitor use of all supplied IT resources, without prior notice to the user, to maintain the integrity of the system and to ensure responsible use.

Responsible Use

- I will follow all CBE policies and administrative procedures regarding responsible use of technology.
- I will take full responsibility for, and respectfully use, all IT resources and equipment available to me.
- I will take responsibility for my actions when viewing and posting information and images online.
- I will treat others with respect and use appropriate language and images when communicating with others.
- I will only use school technology resources and equipment for legal and appropriate activities.
- I will abide by copyright laws and use correct citation of my information sources.
- I will only use my own account and electronic data unless granted sharing permission by another user.
- I will use IT equipment, bandwidth, and file space responsibly.
- I will keep my password confidential.
- I understand I am responsible for any actions performed on the computer while I am logged on, therefore I will always log out when finished on the computer or when I am away from the workstation.
- I will take full responsibility, including repair or replacement, for any school equipment that is lost/damaged/destroyed due to my carelessness

Safe Use

- I will keep my personal information secure, including my age, address, and phone number.
- I will help maintain a safe computing environment by reporting any inappropriate material, vandalism, security, or network problems to a teacher, administrator, or school technician.
- I understand the Calgary Board of Education uses a web filter to safeguard students and staff from inappropriate content, but that it may not always be possible to block inappropriate content. If an inappropriate site is accessed, I will back out and inform my teacher.
- I will not further distribute inappropriate content.
- I understand that my home directory, Google Apps for Education tools, and web history are monitored and will not use these tools in an inappropriate manner.

Appropriate Use

- I will obtain permission of the individual(s) involved and of a school staff member before photographing, videoing, publishing, sending, or displaying their information online.
- I understand that it is illegal to videotape and publish photos of other people without their permission.
- I will obtain permission from individual(s) when sharing commonly created electronic data.
- I will use school technology resources and equipment in a positive manner so as not to disturb system performance (i.e. installing viruses, IPOD Locks, etc.) and to not breach security standards.
- I will not use any school resources for political lobbying, product advertising, personal profit, or private business.
- I will only download, save, or install either full or portions of any music, movies, and images in accordance with Calgary Board of Education standards and copyright laws.
- I will not install any software or applications (i.e. Software Executables, IPOD Apps) in any of our school resources

Reliability

- I understand teachers and technicians do their best to ensure the availability and reliability of CBE IT resources; however, I also understand IT resources may be unavailable at times due to extenuating circumstances.
- I understand not all information on the Internet is true and accurate, therefore I will learn to assess the information that I find.
- I understand Network Administrators may review files and communications to maintain integrity of the system and to ensure responsible use.

Personally-Owned Devices

Individuals may use their own personal electronic devices on the CBE Lawn Network. When using a personal mobile device, all of the above conditions apply, in addition to the following:

- I realize that by registering/using my personal device on the Midsun School guest network, the device can be monitored and my computing activities can be traced back to me.
- I will only connect to the wireless network, and not the wired network or any other external network, even though other networks from the neighborhood might be visible to me.
- I will ensure my personal device is equipped with current virus protection software if supported by the device.
- I will turn off all peer-to-peer sharing (music/video/gaming) software or web-hosting services on my device while connected to the CBE Lawn Network.
- I will use my personal electronic device appropriately during class/business time. During non-instructional/non-work times, students and staff may use their personal electronic devices providing that they adhere to the expectations of this agreement.
- I understand the security, care, connectivity, and maintenance of my device is my responsibility.
- I understand MidSun School is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of my device.
- I understand technical support for my personal electronic devices is my responsibility.

MIDSUN PHYSICAL EDUCATION



MIDSUN PE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **PROPER SHOES** (see examples)

2. **NEW GYM STRIP REQUIREMENT 2014:**

All students **MUST** have a **MIDSUN t-shirt & MIDSUN SHORTS or MID SUN Sweatpants for PE**. See Online Team Store on reverse for details for ordering. All sizes will be available at school in the fall to try on as no exchanges can be made so please ensure you are ordering the correct size.

Some examples of the shoes not permitted are: SKATER shoes, Any Trend Style Shoes, UGS, flip flops, Hiking Shoes, Ballet Slippers, Indoor Soccer Shoes, flip flops, Toe Shoes, etc. (This list is not completely exhaustive)

Do not wear your PE shoes until you have cleared them with the MidSun teachers in the fall so you can still take them back if they are incorrect.

PROPER FOOTWEAR

Proper shoes for PE are for your safety and the safety of those around you. Please ensure that your shoes for PE are **CROSS TRAINERS or RUNNING SHOES**. They **NEED** to have appropriate grip for both indoor and outdoor surfaces. Otherwise they will not be permitted for use in PE. If you have any questions please contact Nicky Amirault (PE Department Head) at MidSun at 403-777-6430 ext 2002.

We suggest the students bring the shoes to school in September prior to wearing them to have them approved by the PE department.

