



Family Handbook 2023-24



St. Michael's
University School

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Senior School Information Phone: 250-592-2411, Fax: 250-592-2812

Eliot Anderson	Director of Senior School and Deputy Head of School	eliot.anderson@smus.ca	
Richard Curry	Assistant Director, Administration	richard.curry@smus.ca	
Robyn Amiel	Assistant Director, Academics	robyn.amiel@smus.ca	
Richard Primrose	Assistant Director, Student Life and Leadership	richard.primrose@smus.ca	
Laurie Erwin	Assistant to the Director of Senior School and Deputy Head of School	laurie.erwin@smus.ca	
Carole McMillan	Head of Personal Counselling (K-12)	carole.mcmillan@smus.ca	250-213-6524
Lauren Mavrikos	School Counsellor	lauren.mavrikos@smus.ca	
Chris Webster	School Counsellor	chris.webster@smus.ca	
Marnie Caron	School Counsellor	marnie.caron@smus.ca	
Attendance		srattendance@smus.ca	250-370-6133

Middle School Information Phone: 250-592-3549, Fax: 250-592-3942

Richard Brambley	Director of Middle School	richard.brambley@smus.ca	
Julie Harris	Assistant Director, Academics	julie.harris@smus.ca	
Cara Lee	Assistant Director, Student Life	cara.lee@smus.ca	
Tara Toller	Assistant to the Director of Middle School	tara.toller@smus.ca	
Allison Peace	School Counsellor	allison.peace@smus.ca	
Gabrielle Emmet	School Counsellor	gabrielle.emmet@smus.ca	
Attendance		tara.toller@smus.ca	250-592-3549

Junior School Information Phone: 250-598-3922, Fax: 250-592-0783

Becky Anderson	Director of Junior School	becky.anderson@smus.ca	
Nicole Tripp	Assistant Director of Junior School	nicole.tripp@smus.ca	
Delina Squire	Assistant to the Director of Junior School	delina.squire@smus.ca	
Ann Downie	School Counsellor	ann.downie@smus.ca	
Attendance		christine.shewchuk@smus.ca	250-598-3922

Other

Keith Driscoll	Director of Boarding and Student Life	keith.driscoll@smus.ca	250-886-4222
Denise Lamarche	Director of Academics	denise.lamarche@smus.ca	
Lindsay Brooke	Director of Athletics	lindsay.brooke@smus.ca	250-370-6131
Joanna Verano	Annual Fund Manager	joanna.verano@smus.ca	
Shara Campsall	Director of Advancement	shara.campsall@smus.ca	
Finance Department		studentaccounts@smus.ca	250-370-6166
Privacy Office		privacy@smus.ca	
Transportation Department		jody.bright@smus.ca	250-370-6150
SMUS Parents' Auxiliary		paraux@smus.ca	
Campus Shop		uniforms.smus.ca	250-370-6152
		lynne.franklin@smus.ca	

House Staff

Tom Hollingworth	Barnacle House	tom.hollingworth@smus.ca	250-361-7406	250-370-6184
Evan Fryer	Bolton House	evan.fryer@smus.ca	250-896-6978	250-370-6185
David Kerr	Harvey House	david.kerr@smus.ca	250-508-5257	250-370-6186
Nikki Kaufmann	Symons House	nikki.kaufmann@smus.ca	250-516-6943	250-370-6186
Elisha Gardiner	Timmis House	elisha.gardiner@smus.ca	778-977-2004	250-370-6185
Riley Doland	Winslow House	riley.doland@smus.ca	250-514-3226	250-370-6184

SCHOOL YEAR DATES 2023-24

for Parents/Guardians

Dates are subject to change. For updated information, please refer to the website (smus.ca/news/calendar) and communications from school Directors.

Monday, September 4	Labour Day Holiday – Grade 12 Boarders move in
Tuesday, September 5	New Boarders move in
Wednesday, September 6	Returning Boarders move in Half day at Junior School
Thursday, September 7	First full day of classes at Senior and Middle Schools
Friday, September 29	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Special Program
Monday, October 2	School closed for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Friday, October 6	School closes at end of day for Thanksgiving Holiday
Wednesday, October 11	Classes resume
Friday, October 20	School closed at for Faculty Professional Development Day
Friday, November 10	Remembrance Day Service – School closes at lunch
Friday to Tuesday, November 10-14	School closes at lunch for mid-term break
Wednesday, November 15	Classes resume
Thursday, December 14	School closes at end of day for the holidays
Monday, January 8	Classes resume
Thursday, February 15	School closes for students at lunch K to 12 Professional Development afternoon – No classes
Friday to Monday, February 16-19	School closed for Mid-term break and Family Day
Tuesday, February 20	Classes resume
Thursday, March 14	School closes at end of day for Spring Break and Easter Weekend
Tuesday, April 2	Classes resume
Friday, May 17	School closes at end of day for Victoria Day Holiday
Wednesday, May 22	Classes resume
Thursday, June 13 and Friday, June 14	Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony, Closing Assemblies and Ceremonies for Middle and Junior Schools, and Grade 12 Graduation Gala Dinner (All dates and times to be confirmed)

Please note that all Senior School students must be available until all their exams are completed. Arrangements for travel should be made well in advance, so that students do not miss important school time.

ABSENCES AND LATENESS

Report absences before 8 am

Junior School

Call 250-598-3922

Email: christine.shewchuk@smus.ca
(page 10)

Middle School

Call 250-592-3549

Email: tara.toller@smus.ca
(page 15)

Senior School

Call 250-370-6133

Email: srattendance@smus.ca
(page 20)



This publication was last updated: August 5, 2022. All information is subject to change, and parents and students should continue to stay in contact with school directors and ensure their contact information is up to date.

Billing, Tuition and Enrolment

Student Accounts

Parents will receive an email each month notifying them that the monthly statements are available. The detailed statements are located on the Parent Portal at smus.ca/parentportal. Payments are due 30 days from the statement date and we thank you in advance for keeping accounts paid to current. Please note that Finance Charges will be applied monthly to overdue balances. Payments can be made to the school using the following payment methods:

- Personal Cheque (drawn on Canadian or US bank)
- Bank Draft or Money Order
- Bank Wire Transfer
- Internet Banking Online Bill Payment (Canadian banks only)
- Credit Card Payments (Visa, Mastercard and American Express)
- Pre-Authorized Payments – forms available on the Parent Portal

Please note that tuition fees are due according to your chosen payment plan.

If you have questions regarding student accounts, please feel welcome to contact the Finance department at studentaccounts@smus.ca or 250-370-6166.

Continuous Enrolment

We are confident that once a student begins at SMUS, they will remain until graduation. Families are only asked to confirm their intentions with a tuition deposit each year. Families who wish to withdraw are asked to provide notice as early as possible and no later than the February deadline. Late notice of withdrawal will be subject to the Tuition Refund Policy.

Student Withdrawal Policy (Summary)

Your financial obligation to the school is for the full annual tuition and boarding fees as stated in the fee schedules and enrolment contract. In the event of withdrawal from the school (voluntary or requested) only a portion of the tuition fees will be refunded as follows:

Withdrawal Prior to the Start of the School Year

- A student that is withdrawn between the Registration deadline and August 31 will receive a 60% refund/reduction of the full annual tuition and boarding fees net of any financial aid.

Withdrawal During the School Year

- A student that is withdrawn between September 1 and December 31 will receive a 50% refund/reduction of the current year's full annual tuition and boarding fees.
- A student that is withdrawn between January 1 and March 31 will receive a 30% refund/reduction of the current year's full tuition and boarding fees.
- A student that is withdrawn between April 1 and June 30 will receive no refund/reduction of the current year's full annual tuition and boarding fees.

The school, at its discretion, may consider an increased refund (not to exceed 80% of full annual tuition and boarding fees net of financial aid) for students who have withdrawn for medical reasons.

Please note that refunds of tuition and boarding fees are net of financial aid and will be calculated and applied to student accounts for returning families. An invoice will be provided to new families if there is an amount owing. Amounts owing in excess of the tuition refund will be due and payable within 14 days of the date of withdrawal.

