



## School Goals 2015-2016

Goal #1—  
To improve  
student achievement  
in Mathematics.

# Message from the Administration

Mr. Kal Russell  
Principal

Mr. David Mark  
Vice-Principal

## Middle School Instruction at NSMS

We are off to a great start at North Saanich Middle School. Students have settled nicely into our school routines and we are excited about the rest of the year. Our staff feel very fortunate to be working with your children. They are a great group of kids!

To be a great middle school you need more than just great kids. You also need a staff that is dedicated, committed and has the teaching skill set to support these students. We have that staff at NSMS. Our school structures are set up to engage and challenge young adolescent learners. Our staff work at meeting and challenging students at their individual level. We know that students get bored with one exclusive model of teaching, so we provide our students with a variety of learning opportunities that are chunked. In the educational world “chunked” means shorter lessons that change quickly to respond to the attention span of the students. The key to working with middle school students is to keep them engaged and focused. Focusing middle school kids is not always easy, but our staff uses humour, storytelling, strange objects, and intriguing questioning to engage students in the curriculum.

Your role as a parent to support your child's education often changes slightly at middle school. Your children are naturally looking for some independence and as a result parents are not involved as much in some aspects of school life. Yet it is still important that parents stay connected to their child's learning. Our school is set up so that all our grade 6/7 classrooms have one core teacher and one support teacher. Our grade eight model starts with a small transition to more than one teacher, but still only includes two core teachers and one support teacher. This really makes it easy for you to communicate with your child's teacher. Email, phone calls, face to face meetings and teacher homepages all make it manageable to stay connected with your child's learning progress. Your child may not want you around the school all the time, but I am positive they still like it when you stop in occasionally to meet with their teacher, check out their work and watch their extra-curricular activities.

We look forward to helping support your child's academic, emotional, physical and social growth during their middle school year.

## Go Hawks!

Hawks are all about those Books! Our Learning Commons has a great selection of books. Please continue to encourage your child to read for 20 minutes each night. Statistics support the value of home reading. See attached.

# Procedures for voicing your concerns

## New Staff

Parents will, on occasion, have questions regarding their child's education. The staff at North Saanich Middle School wants you to contact the school when a problem or question arises. To facilitate action on any concern regarding the schools policies, procedures or curriculum, we ask that you take the following steps:

- (a) Should the concern be the result of an action or decision of an employee, the complainant is encouraged to discuss the issue with that employee;
- (b) If not resolved by the employee the complainant should involve the appropriate principal or supervisor;
- (c) Should the principal or supervisor not resolve the concern then the complainant should involve either the Assistant Superintendent (Learning Services), the Assistant Superintendent (Instructional Services) or the Secretary-Treasurer;
- (d) Should the concern remain unresolved, the Superintendent of Schools may be contacted for assistance with process;
- (e) At any time the complainant may contact a trustee by phone or direct a letter to the Board Chair for assistance with process;
- (f) If concerns are still not addressed satisfactorily, a complainant may formally appeal a decision to the Board according to the Administrative Procedures outlined in Policy 1360.

Joining our NSMS Team:  
Teachers

- Mrs. Willock
- Mrs. McKamey
- Ms. Gervais-Cartier
- Ms. Sousa

Education Assistants

- Ms. Wahlstrom
- Ms. Anderson

Youth & Family Couns.

- Mrs. Tasker-Brown

## Remembrance Day Assembly—Nov. 10

We are formally inviting parents to join us for our annual Remembrance Day Assembly.

This is a very important learning opportunity for our students and staff.

At 9:45 AM on Nov. 10, 2015 we

will be assembling in our gym to remember those Canadians who have served our country, providing us with the opportunity and privilege to live in a peaceful country.

We will have seating available for guests.

We shall not forget.



## Dates to Remember

Please check our school website at <http://northsaanich.sd63.bc.ca/> for current information on these events.

October		November	
Terry Fox Run	2	Remembrance Day Assembly	10
Thanksgiving	12	Remembrance Day (No school)	11
PAC Meeting @ 7 p.m.	13	Non Instructional Day #2	12
BC Shake Out Drill @ 10:15 a.m.	15	Non Instructional Day #3	13
Triathlon Swim Day	22		
Early Dismissal at 1:55 pm	22		
Photo Retakes	22		
Non Instructional Day	23		
Art Starts Performance "Metaphor"	26		
Triathlon (Bike & Swim) & Halloween Social	30		

