



Welcome!!

Meridian 101

PSD & Meridian's commitment to inclusion:



Moving from:

- The idea of fixing students to the idea of improving environments
- Dependence on staff (teachers and EA's) to a focus on independence
- “Special Education” to ALL students being special
- A deficit model of thinking to a strength-based model of thinking
- Having high expectations for some to having high expectations for ALL



Continuum of Supports:

Starts with incredibly compassionate and committed teachers and classroom support staff!
Who are supported through:

- Universal supports in classrooms
 - Wiggle stools
 - Timers
 - Visuals
 - Brain and Body breaks
- Student Support Model
 - Teachers in each grade level using common assessment and planning together
 - Teacher meet weekly within and/or across grades for more supports and common approaches
 - School Based Support Team Meetings that can include divisional facilitators & Divisional Principals



Continuum of Supports:

Starts with incredibly compassionate and committed teachers and classroom support staff!

Who are supported through:

- Literacy and Numeracy Leads
 - Divisional supports for Lead Teacher to go to PD to then bring back and share with teachers for a push in intervention model of supports

- Administration and IEL supports:
 - IEPs
 - PBSP
 - Ed Psych Testing

more on this...



Inclusive Education Lead

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

- outlines strategies to support learning and help close the gaps for students that are significantly below or above their peers in academic achievement

Positive Behaviour Support Plans (PBSPs)

- similar to an IEP, a PBSP is strategies to support learning and help close the gaps for students that are significantly below or above their peers in age appropriate social and emotional responses

Educational Psychology Testing

- when there is a gap between strategies teachers are putting into place and growth seen and we need to understand better how the children learn Ed Psych testing may be recommended



ADMIN TEAM



Mrs Lakusta
Assistant
Principal



Ms Neumann
Principal



Mme Saulnier
Assistant
Principal



What Can I do?

1. Call / book a meeting and talk to the teacher
2. Ask what universals the teacher is using in their classroom
3. Ask for an SBST - School Based Support Team meeting - the teacher will meet with the team, review your child's file and a support plan is created
4. Ask to see the plans for support IEP & PBSP - you can have any of the SBST members join the meeting
5. If you are still feeling unheard - call to speak to the IEL and Administration Team. They will ask if you have asked to do the above steps



I think ... “They must know...”

If you have not been contacted by your child's teacher or from an administrator . . .

We probably don't know.

We are committed to keeping all informed and in the loop - so call :)

Even in the Tech Savvy world - a phone call is the quickest and easiest way to get a hold of the school member and we are committed to calling you back.



How to / What's new ...

- Parent portal - use it to pay fees, see report cards, update demographic information
 - Speak with the secretaries to get the login information - must setup the account using a laptop not a mobile device - we have a laptop in the office set up for parents to use
- Field Trips - the maximum that a grade level will have in fees for field trips is listed on our website.
- Teachers will send home permission forms and payment costs for each field trip individually.
- Payment plans can be created online

Fees Schedule 2024-25



- Complementary Courses are list by Term on the website and information regarding their cost, if any, is listed there. Additionally, parents will receive a letter from the course teacher with the fee this week. Fees are due for Semester 1 by today September 25.
- Swimming, Play Parkland and year-end activities are also included in the Fees Schedule. These mainly affect gr 3-5 and gr 7-9.
- Cultural Fee of \$10 for in-school school-wide cultural experiences, Carnival (French Canadian Winter celebration), National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations and positive school culture building activities.

Fees Schedule For Extra Curricular



- These are determined by sport or activity. All participants are required to pay the fee to participate. The website will be updated prior to October with this years fees.

Fee Assistance / Waiver Form



Parents/Guardians may apply for a waiver of instructional material fees and course fees.

To apply for a 2024-2025 waiver, [complete & submit this form](#)



General Information

- Absences - Call in your child's absence to the office or if emailing include the office in the email.
- Hot Lunch- is awesome! Sign up to order and it is weekly
- Recess Bins in class
- Increased and more consistent supervision on recesses

Various avenues of gaining information from your classroom teacher and from the school as a whole:

- School website (<https://Meridian.psd.ca/>)
- Teacher weekly communication via email outlining learning activities and current topics
- Meridian Flyover Monthly newsletters
- Meridian School [Facebook](#)



How Can I Get Involved?