The full Student Withdrawal Policy is available on the [Parent Portal](#).

Tuition Fees

Tuition Fees for the 2024-25 school year will be available in January 2024. A full schedule of your current fees can be found on the [Parent Portal](#).

A Note On Tuition

Tuition is our primary resource for salaries, student programming and ongoing operations, and our school relies on predictable commitments from our families in order to attract and retain the exceptional faculty and staff that you have come to expect at our school. Late payments and withdrawals have a direct impact on our ability to hire and compensate our faculty and staff, and to operate programming at SMUS.

Table of Contents

Billing, Tuition and Enrolment	iv	Dress Code for Junior School Students	14
Student Accounts	iv	Junior School Uniform	14
Continuous Enrolment	iv	Middle School Information	16
Student Withdrawal Policy (Summary)	iv	Welcome	16
Tuition Fees	iv	School Values	16
A Note On Tuition	iv	Behaviour and Discipline	16
Introduction	1	Peer Conflict, Mean Behaviour and Bullying	16
Our Mission	1	School Year Start-Up	16
Our Vision	1	Middle School Schedule	16
Our Values	1	Drop-Off and Pick-Up	17
Indigenous Recognition Statement	1	Absences and Lateness	17
Communications and Information Resources	2	Family Holidays	17
Official Communications Channels	2	Timetables	17
Website Links for Parents and Students	2	Smartphones	17
Personalized SMUS Calendar	2	Charges to Student Accounts	17
SMUS Weekly and Newsletters	2	Communication of Student Learning	17
Lines of Communication – Questions and Issues	2	Teacher Advisor Group (TAG)	17
Social Media	3	Homework Purpose and Policy	17
Parent Portal	3	Student Agenda	18
SMUS Connect	3	SMUS Student Email Use Policy	18
REACH	3	Homework Club	18
Weather Closures	3	Lockers	18
Transportation	4	Executive Functioning and Library	18
Respecting Our Neighbours	4	Music	18
Bicycles and Skateboards	4	Outdoor Education	18
School Bus	4	Co-curricular Athletic Program	18
Academic Information	5	Clubs and Councils	19
Our Learning Approach	5	Service Days	19
Assessment Philosophy at SMUS	5	Year-End Calendar and Events	19
Communication of Student Learning	5	Dress Code for Middle School Students	20
Examination of Student Records	5	Dress and Grooming	20
Learning Resource	6	Senior School Information	21
Social and Emotional Wellness	6	Drop-Off and Pick-Up	21
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	6	Parking	21
Chapel	6	Absences and Lateness	21
Personal Counselling Program	7	Illnesses and Medical Appointments	22
Student Life	7	Smartphones	22
Campus Shop	7	Security of Personal Items	22
School Uniform	7	Communication of Student Learning	22
Used Uniform Sales	7	University Counselling Centre	23
Clothing Labels	7	Academic Advisors	23
Lost, Misplaced and Stolen Items	8	The Snowden Library	23
Lunches and Snacks	8	Councils, Clubs and Activities	23
Responsible Network Use	8	Advanced Placement	23
Social Media Code of Conduct	8	Senior School Workload Guidelines	24
Winter, Spring and Summer Camps	9	Late Assessment Policy (Revised 2023)	24
Parent Involvement	9	Behaviour and Discipline	26
Volunteering and Fundraising	9	Dress Code for Senior School Students	27
St. Michaels University School Society	10	Dress and Appearance	27
Junior School Information	11	Boarding Community	28
Academic Information	11	Campus Life, House Allocation	28
Drop-Off, Dismissal and Pick-Up	11	and Houseparents	28
After-School Care Program	11	Telephone Calls and Messages	28
Absences and Lateness	12	Community Expectations	29
Parent/Guardian Visitors and Student Sign-In/Sign-Out	12	Behaviour and Discipline	30
Parents/Guardians as Partners	12	Boarding Curriculum	31
Adult Volunteers	12	Personal Effects	31
Requests for Additional Leave From School	12	Leave Guidelines	33
First Aid Room	12	Submitting Leave Requests - REACH	34
Allergy Aware School	12	Services Available to Boarding Students	35
Cellphones	12	Student Safety and Privacy	38
Communication of Student Learning	12	Student Safety	38
Student Agendas	13	Harassment and Abuse	38
Home Learning Policy	13	Privacy Policy	38
Extracurricular Clubs, Activities and Sports	13	Privacy Principles	38

Introduction

ST. MICHAELS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL (SMUS) sets high standards for its staff and students. We offer a very active, enjoyable and rewarding life for those who appreciate the opportunity to stretch themselves academically, artistically, athletically and culturally. A great deal of personal freedom and responsibility abounds, which satisfies the needs of our developing leaders of the future. Being part of such a dynamic and successful institution is a privilege, and we expect everyone to contribute positively to the school.

The school does not have a long list of rules, regulations or restrictions. Our underlying philosophy is one that will develop courteous, responsible and caring young adults. A basic rule of good manners is to never make personal remarks, unless complimentary, about other people. Having gone through a door, students should look behind and hold the door if someone is following. On meeting adults in a doorway or a staircase, it is customary for a student to step aside and allow the adults to pass. On noticing visitors to the school, students are expected to ask if they need help and to take them to the appropriate place or person.

St. Michaels University School is not for those who need the security of rules backed by harsh sanctions or those who need discipline. We expect our students to treat others as they would wish to be treated, to do nothing against the dictates of conscience and good sense, and to act at all times in a way that will do credit to themselves and the good name and reputation of the school.

Our Mission

Our school seeks the excellence in all of us, with passion and compassion. We are a community shaped by the pursuit of truth and goodness, providing outstanding preparation for life.

Our Vision

To learn, to lead, to serve.

Our Values

Respect | Courage | Honesty | Service

Indigenous Recognition Statement

One of the four Values of St. Michaels University School is respect. With this in mind, we acknowledge that our school rests in the heart of Straits Salish territory, a living culture with its own rites, ceremonies and unfolding history. We honour the Esquimalt, Songhees and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples, whose homelands we share and whom we recognize as our neighbours.

Learn more about how our school continues to honour our Indigenous Connections by visiting smus.ca/discover/our-school/indigenous-connections.



St. Michaels University School

Communications and Information Resources

There are many places for families to access information about what’s happening at the school. We have gathered the key resources here to help you quickly find what’s most important to you.

In addition to the resources below, there may be school-specific or grade-specific resources used by teachers to communicate with parents, including student agendas.

Official Communications Channels

Families should be aware that official communications from St. Michaels University School will occur only through the following channels:

- Any communication from a faculty or staff member from a smus.ca email address
- The SMUS Weekly newsletter
- The SMUS website: smus.ca
- Official social media accounts (@yoursmus on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and the school page on LinkedIn).

Any other communication from staff or faculty outside of these channels should be regarded as unofficial and not representative of SMUS as a whole.

Additional Information For Students

Students are not permitted to create websites or social media accounts with the SMUS name or crest, or any other identifier that may reasonably lead to a misunderstanding that the account or page is official or authorized.

Website Links for Parents and Students

Parents and students are encouraged to bookmark and regularly review the [Links for Current Parents](#) and [Links for Current Students](#) pages on the school website. Here you will find timely information, as well as a link directory to key webpages and resources referenced in this handbook.

