

QUESNEL JUNIOR SCHOOL

950 Mountain Ash Rd. • Quesnel, BC V2J 3V7 • Phone: (250) 747-2103



Grade 7 Letter to parents re: Orientation and Welcome to QJS 2025-2026

Dear Parents/Guardians;

Staff at QJS understand that there are many feelings about starting the two year QJS journey from childhood to young adulthood. Excitement, nerves, maybe even some fear about moving from the neighborhood school to the Junior School with approximately 500, 13 and 14-year-old students, are all normal (for both students and parents). We assure you we do our best to work with each family and student to support their successful transition through adolescence.

Every adult in the building is part of the support team for your children; it truly does take a community to raise a child. We are fortunate to have talented teachers, dedicated support staff, smiling secretaries and caring custodians all looking out for your children.

Our goal is to provide strong educational experiences in a safe and caring environment. The best way we can do this is to work together. You know your children best, so, together we will help your children navigate the tricky early teen years. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your children. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Special Note:

As you may already know, there is a new Ministry of Education - Personal Electronics Devices restrictions for students. As of September 2024, students were expected to store their personal devices in their lockers during the school day (instructional time). Watch for more information about how QJS students will be expected and supported to follow these expectations.

Special Invitation:

Families are invited to a Parent Information evening, Monday, June 23th 6:15-7:30, prior to our Grade 7 Orientation day which is Tuesday, June 24th. This is an opportunity to have a Q&A and a tour of the school.

Respectfully,

Patricia Simpson QJS Principal
Jolene King QJS Vice Principal



Main Messages for parents:

1. Our School is a safe space with loads of people to work with and care about your child.
2. **Fall School Start:**
 - a. Family Orientation Night (Wednesday, September 3rd 6:15-7:30: Intro, Welcome, Orientation Tour, Q & A
 - b. Wednesday, September 3rd – First Day for Grade 8 Only - Orientation: ½ Day
 - c. Thursday, September 4th, First Day for Grade 9 -all day (with grade 8s at school)
3. **Where to get information?**
 - a. QJS Website <http://www.qjs.sd28.bc.ca/> , Newsletters emailed to each family, PAC Facebook page and emails <https://www.facebook.com/QJS-Parent-Advisory-Council-PAC-107601454861758>
 - b. Parent Handbook (Students have one also) – see current handbook on the school website
 - c. Call the school and ask your questions 250-747-2103
4. **What are PODs?** Next year QJS has 6 PODs or community learning groups; 3 for grade 9 and 3 for grade 8. This structure is a stepping stone from elementary to high school, providing students with a team of teachers who will work with the POD students for their two years here. Research finds that strong relationships and good attendance are the keys to learning success. Your child will likely be in the same POD for their two years with us.
5. **Why to get involved and stay involved?** At this age, we often think our children don't want us involved, however this is a critical 2 years for young people. There can be many changes and challenges as your young teen tries to navigate the socially complex world of thirteen and fourteen year olds.
 - a. Watch for invitations to events, workshops, Q & A sessions intended to help you support your child in this two year journey from childhood to young adulthood.
6. **Communicate** questions and concerns as soon as possible during the year; it is rare that we have a problem we cannot solve – so long as we know about it!