School Council -

- First meeting date: October 17, 2024 - 6pm

Meridian Heights School Advisory Association (MHSAA)

- First meeting date: October 17, 2024 (after Council meeting)

Other Volunteer Opportunities

- Please reach out to your teachers or they will be reaching out to you to volunteer for field trips, in class activities, and other exciting events.



School Council - What is it?

School Council is a collective association of parents, teachers, principal and community representatives whose purpose is to advise the principal and the board on matters relating to the school. It is an excellent opportunity for parents and community members to work together with the school to support and enhance student learning.

The purpose of the Council is to provide a platform for the school Administration to consult with parents and increase mutual understanding of matters within the school. The Council also plans in conjunction with the Principal the use of the funds raised by the Foundation.

The role of school council:

- focus on what is best for all students in the school
- consider the interests of all school stakeholders
- develop, maintain and reflect the culture of the school
- represent the parent voice in the school community

<https://meridianheights.psd.ca/parents/get-involved/school-council>

School Council - What is it *not*?



School council is an amazing platform to learn more about our school, connect with other parents and advise our Principal and Assistant Principal, but it is not:

- A place to air grievances
 - Please contact our Principal and Assistant Principal directly to discuss grievances.
- A place to discuss specific teachers
- A place to discuss specific students

School Council - Who is on it?



- School Council Chair
 - 3-4 hours a month
 - Plans agenda with principal 1 meeting a month prior to council
 - Runs the meeting
 - Is invited to COSC ~ 5 meetings a year at PSD office
 - Is invited to PSD parent engagement night and planning day
 - Is incharge of sharing the council vote to ASCA

School Council - Who is on it?



- School Council Vice Chair --3-4 hours a month
 - Attends agenda planning meeting
 - Runs the meetings if chair is away
 - Is invited to COSC ~ 5 meetings a year at PSD office
 - Is invited to PSD parent engagement night and planning day
 - Is in charge of sharing the council vote to ASCA
 -

School Council - Who is on it?



- Council Secretary--3-4 hours a month
 - Attends the council meetings
 - Takes minutes and shares with attendees prior to next meeting
 - Submit minutes in the meeting for approval and provided approved copy to principal for school wide distribution and website upload

School Council - When are meetings?

All meetings take place in the School Library. Council meetings start at 6:00 pm and are immediately followed by The Meridian Heights School Advisory Association (MHSAA) meetings.

We understand that sometimes childcare is hard to manage, especially for busy parents! We will provide snacks and child care at all meetings

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| - October 17 | - January 16 | - April 17 |
| - November 21 | - February 20 | - May 15 |
| - December 19 | - March 20 | - June 19 |

Have an idea for a meeting topic? Is there something you would like to learn more about at our school? Please let one of our executive know!



COSC - Council of School Councils



Meridian School Council is part of COSC which is an alliance of all the school councils within Parkland School Division. Each school council (including Meridian) sends a representative to collaborate with trustees, principals, and members of the PSD Senior Executive Team

<https://www.psd.ca/schools/school-councils>

ASCA - Alberta School Councils Association

By law, the Alberta government requires school councils in every school operated by a school board in Alberta. The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) provides support and resources, including knowledge and skill development, consultation and learning opportunities.

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/>

Meridian Foundation - What is it?

The Meridian Heights School Advisory Association (MHSAA) is a registered society that hosts a variety of fundraising activities throughout the school year. Our fundraising efforts help support the Meridian School initiatives that enhance the experience for educational learning and student wellness.

The Foundation is comprised of an active group of parent volunteers that seek fundraising opportunities to contribute to the successes of the school by working closely with the Principal on educational goals, school improvement plans and other education initiatives. The Meridian Heights School Advisory Association (MHSAA) works to support these programs by funding technology, teaching aids, physical literacy, facility improvements, outdoor maintenance & improvements and cultural events for the school.

The Meridian Heights School Advisory Association (MHSAA) is an integral part of the school, raising funds that benefit everyone. MHSAA has supported building a new back playground and is now looking to replace the front playground - as well as purchasing recess equipment, supporting the reading programs in both English and French and purchasing adapted equipment so all students can access outdoor play!



School Foundation - Who is on it?

The foundation is comprised of any parent or guardian who would like to attend. The following positions will be voted on in October -

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary. These are in addition to our other main roles: Hot Lunch Coordinator, and Volunteer coordinator



Fundraisers

For the 2024-2025 school year we are looking to grow our TEAM!!

We are fun and organized and will not waste time!

We need volunteers to run fundraisers -- if you have a fundraiser you want to run - come to the meetings!