Personalized SMUS Calendar

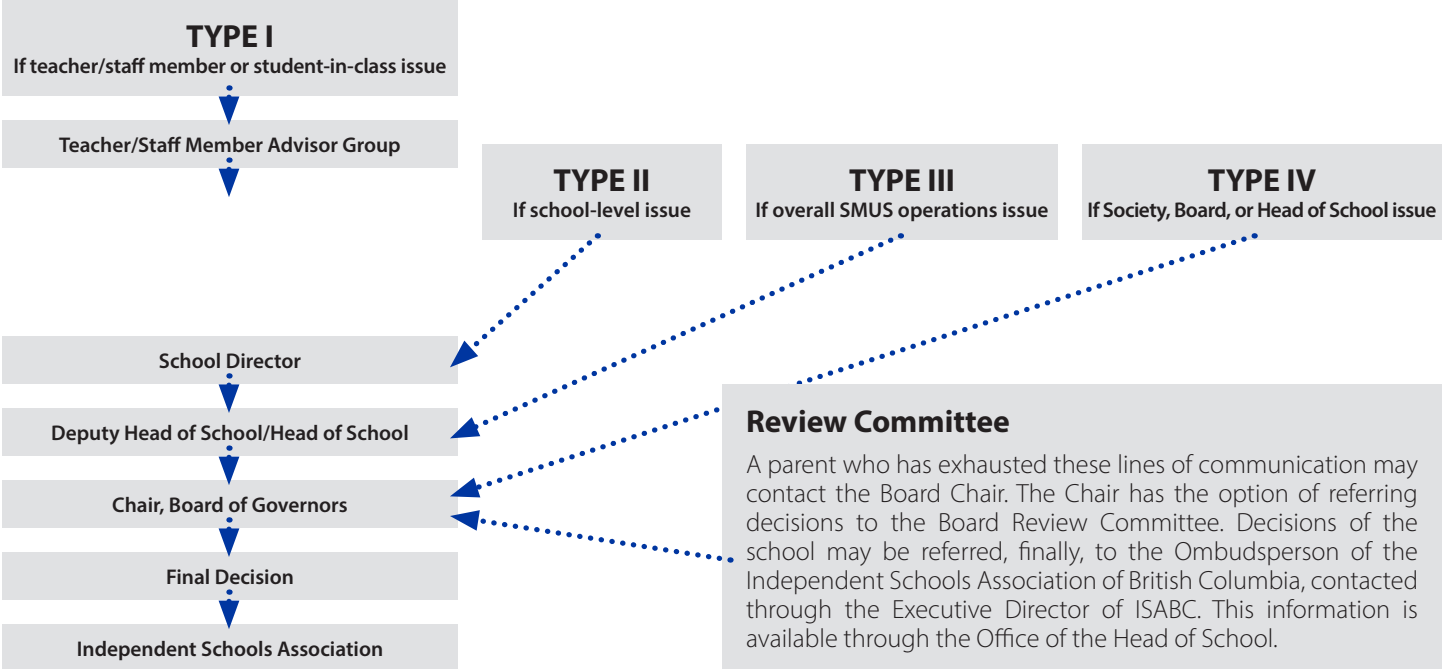
You are also encouraged to create and subscribe to a personalized school calendar in order to receive important and timely updates on the SMUS events that are important to you. Visit smus.ca/news/calendar for instructions on creating your SMUS calendar.

SMUS Weekly and Newsletters

Parents and Senior School students will receive the SMUS Weekly on Friday afternoons throughout the school year. This newsletter highlights important school updates and stories from the community, as well as upcoming events and resources. Please ensure that you add theweekly@smus.ca to your safe senders list. If you do not receive the SMUS Weekly, please contact communications@smus.ca.

Parents can also expect to receive regular emails from school directors on information specific to their child’s school and grade, as well as a monthly newsletter from the Parents’ Auxiliary.

Lines of Communication – Questions and Issues



Social Media

If you are a social media user, you are encouraged to follow and engage with the official SMUS social media accounts:

- Facebook – facebook.com/yoursmus
- Instagram – instagram.com/yoursmus
- LinkedIn – linkedin.com/school/834086
- Twitter – twitter.com/yoursmus
- YouTube – smustube.ca

Parent Portal

The [SMUS Parent Portal](#) provides parents with customized and secure access to our [School Data System](#) (SDS). Once logged in, you can access your child's report cards, student account statements, your child's health information, course selection information, and international trip information.

You can also change your child's or your family's personal information through the Parent Portal (e.g. a change of address).

Change of Address

To maintain school records, parents are required to immediately update any changes to their contact information. You can do this by logging into the Parent Portal of SDS at smus.ca/parentportal and clicking on "Update My Information." Once you click on "Submit the Data Update Request," the system automatically notifies the school's Data and Finance departments of your new information, and the changes will be processed shortly afterward. The school must also have current emergency names and contact numbers for each student. Please contact the Data Centre at 250-370-6156 or datacentre@smus.ca if you have questions.

SMUS Connect

SMUS Connect is an internal hub for our community. Current parents are encouraged to register at smusconnect.com in order to find and communicate with other parents in their child's graduation year. SMUS Connect also offers students mentorship opportunities with our alumni network, and additional resources from our Parents' Auxiliary.

REACH

REACH is an electronic scheduling system that is used by our boarding community to manage leave requests when boarding students will be off-campus for overnight leave, or during long weekends and major school breaks. Boarding parents can read more about this system on [page 33](#).

Weather Closures

Families seeking to determine if classes have been cancelled due to severe weather should check the school's social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) or website, listen to CFX (AM 1070), The Q (FM 100.3) or CBC Radio One (FM 90.5), or watch CTV Vancouver Island. We advise checking more than one source, in the event that a power failure has occurred that prevents updates on the website or prevents contact with radio and television stations.

Transportation

Respecting Our Neighbours

Teaching students to respect the rights of others is a SMUS objective. We ask students to be mindful of the privacy and rights of neighbours who live close to the school grounds. We also expect parents to model this behaviour for their children. In this way, we can maintain amicable relationships with our local community.

Like most schools, SMUS generates large volumes of non-resident traffic that can adversely impact local residents in many ways, especially at peak times such as pick-up and drop-off.

When you are dropping off or picking up your child, you must obey local bylaws and provincial traffic laws. Violations of the following traffic laws and bylaws can be ticketed:

- Do not park closer than one metre from the edge of a residential driveway.
- Do not park in neighbours' driveways, even for very short periods.
- Do not make U-turns, three-point turns, or use driveways to turn around during pick-up and drop-off when it interferes with the flow and access of other traffic.
- Do not idle your car engine while you are stopped at a curb.
- Do not exceed the posted speed limit and, when traffic is heavy or conditions are wet or icy, please drive slower than the posted speed limit.
- Do not stop or park where curbs are painted yellow.

Do your part to minimize the impact of vehicles on our neighbourhood:

- Use alternative modes of transportation such as walking, cycling, and school or city buses.
- If you are walking, use sidewalks wherever they are available.
- If you are driving, park further away from the school and enjoy the walk.
- Plan your route so that you can avoid making unsafe reverses and U-turns.

Respect our neighbours' privacy and property:

- Do not allow your children to run on lawns or play on swings in front yards.
- Students using public transit near the school shall not loiter on lawns, be excessively noisy or litter near the bus stations.

Bicycles and Skateboards

On arrival at school, students, staff and visitors must lock their bicycles in the racks provided. The law requires helmets for all SMUS students riding bicycles. Boarding students must keep their bicycles locked in the appropriate storage area. SMUS takes no responsibility for loss or damage.

Students using skateboards, scooters or other transportation 'vehicles' are also required to wear safety equipment.

School Bus

The school offers morning and afternoon school bus pick-up and drop-off daily, starting Wednesday, September 7. The routes are provided for your convenience at a very reasonable cost and cover a wide range of areas, from Langford to North Saanich and points in between. Students can ride the bus using their student cards, which are scanned each time they board the bus. The cost for each ride is then automatically charged to their student account.

You may access our up-to-date bus information, including schedule, route and pricing information, at smus.ca/campus-services/bus-transportation. We try to accommodate all of our ridership, so changes in the route structure may be made during the summer, according to demand. If you have routes you would like us to consider or if you have questions or comments, please contact our transportation department at 250-370-6150, or email jody.bright@smus.ca.

Please note that all bus route times are subject to change due to road and weather conditions.

Academic Information

Our Learning Approach

St. Michaels University School offers an academic program that is demanding, stimulating and engaging. It challenges students intellectually and encourages them to reach their full academic potential as it provides them with rich learning experiences in a wide variety of subject areas.

The SMUS JK-12 program is an intentionally designed journey where meeting the personal needs of each individual learner is paramount. The objective at each level of education in the school is to strengthen foundational skills in literacy and numeracy, and foster creativity, critical thinking skills, and personal and social responsibility through inquiry and project-based learning.

Our academic program strives to combine relevant knowledge, steadfast rigour and a love of learning.

