

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

Letter from Middle Principal Mr Tony Bylenga

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Hello and Welcome to BC Christian Academy Middle School.

I sent in my application to renew my passport on the Tuesday after Easter break, hoping to have it renewed in time to witness the birth of Luke Anthony Bylenga in Tacoma, Washington at the end of May. That did not happen; however, I did receive it on June 29th so Evelyn and I have been once again able to visit with our children and grandchildren in the states at their homes rather than COVID picnicking at Peace Arch Park. It has been fun visiting the kids reconnecting with our grandchildren this summer. We have also spent a week in Michigan visiting with more relatives and fishing the ThornApple River. I am rejuvenated and eager to start the second year of our Middle School program

The 2022-2023 academic year is rapidly approaching and the office staff, administration, and our teachers are preparing for students to return. September 6, our first day of school is just around the corner. Our God has faithfully provided for our needs throughout our past, and we look forward to His continued provisional care throughout the 30th anniversary year of BC Christian Academy's of providing Christian education to the Tri-Cities community. I am writing to put a few important reminders on your radar for the start of school, including:

## Middle School Theme

Equipping is our Middle School theme for this school year. Equipping has its foundation in Scripture (2 Tim. 3:15-17 and Ephesians 6:10-18), and the BCCA Vision Statement: Equipping students to impact the world for Jesus. Our LORD calls us to influence individuals, communities and the creation by being His light and salt. Our prayer is that Equipping will enable the middle school students to be Christ's Ambassadors in all areas of their lives,

"Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus—the great Shepherd of the sheep—with the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you with all that is good to do His will, working in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Heb 13:20-21)

## MS Teachers

Our LORD provides abundantly for all of our needs, and He has blessed us with a wonderful teaching staff. Our Middle School team members are Mrs. Odette Lombard (Grade 5), Mr. Oscar John (Grade 5), Mr. Cornel Ruso Grade 5/6, Miss Anne-Marie Chamberlain (Grade 6), Mrs. YeonMi Yun (grade 6/7 and Choir), Mr. Joe Brandsma (Grade 7), Mr. Andrew Westerveld (grade 8), and Mr. Michael Potopaev (Grade 8), Mrs. Elizabeth Dol (French), Mrs. Kathy King (Art), Mr. Moses Myong and Miss Mira Patel (Band), and Mr. James McLachlan (Woods). We are so thankful for our Middle School team of gifted and Godly teachers who are excited to work with students in the middle, and partner with parents in providing a rich Christian education.

## MS Handbook

A separate Middle School handbook has been developed over the summer and will be available soon on the school website. The handbook is your family's reference tool, in partnering with BC Christian Academy in providing a Christ-centred education for students in the middle.

## Terms and Daily Schedule

Middle School students receive report cards four times a year (November, February, April, and June.) The November and April report cards are informal and will be followed by parent conferences. The February and June report cards are formal reports. Interim reports may be issued at any time when requested by a parent or a middle school teacher and can be printed out on MyEdBC.

### The Daily Schedule:

**8:15** Grade 5-8 Students line up outside of their classrooms

**8:30** Teachers welcome students to their homeroom classrooms

**8:35** The school day begins

**10:20** Twenty-minute recess

**12:10** Fifty-minute lunch break

**3:00** End of the school day, students are dismissed

**Fridays** - Students are dismissed at **12:35**

## School Computers

All middle school students will have a computer to be used for school work. These computers are Chromebooks and must be purchased from the IT Office and they are managed by the school.

## Formational Learning Experiences - FLEx

The middle school program includes a variety of FLEx subjects that the students take. Students will be provided with several choices of FLEx classes including Audio Visual Team, Broadcasting, Christian Doctrine, Digital Literacy, Foods, Technology, Textiles, Visual Art, and Yearbook. This year FLEx time is on Fridays from **11:35 - 12:35**. Grade 7 students will also be taught Woods during the first term on the high school campus.

## PE and Athletics

We are blessed this year to be able to use the new Panther Hoops athletic facility for our PE program. One PE class per week will be held in our gym and the middle school students will be bussed to the Panther Hoops facility for the other class.

BC School sports will continue this year with opportunities in cross-country, soccer, and track and field, as well as other athletic tournaments that have enough student signups to field a team. We will also run the club programs Cougars Volleyball for middle school girls and Panther Hoops for middle school boys.

## Relaxed COVID Protocols

Parents are expected to continue the vigilant practice of assessing their children's health before school each day and keeping them home if there is any sign of illness (cough, runny nose, temperature, stomach ache, vomiting, etc.) Children who become sick while at school will be isolated until the parent or guardian arrives to pick up the child.

## MS Retreat

The middle school will be going on a retreat at Camp Luther on September 15 and 16. This is an overnight retreat for grades 6-8 and the grade 5 class will join the retreat for the second day. On the first day the grade 6 through 8 students will focus on Equipping and participate in developing servant-leadership activities that enhance the middle school community. The grade 5 students will be joining the grade 6-8 students on September 16 to develop personal and middle school community wide learning goals centred on Equipping.

### Servant Leadership Opportunities

Middle School students will be given opportunities to learn to serve the school community as Junior Indoor Recess Supervisors, Crosswalk Monitors, Middle School Librarians, and for those who demonstrate spiritual maturity, opportunities to share devotionals/testimonies for Elementary Chapels.

### Class Lists

The class lists will be published by the School Office on Friday, September 2. Serious thought, prayer and multiple necessary considerations drive these decisions made by our educational staff. We make a sincere effort to ensure that each child has at least one friend in the same class as them. Kindly be aware that, according to school policy, we cannot accept special requests for placement with a certain teacher or classmates.

Please feel free to reach out to me or my colleagues with any questions. We are looking forward to students returning to campus and to a fantastic year in the middle! It is exciting to partner with you this year in equipping your middle schooler to wholeheartedly live for Jesus.

Mr Tony Bylenga  
MS Principal