The Portrait of a Learner

Throughout the learning experience at SMUS, we embed the seven characteristics of our Portrait of a Learner: *curiosity, resilience, integrity, initiative, collaboration, empathy and well-being*. These characteristics are reflected upon throughout the learning process, in chapel, in community time and are connected with in a variety of demonstrations of learning. Our goal is to foster these characteristics in our learners so that they are well set up for success in life beyond SMUS.

Highlights of the BC Curriculum within the SMUS Academic Context

- **An Individualized Learning Environment:** Our program inspires an individualized, student-centered approach that addresses the diverse needs and interests of our students
- **Core Competencies:** Learning experiences are designed with a focus on literacy and numeracy foundations support the development of students as critical thinkers and effective communicators who are personally and socially competent in all areas of their lives.
- **Interdisciplinary Learning Opportunities:** The curriculum offers flexibility for cross-discipline learning experiences that are project-based and focused on skill development.
- **Flexible Learning Environments:** Our teachers embrace flexibility in creating learning environments that are relevant, engaging and responsive.
- **Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives:** Indigenous culture and perspectives are intentionally integrated throughout all areas of learning. For example, place-based learning, an emphasis on Indigenous ways of knowing reflecting the First Peoples Principles of Learning, and Indigenous resources and community connections are thoughtfully embedded into the curriculum.

Assessment Philosophy at SMUS

The Ministry of Education organizes courses around common learning standards. At SMUS, our curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and reporting are all centred around these learning standards. The standards make it clear what every student is expected to know, understand and be able to do.

- Assessment practices are age and stage appropriate and allow students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of different ways. From Kindergarten to Grade 8, feedback about learning is provided using proficiency indicators in relation to learning standards. Percentage grades, in addition to proficiency indicators, begin in Grade 9 in the Senior School. Some assignments and assessments may be formative and will not include any specific achievement score but they provide great value in helping students and teachers guide further learning.
- Learners strive for improved performance over time across all grades. In the Senior School, term results reflect the most recent evaluation in the learning process.
- Feedback on learning is timely and ongoing, in addition to parent-student-teacher conferences.
- For more detailed assessment information, please contact the appropriate Assistant Director at each division.

Communication of Student Learning

Our goal is to provide parents with timely and consistent feedback on learning that is easily understood.

Parents can expect to receive written descriptive feedback in a formal report throughout the year, which includes proficiency and percentage grades (9-12). Parents will also be able to read through student self-assessment of the Portrait of a Learner characteristics and goal setting on the formal reports and in various learning tasks. Further, parents will be invited to demonstrations of learning and student-led conferences in the Junior and Middle schools.

For any questions around communication of student learning, please contact the appropriate Assistant Director at each division.

Learning Resource

At SMUS, if students have been identified as needing additional resources, we offer an excellent learning resource program at all three campuses. The learning resource program consists of educators – most of whom have master’s degrees specializing in Special Education – with specific training in areas of remediation, enrichment, collaboration, educational coaching and assistive technology. We work closely with families, teachers and directors to provide support for the students in our program. We strive to meet the needs of all our learners by offering the following:

- programming and accommodations for students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- collaboration with teachers in the areas of curriculum, assessment, adaptations, differentiation and learning strategies
- training in, and access to, assistive technology

- an effective balance between remediation and in-class assistance (Junior and Middle Schools), with an increased focus on compensatory strategies and self-advocacy as students progress through the school
- a focus on school-wide outreach, including a wide range of Middle and Senior School seminars on learning strategies, and supports for learning and organizational skills
- close collaboration with teachers, administrators, counsellors and psychologists to support students with academics, executive functioning, and social and emotional well-being
- assistance during key transitions: Junior School to Middle School, Middle School to Senior School, and Senior School to post-secondary

Social and Emotional Wellness

St. Michaels University School supports the social and emotional well-being of students through a variety of programs that address harassment, mean behaviour, social cruelty and bullying, while promoting ethical behaviour and our school Values of respect, courage, honesty and service. The school’s Social and Emotional Development policy can be found on the [Links for Current Parents](#) section of our website.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to establishing a safe, inclusive, and equitable learning environment for all members of the community, including those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, two-spirit, and those who may be questioning their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

The school has an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion advisory group that has actively engaged the community to create strong expectations and policies. The following is the current EDI statement:

St. Michaels University School defines Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the broadest sense, including but not limited to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, ability, appearance, ethnicity, culture, race, beliefs, and socio-economic background. In addressing equity, diversity and inclusion at SMUS, we are guided by our core Values: respect, courage, honesty, and service.

Chapel

If chapel didn’t exist at the school, we would need to invent it. Every community that strives to be intentional in its work requires a time and place to gather as a whole. Especially in the context of cultural, economic and geographical diversity, we need regular reminders of our common aspirations and foibles, along with the Values that hold us together. Each time we give these ideas voice through a wisdom story, a nuanced question or a student reflection, we further strengthen our ability to discover our individual and collective promise – which is exactly what chapel is about.

The program mirrors the students who attend our school, some of whom are devout, some of whom identify with faith communities but aren’t active, and some of whom are non-religious. Our approach does not centre on a single world view or tradition. Rather, we base our gatherings on Values that are true to the school’s aspirations and upheld within most cultures: respect, courage, honesty and service. While chapel at the Junior School is largely driven by staff, more than half of the Senior School gatherings are led entirely by students. Everyone attends chapel once a week, with additional gatherings for boarders being held twice a month.

Our school overflows with the stuff of life: academic, artistic and physical opportunities. In the midst of all this activity, chapel offers an intentional pause, encouraging our community to consider what a meaningful life entails.

Personal Counselling Program

Our team of highly trained and certified school counsellors is available to provide confidential counselling to individual students and in small groups. Counsellors make presentations in classrooms, participate in grade programs, and co-teach with teachers to deliver curricular competencies in social-emotional learning.

Personal counsellors help students develop skills and strategies to deal effectively with challenges that interfere with their achievement and well-being. Examples of issues addressed by counsellors include problem solving, conflict resolution, stress management, anxiety and maintaining life balance.

When appropriate, counsellors also consult with faculty, parents and medical staff. If more extensive therapeutic intervention is required, referrals are made to certified professionals in the community.

Please don't hesitate to contact the counsellors at the Junior, Middle or Senior Schools.

Contact information

Senior School:

Carole McMillan, Head of Personal Counselling (K-12)
250-213-6524 or carole.mcmillan@smus.ca

Lauren Mavrikos lauren.mavrikos@smus.ca

Chris Webster chris.webster@smus.ca

Marnie Caron marnie.caron@smus.ca

Middle School:

Allison Peace allison.peace@smus.ca

Gabrielle Emmet gabrielle.emmet@smus.ca

Junior School:

Ann Downie ann.downie@smus.ca

Student Life

Campus Shop

The Campus Shop is located on the ground floor of School House and is open every school day during the year and offers everything necessary for the school uniform including blazers, pants, shirts, kilts, sweaters, fleeces, polos, ties and athletic clothing. Also available are some school supplies, transit bus passes, stamps, and a variety of other SMUS-crested gift and alumni-related items. Items can be charged to a student's account or paid for by credit or debit card.

The Campus Shop has an online store (uniforms.smus.ca) where you can purchase any uniform items that you need. Size guides are available on the website and families are strongly encouraged to use them before choosing sizes while ordering. You will be contacted when your order is ready to be picked up.

During the school year, orders for Junior School uniforms can be placed by phoning the Campus Shop at 250-370-6152, online at uniforms.smus.ca, or by sending an email to lynne.franklin@smus.ca. Orders will be delivered to the student at the Junior School.

The Campus Shop is open for drop-in shopping from 9 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm every school day. It is possible to make an appointment for in-person consultations and shopping. To schedule an appointment please visit the Campus Shop page at www.smus.ca/campus-services/campus-shop and use the online scheduler.

School Uniform

All school uniform items must be bought from the Campus Shop on the Richmond Road campus or through the Parents' Auxiliary used uniform sales. We expect all students to feel pride in being members of St. Michaels University School and to wear their uniforms proudly. Each school section of this handbook outlines the specific dress code requirements for students.

Used Uniform Sales

As a service to all parents and students, the SMUS Parents' Auxiliary offers a used uniform sale at the beginning of the school year. Please check the calendar for dates, times and locations.

The Parents' Auxiliary also operates a used uniform shop at the Derby facility on Shelbourne Street (3410 Shelbourne St.) on the first Tuesday of every month when school is in attendance (please check the calendar). Hours are 2-5 pm.

Clothing Labels

It is very important that each clothing item be labelled. Name labels for clothing can be ordered through the Campus Shop. Expect a delivery time of six to eight weeks. We recommend that you order labels in June for the following September to ensure they will be ready for pick-up at the start of the school year.

Name labels for all boarding students are automatically ordered and can be sewn on by the school's seamstress. Alterations can also be arranged with the seamstress through the school laundry. For the correct sizing of uniforms, please bring your child into the shop for fitting.

Lost, Misplaced and Stolen Items

Students are expected to lock all belongings in lockers or their boarding rooms. The school will not be held responsible for items that go missing. There are lost and found locations at each campus. Small, valuable items (watches, cellphones, glasses, etc.) are held in the school office. All other found items are sent to the lost and found bins.

These lost and found bins are emptied periodically, and the contents are donated. Students are notified in advance of this process. SMUS will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

Lunches and Snacks

To encourage good nutrition, we ask that your child's lunch include healthy foods instead of junk foods, pop or candy. A high-energy snack such as fruit may be brought from home to be eaten at recess. Lunches should be sent to school in reusable containers. We encourage that garbage be kept to a minimum.

Junior School students eat their lunches in their homeroom class, where they are supervised by a teacher.

At the Richmond Road campus, students have access to Graves Hall and The Howard Café. At the Middle School, students should eat their snacks outside during morning recess and dispose of their garbage in the containers around the school.

At lunch time, students can either bring food and eat in Graves Hall or the student commons where microwaves are available, or they may use their student card to charge meals to their student account. Please determine with your child how often they have permission to charge lunch.

The Parents' Auxiliary also organizes Pizza Days during the year. Parents will receive an email at the start of each term about this program.

Responsible Network Use

SMUS is pleased to offer access to its network facilities to all students. Access to the internet and email is a privilege and, because we have a limited number of network resources, we have implemented responsibilities and policies. All students are expected to respect and sign the rules included in our Network Use Policy Agreement.

Social Media Code of Conduct

All students are expected to follow these personal statements related to social media conduct:

Privacy and Security:

- I will keep my password private.
- I will protect my personal information, such as my name, address, and telephone number.
- I will inform my teacher right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will report any messages sent directly to me that are mean or make me feel uncomfortable.

Responsible Posting:

- I will always post to social media sites using my own account – I will not impersonate a friend or peer.
- I will use appropriate language.
- I will post appropriate content that reflects well upon myself and the school.
- I understand that I am accountable for my postings and electronic communications.
- I will respect copyright laws.

Prohibited Content and Behaviour:

- I will avoid discussions involving hateful, racially offensive, or obscene topics or images.
- I will not engage in cyberbullying or harassment of any kind, including but not limited to posting or sharing derogatory, offensive, or harmful content about others.
- I will not post or share any content that promotes violence, discrimination, illegal activities, or unethical behaviour.
- I will not disclose any confidential or sensitive information about the school, its staff, or fellow students on social media without proper authorization.
- I will not use social media to spread false information, rumours, or gossip that may harm the reputation of the school or its community members.
- I will not engage in any activities on social media that may compromise the privacy, security, or integrity of the school's network or systems.
- I will not engage in any activities on social media that violate any local, provincial, or federal laws, including but not limited to cyberstalking, cyberbullying, or identity theft.

Responsible Social Media Use:

- I will not use social media during class hours or in a way that disrupts my studies or the learning environment of others.
- I will not use social media to engage in excessive or addictive behaviours that interfere with my academic or personal responsibilities.

Winter, Spring and Summer Camps

External Programs' mission is to support the school in fulfilling its mission of providing outstanding preparation for life with an array of courses and programs for all students, including those outside the SMUS community. These include day camps in winter, spring and summer, and overnight camps in summer for students to develop new skills, meet new friends and have fun. Registration dates for winter, spring and summer programs, as well as descriptions of camps, is shared in the SMUS Weekly throughout the school year.

Our hands-on, skill-based programs offer learners the opportunity to Learn, Discover, and Create in a safe, engaging and fun environment.

External Programs delivers a variety of exceptional overnight summer camps for students ages 13-17 in leadership, volleyball, engineering, game development, and music.

SMUS Camps is known for consistently delivering high-quality programming in a safe, nurturing environment where campers can be themselves. At the core of every program is the emotional, mental and physical safety of our campers.

For information about these programs, please visit smus.ca/external-programs.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is an important part of our success as a school, and we hope that you will continue to invest in your child's education through volunteer and fundraising activities. We hope your connection to SMUS will last a lifetime, so please contact us if you have any questions or issues.

Volunteering and Fundraising

SMUS Parents' Auxiliary

Parents Working Together to Support Excellence in Education

The SMUS Parents' Auxiliary (PA) is a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing SMUS and its community. An independent non-profit society and registered charity, the PA is governed by an elected executive, with membership comprising all SMUS parents and caregivers. The PA president sits as a representative on the SMUS Board of Governors.

The PA is an integral part of SMUS. It organizes events and raises funds for the school. A formal allocations process is used to decide which annual projects are funded. Other activities include used uniform sales, Halloween campus fireworks, parent education events, weekly pizza lunches, birthday cakes for boarders service, the Boarders Without Borders dinner, teacher appreciation lunches, PA scholarship fund, Quiz Night, coffee mornings, parent socials and more.

The 2023-24 executive includes:

John MacKay, President

John Ellis, 1st Vice President

Gabrielle Howard, 2nd Vice President

Christina Kay, Secretary

Cindy Wan, Treasurer

All interested parents are welcome to attend PA meetings throughout the school year. Watch for the emailed newsletter for

details on events, volunteer opportunities, and other important news. Volunteers are always welcome! For more information, visit smus.ca/community/pa or email paraux@smus.ca.

Annual Fund

Gifts to the Annual Fund are used for immediate needs in and out of the classrooms that directly benefit all students. St. Michaels University School is recognized nationally and internationally for the quality of our academic program, but tuition alone does not cover the total cost of educating each student. We rely on the generosity of our school community, who each year raises more than \$1 million in support of student financial aid, scholarships, bursaries and a wide variety of programs that enrich students' educational experience.

The philanthropic support from our families is critical to the success of all students at SMUS. As a parent and member of our school community, you will be invited to contribute to our annual fundraising goals. Remember, every donation matters, and no gift is too small!

Volunteering your time is another way to be involved with the Annual Fund. We will be looking for Parent Representatives from each class, please reach out to the Advancement Office if this opportunity is something you would like to help with.

To make your family's annual donation today, visit <https://www.smus.ca/support/annual-fund>.

To volunteer or discuss any of our priority projects, contact our Annual Fund Manager Joanna Verano, at joanna.verano@smus.ca.

To learn more about Campus Masterplan and Capital Fundraising, please contact Shara Campsall, Director of Advancement, at shara.campsall@smus.ca.

St. Michaels University School Society

Our school is owned by the St. Michaels School Society, operating within the *Societies Act of British Columbia*, and is governed by a Board comprising 14 governors, 12 of which are elected by members of the Society, as well as an elected faculty representative and the presidents of the SMUS Alumni Association and the Parents' Auxiliary.

All current parents are eligible to become members of the SMUS Society. To register for membership, visit smus.ca/discover/governance-and-community/smus-society/membership.

For information about the Board, visit smus.ca/discover/society/board. Here you will find contact information for the Board Chair, profiles of Board members, a list of Board committees and their membership, the nominations process, and recent communications from the Board.

Junior School Information

820 Victoria Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8S 4N3
Phone: 250-598-3922, Fax: 250-592-0783

Becky Anderson, Director of Junior School
Nicole Tripp, Assistant Director of Junior School
Delina Squire, Assistant to the Director of Junior School

A strong start to school sets an ideal foundation for the future at SMUS and beyond. Our focus on an intentional, rigorous and engaging curriculum, an inquiry-based approach to learning, and an ideal environment encourages children to learn, grow and thrive in a joyful setting.

We have been inspired by the key principles of the Reggio Emilia approach: seeing each child as capable and full of ideas, recognizing the importance of partnering with parents/guardians, and creating inspiring environments for learning.

Academic Information

The Junior School provides a program that includes homeroom teachers who teach the core subjects. Specialist teachers provide instruction in other areas of learning.

Drop-Off, Dismissal and Pick-Up

We ask that all parents/guardians read the section titled “Respecting Our Neighbours” on page 4 of this handbook, as the Junior School drop-off and pick-up area is on a road in a residential neighbourhood.

At morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times, duty teachers oversee this process. While some families choose to park and accompany their children into the playground area, many others choose to drive to the loading zone in front of the school and drop off their child. If you are using the loading zone before or after school, **do not leave your vehicle unattended.**

All children travelling to and from school should use the crosswalk in front of the Junior School. Due to safety concerns, children and parents/guardians are asked to not cross the street in other areas.

Student safety is our priority. It is important that the person picking up a student is on the school's approved list.

Morning Routine

- Children enter the school through the side gate anytime between 8:00 and 8:15. A duty teacher is outside before school and children are supervised until the bell rings at 8:15.
- The crosswalk and vehicle passenger drop-off area are supervised to ensure students arrive safely.
- The school day begins at 8:20 so we expect all children to arrive by 8:15.

After-School Routine

- Students will be dismissed in two groups: Group A (3:10 - 3:20) and Group B (3:20 - 3:30).
- When students are dismissed, they must exit through the side gate so that they are seen exiting by the gate duty teacher.
- Students are not permitted to exit through the front doors except when they are signing out during the school day or if they are leaving school after the gates have been locked.
- Families are encouraged to make their after-school arrangements (sports, clubs, play dates, etc.) in advance, as students may only use the phone during the school day if an urgent matter arises.
- There is a duty person at the gate to ensure all children are picked up.
- Any students not picked up by a parent/guardian by 3:30 will move to the foyer while a parent/guardian is called. If no one is available to pick the child up, they will go to After-School Care.

Transportation: Students who travel to school by the SMUS bus are given a student card that the bus driver scans each time the student boards the bus. Cards can also be used in the Campus Shop. For complete details regarding buses, please visit smus.ca/campus-services/bus-transportation.

Parent/Guardian Pick-Up Information

Students must tell their teacher each morning how they will be getting home that afternoon: taking the bus, or in the regular pick-up lane, or attending the After-School Care Program. It is important that the after-school plan is communicated to the teacher at the beginning of the day because it is sent with the attendance form and recorded in the school office.

After-School Care Program

The After-School Care Program is a welcoming, diverse and inclusive drop-in program that offers care to students between 3:15 and 5:30 pm. SMUS is committed to ensuring all Health Authority Licensing requirements are followed, including child ratios. All facilities used are licensed by Island Health and inspected by the health authority's licensing officer on a regular basis. Parents/guardians can contact the Junior School office when their child needs After-School Care services.

Absences and Lateness

We expect all students arrive by 8:15. If a student arrives late, they must report to the school office or use the sign-in/sign-out sheet located there.

Parents/guardians are asked to phone 250-598-3922 or email christine.shewchuk@smus.ca before 8 am if your child is going to be late or absent on a school day. If students are late, you must sign your child in at the office on arrival.

Parent/Guardian Visitors and Student Sign-In/Sign-Out

All parents/guardians visiting the school during the school day are asked to sign in at the office for security purposes. If your child arrives late or is picked up early for an appointment, you must sign them in or out in the binder at the office door.

Parents/Guardians as Partners

Parents/guardians play an important role at our school, especially in the Junior School, as you are viewed as partners in your child's educational journey. You are invited to attend regularly scheduled meetings such as the Curriculum Evening and Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences. You are also invited to attend Monday morning chapel, be present at special events during the year, and volunteer in the Junior School community. We encourage you to communicate regularly with your child's teacher. You are most welcome in the Junior School.

Adult Volunteers

The Junior School environment is enriched by the many parents/guardians who share their time and talents. Many opportunities are available for you to become involved at the Junior School on a formal or informal basis. Working in the Library Learning Commons, accompanying classes on trips, giving career talks, and serving as a grade representative or on the welcome committee are some of the ways in which you can contribute to the school and gain satisfaction and enjoyment from working with the children.

Requests for Additional Leave From School

The school's school dates are published in advance and it is our expectation that families book travel during school holidays to limit disruption to learning and school life. If an extended absence from school is required, a request should be made to the Director of the Junior School in advance. School work will not be provided for students to do while absent, as curriculum is taught in an immersive way with instruction, class engagement and process time. Teachers may have suggestions for independent learning while the child is away but this will not be assessed.

First Aid Room

The Junior School has a small, basic supply of first-aid products, sufficient to take care of minor scrapes, cuts, aches and pains. Medication is administered with written permission only. If children do not feel well during the school day, they can rest in the first aid room, and we will call you to come pick up your child.

Allergy Aware School

There are many students with severe allergies and therefore the Junior School provides an allergy aware environment for students with life-threatening allergies. Specific information will be communicated as needed to ensure the safety of all students.

Cellphones

Students at the Junior School are not permitted to carry cellphones or wear smartwatches.

Communication of Student Learning

Effective communication between home and school is essential for student success. We provide and maintain ongoing, regular communication about your child's progress. In order to do this most effectively, we have scheduled numerous meetings, reports and other communications with parents/guardians through the school year. In addition, teachers are available to meet with parents/guardians at any time.

September: Junior School Curriculum Evening

October: Personal communication for new students

November: Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences

December: Formal written report

February: Ongoing sharing of Learning

March: Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences

May: Student Demonstrations of Learning

June: Formal written report

Student Agendas

All students in Grades 1-5 are given a student agenda for use throughout the school year. The agenda is to go between home and school and is a useful tool for helping students with their homework organization and communication. Parents/guardians are encouraged to check this agenda regularly for notes from school.

Home Learning Policy

The Junior School teachers promote the practice of a reasonable amount of daily home learning on Monday to Thursday evenings. Home learning will not be assigned on the weekend or during school holidays. Children are encouraged to read, practise their instruments, and complete some type of other homework as assigned by teacher. As a general guideline, children receive 10 minutes of homework per grade (for example, Grade 2 students would have about 20 minutes of learning that includes reading and another task). Junior School teachers believe that family time in the evenings and on weekends is a priority. A good balance of work and play is always encouraged.

Extracurricular Clubs, Activities and Sports

A variety of clubs, activities, and sports is offered throughout the year on a term by term basis. The office sends out information regarding what is being offered and how to sign up at the beginning of each term. More information on extracurricular offerings is available on the school's website.

Dress Code for Junior School Students

Junior School Uniform

Students wear school uniforms every day. The Number One dress uniform is required on Mondays, for special events, and when students are representing the school.

We expect students to respect themselves and be proud of their school. This respect and pride should be reflected in their general appearance. We encourage all students to feel pride in being members of St. Michaels University School and wear their uniforms proudly.

The table below refers to “crested” items, which means the SMUS logo or name.

	Number One Uniform <i>(worn Mondays and at SMUS special events)</i>	Number Two Uniform
Kindergarten	Red crested polo shirt Navy crested cardigan or sweater Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tartan tunic (black bike shorts underneath) • Grey pants Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy knee socks or tights with tunic • Grey socks with pants Plain black dress shoes (buckle or Velcro)	Red crested polo shirt Navy crested cardigan or sweater or vest Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tartan tunic (black bike shorts underneath) • Grey pants • Grey shorts • Navy culottes Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy knee socks or tights with tunic • Grey knee socks (with shorts only) or grey dress socks (with long pants only) • White ankle socks with culottes only Plain black dress shoes (buckle or Velcro)
Grades 1-4	White crested dress shirt Junior School tie Navy crested cardigan or sweater Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tartan tunic (black bike shorts underneath) – K-3 only • Kilt (with pin and black bike shorts underneath) – Grade 4 only • Grey pants Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy knee socks or tights with tunic • Grey socks with pants Plain black dress shoes	White crested polo shirt Navy crested cardigan, sweater, or vest Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tartan tunic (black bike shorts underneath) – K-3 only • Kilt (with pin and black bike shorts underneath) – Grade 4 only • Grey pants • Grey shorts • Navy culottes Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy knee socks or tights with tunic • Grey knee socks (with shorts only) or grey dress socks (with long pants only) • White ankle socks with culottes only Plain black dress shoes

	Number One Uniform <i>(worn Mondays and at SMUS special events)</i>	Number Two Uniform
Grade 5	White crested dress shirt Junior School tie Crested blazer Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilt (with pin and black bike shorts underneath) • Grey pants Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy knee socks or tights with kilt • Grey knee socks (with shorts only) or grey dress socks (with long pants only) Plain black dress shoes	White crested polo shirt Navy crested cardigan, sweater or vest Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilt (with pin and black bike shorts underneath) • Grey pants • Grey shorts • Navy culottes Choice of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy knee socks or tights with tunic • Grey knee socks (with shorts only) or grey dress socks (with long pants only) • White ankle socks with culottes only Plain black dress shoes

Other information

Hair must be natural colour, and all adornments such as hair bands, ribbons and barrettes must be in school tartan or in solid school colours of black, navy, red or white. Nail polish is not permitted. A single pair of ear studs or small hoops is permitted.

Students can wear Number One uniform on Number Two days, but the uniform must be worn properly.

Junior School Additional Clothing

	Outerwear for Recess and Outdoor Education
Kindergarten to Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor jackets: a solid-coloured navy blue or black jacket • Navy crested fleece jacket or vest (crested fleece is only worn as outerwear and may not replace the pullover or Grade 5 blazer) • Rubber boots (left at school) – in navy blue, black or red • Navy or black rain pants (left at school – Grades 1-5) • Navy or black rain jacket (left at school – Grades 1-5) • Muddy buddy in school colours – red, black or navy (Kindergarten only) • Toques, gloves in school colours • Spare pair of socks • Sun hat /school ball cap in school colours • Backpacks in neutral school colours (school backpacks preferred)

Junior School Gym and Art

	Clothing Items
Grade 1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMUS mesh gym bag • Royal blue crested hoodie • Black sweat pants • Royal-blue crested gym shirt (Grades 1-5 only) • Black crested gym shorts (Grades 1-5 only) • Runners with non-marking soles • Art shirt (large oversized T-shirt) (Grades 1-5 only) • Plain white sport socks (Grades 4-5 only)

Middle School Information

3400 Richmond Road, Victoria, BC, V8P 4P5
Phone: 250-592-3549, Fax: 250-592-3942

Richard Brambley, Director of Middle School
Julie Harris, Assistant Director, Academics
Cara Lee, Assistant Director, Student Life
Tara Toller, Assistant to the Director of Middle School

Welcome

On behalf of the staff at the Middle School, we welcome students and parents to the 2023-24 school year. We also extend a special welcome to all students who are either new to SMUS or who are transitioning from the Junior School. We are committed to working with you and your child to make this a successful school year.

School Values

We set high standards for staff and students, and we expect everyone to contribute positively to the school. The school Values of respect, courage, honesty and service guide our expectations for student behaviour and are at the heart of all discussions.

Behaviour and Discipline

When students make a mistake, we strive to help them rejoin the path laid down by the Values, which are the basis of all discipline discussions. The school believes in helping to change thoughtless or irresponsible behaviour rather than punishing by suspension or expulsion. However, in cases where warnings are not heeded or where there has been a serious breach of school rules, students may be suspended or expelled.

Middle School Schedule

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
TAG	8:20-8:35 am	TAG	8:20-8:35 am	TAG	8:20-8:35 am	TAG	8:20-8:35 am	TAG	8:20-8:35 am
Period 1	8:35-9:18 am	Chapel	8:40-9:13 am	Period 1	8:35-9:18 am	Period 1	8:35-9:18 am	Period 1	8:35-9:18 am
Period 2	9:21-10:05 am	Period 2	9:16-10:05 am	Period 2	9:21-10:05 am	Period 2	9:21-10:05 am	Period 2	9:21-10:05 am
Recess	10:05-10:25 am	Recess	10:05-10:25 am	Recess	10:05-10:25 am	Recess	10:05-10:25 am	Recess	10:05-10:25 am
Period 3	10:25-11:08 am	Period 3	10:25-11:08 am	Period 3	10:25-11:08 am	Period 3	10:25-11:08 am	Period 3	10:25-11:08 am
Period 4	11:11-11:55 am	Period 4	11:11-11:55 am	Period 4	11:11-11:55 am	Period 4	11:11-11:55 am	Period 4	11:11-11:55 am
Lunch	11:55 am -12:45 pm	Lunch	11:55 am -12:45 pm	Lunch	11:55 am -12:45 pm	Lunch	11:55 am -12:45 pm	Lunch	11:55 am -12:45 pm
Period 5	12:45-1:31 pm	Period 5	12:45-1:31 pm	Period 5	12:45-1:31 pm	Period 5	12:45-1:31 pm	Period 5	12:45-1:36 pm
Period 6	1:34-2:19 pm	Period 6	1:34-2:19 pm	Period 6	1:34-2:19 pm	Period 6	1:34-2:19 pm	Period 6	1:39-2:28 pm
Period 7	2:23-3:05 pm	Period 7	2:23-3:05 pm	Period 7	2:23-3:05 pm	Period 7	2:23-3:05 pm	Assembly	2:33-3:05 pm
TAG	3:05-3:15 pm	TAG	3:05-3:15 pm	TAG	3:05-3:15 pm	TAG	3:05-3:15 pm	TAG	3:05-3:15 pm

Peer Conflict, Mean Behaviour and Bullying

The school has a comprehensive policy, "Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of our Students," that details our response to situations involving peer conflict, mean behaviour, and bullying. The school's Social and Emotional Development policy can be found on the Links for Current Parents section of our website.

While conflict is considered a normal part of peer interaction and a student's academic discourse, SMUS views conflict that includes mean behaviour or bullying as unacceptable and will respond accordingly.

As each situation is unique, the school has a variety of responses that it uses to help resolve conflicts. These responses seek to rebuild relationships first; only if a situation warrants it is a more punitive approach considered.

School Year Start-Up

The new school year begins on Wednesday, September 6 for all Grade 6 students, and for all new Grade 7 and 8 students. This is an orientation day that is led by Grade 8 WEB Leaders (Where Everybody Belongs) that will help welcome students to Middle School.

Returning students begin school on Thursday, September 7.

For further information on events at the beginning of the school year, please refer to the details in the SMUS Calendar at smus.ca/news/calendar.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Traffic becomes congested at the Richmond Road campus during peak drop-off and pick-up times for Middle and Senior School students. Two entrances to campus exist: one on McRae Avenue and one on Knight Avenue. We encourage Middle School parents to consider arriving from Knight Avenue and, keeping right, travel around the Monkman Athletic Complex. Please avoid stopping in the middle of the roadway or driveway, as this impedes traffic flow. We also encourage parents to drop off on Knight Avenue with children walking through the campus to the Middle School.

Absences and Lateness

Parents are asked to call the Middle School office at 250-592-3549 or email at tara.toller@smus.ca before 8:20 am if your child is going to be absent or late that day. Students must report to the main office on arrival so that we can maintain accurate records. Students who are medically absent for more than five consecutive school days must submit a doctor's note on their first day back to school.

Family Holidays

School holidays are generous, and we appreciate adherence to the specified dates. **Families must request holiday extensions in writing and submit them to the Director of Middle School well in advance.**

Timetables

Students will receive their timetable on the first day of school. A good deal of thought is given to class formation. Students are grouped in a variety of ways throughout the school day. Many different timetabling factors are at play when assigning students to classes. At the Middle School, a parent request for a specific teacher or class is difficult to accommodate and limits our ability to build balanced classes in which the needs of all students are considered.

We reserve the right to make the final decision with respect to class placement. Unless there is a serious conflict that merits consideration for a change, please trust our judgment.

Smartphones

We are committed to developing and expecting a high level of digital citizenship from all students. At the Middle School, we do not support cellphone use during the day. Our goal is for students to learn to use technology appropriately and avoid the use of technology in ways that negatively impact learning, socialization, health and safety. Cellphones, for Middle School students, undermine focus and productivity.

If families allow students to bring a cellphone to school, these phones are not to be used on school property until after 4 pm. There are situations that require flexibility that will be considered on an individual basis. We have a telephone for student use.

Charges to Student Accounts

Students may charge items, such as purchases from the Campus Shop, to their student accounts. Student cards are scanned for day students who eat in Graves Hall, and meal charges are invoiced monthly to the student's account. Students are not allowed to use their student card to charge meals for other people. If a student needs a replacement student card, there is a charge of \$5.

Occasionally, we require that students have certain consumable items such as math exercise books, music books, or science and Mandarin workbooks, which are billed to student accounts. Generally, the cost of school activities, including most sports and field trips, are included as part of student fees. If there is an additional fee involved, we notify you as part of the activity or trip information sent home. Some sports and activities, such as rowing and any overnight trips, have some type of fee to help offset the costs.

Outdoor education trips are generally excluded from additional fees; however, some outtrips have a fee due to transportation and other costs associated with that activity.

Communication of Student Learning

Over the course of the year, parents will receive a minimum of two written learning updates and two conference opportunities. Dates to be determined.

Teacher Advisor Group (TAG)

Each student is assigned to a Teacher Advisor Group. Grouping students in this way is consistent with good middle-year practice and provides students with the consistency and structure that enhances their learning. The Teacher Advisor plays a critical role in your child's life at the school. They are responsible for the overall well-being of each student in their TAG. The TAG teacher is a good first point of contact in the school for questions related to student life.

Homework Purpose and Policy

The purpose of homework at the Middle School level, based in current research, is threefold: to reinforce learning, to practise skills and develop academic habits of mind, and to deepen understanding. Assignments and home study are an integral part of the academic program at SMUS, and Middle School teachers promote the practice of a reasonable amount of daily homework.

A guiding principle for teachers and for students should be: up to 60 minutes in Grade 6, up to 70 minutes in Grade 7 and up to 80 minutes in Grade 8 per evening for homework. Students are encouraged to read and/or practise their instruments on a regular basis as part of this homework routine. If you feel your child has too much homework on a regular basis, it is important that you notify your child's TAG teacher, so that we can best support your child to balance their school commitments with those outside of school and free time. Homework will not be assigned over long weekends or school holidays. A good balance of work and play is always encouraged.

Student Agenda

To assist students in organizing their study time and materials, each student is given a Middle School agenda. Students are expected to use their agenda on a daily basis; tasks, reminders, due dates and homework assigned by subject teachers should be entered after each class. The agenda can also further communication between school staff and parents; it contains useful information for students and parents about the Middle School. If used properly, the agenda can be an invaluable asset for the student. We encourage parents to engage in discussions with your child about the agenda as a tool for organization and learning, and to check-in regularly regarding their agenda usage.

SMUS Student Email Use Policy

Students are expected to use their SMUS email only for school-related communications and activities. The circulation of non-academic content is not permitted as this activity is distracting and interferes with the teaching and learning for both students and teachers. We support students to develop a sense of pride and accountability related to their communications and to help them to understand the difference between personal and school communication. Gmail, chat, etc. are also not permitted at school. With parent permission, we encourage students to create a personal email account to use for personal exchanges.

Homework Club

The Middle School library is usually open after school until 4 pm, Monday to Thursday. Students are welcome to use this facility to complete homework, receive assistance or conduct research.

Lockers

Each student is loaned a book locker and a physical education locker for the year. Students are responsible for taking care of their lockers.

Executive Functioning and Library

The Middle School provides its Grade 6 students with a skills curriculum. Grade 6 executive functioning skills are taught as part of the Humanities program. Library skills are taught in Grades 6 to 8 and focus on research, study and research skills. These skills are taught collaboratively by subject teachers, the teacher-librarian, learning resource specialists and information technology teachers. (Students who are new to the Middle School in Grade 7 and 8 are offered a condensed version of this curriculum early in the school year.)

Music

A charge of approximately \$35 covers the purchase of music, method books and a folder with the student's name and instrument engraved on it. This initial charge is reduced in subsequent years when folder purchase is not required. Band students who do not own an instrument should rent or purchase one from a music store in September. In some cases, the school can lend an instrument. Information about instrument rental and purchase is made available in September.

Outdoor Education

Outdoor education trips and activities are offered throughout the school year to Middle School students. Please see the online calendar for specific dates. Optional activities like a ski/snowboard day are also offered, depending on the season.

Co-curricular Athletic Program

The Middle School belongs to the Lower Island Middle School Sports Association (LIMSSA). This association was formed in 2003 to create athletic opportunities for middle schools in Victoria, Saanich and Sooke. With the reconfiguration of the Victoria School District from elementary to middle schools, it was crucial that an association be created specifically aimed at the Grade 6-8 levels to encourage athletic participation among those member schools.

The purpose/philosophy of LIMSSA is:

- to encourage athletics among the schools within the confines of the association and to maintain a high level of participation, sportsmanship and citizenship;
- to legislate and to adopt uniform participation, regulations, schedules, tournaments and special events for all school sports – these shall provide for qualification of all players, teams and coaches, and the rules and regulations of all activities in which the association sponsors or approves;
- to honour the code of desirable practices as set down by the LIMSSA Code of Ethics.

We anticipate being able to offer the following sports this school year: badminton, basketball, cross country, field hockey, rugby, sailing, soccer, squash, swimming, touch rugby, track and field, and volleyball.

When possible, coaches are given the same practice day(s) during the week. However, because we share facilities with the Senior School, this is not always feasible. Practice time is generally after school but, for some teams, it may also occur during the cross-grade physical education classes. Occasionally, a team may practise in the morning before school starts.

A sports schedule is posted each week on the school website, outside the Physical Education office, on the student notice board, and a copy is also left in the office. We encourage students and parents to check the schedule regularly for practice and game times.

Some teams will be issued a uniform for their playing season. It is the player's responsibility to maintain their uniform and return it to the coach at the end of the season. Physical education strip will be used for practices or, in the case of the rugby teams, the students may wear the school rugby jersey and black shorts.

A jamboree, festival, tournament and/or playoff usually takes place at the end of the sporting season. This format can involve either a half day or full day where schools are invited to participate. If it is a playoff, games will often occur after school over a period of several days.

With our main emphasis on participation, skill building, sportsmanship, citizenship and a qualified coaching staff, we strive to provide a positive athletic experience at the Middle School.

Clubs and Councils

Typically, a variety of clubs and activities are offered throughout the year. In past years some of the activities we have offered include: Art Club, Garden Club, Model United Nations, Robotics and Jazz Band. All students are encouraged to join one of the five Leadership Councils: Arts, Athletics, Service, Social and Sustainability. New clubs and activities are usually offered each year, depending on student interest and staff availability. Information about these clubs and activities is usually posted on the bulletin board across from the main office, as well as around the school. More information on co-curricular offerings is available on the school's website.

Service Days

Throughout the year, Service Council organizes Service Days. On those days, in exchange for a small donation or volunteering of time, students may dress in casual (non-uniform) clothing in support of a local charity or other worthy cause, as decided by Service Council.

Year-End Calendar and Events

Towards the end of the school year in June, students experience a variety of year-end events and valuable activities that are an important part of ending the year and of the Middle School experience. All students are expected to participate in the outdoor education trips, the year-end assembly, a sports activity afternoon and our Closing Ceremonies.

Please do not make any travel arrangements that would prevent your child from taking part in these activities. As the dates near, we will distribute a detailed year-end calendar with all the information necessary to help make the end of the year successful and as free of hassle as possible.

Dress Code for Middle School Students

Dress and Grooming

Students should wear Number One dress uniform on Tuesdays, special occasions, or when representing the school. Students who cycle to school may change into the uniform upon arriving; otherwise, students are expected to travel to school and leave school in their school uniform. Appropriate dress is expected of all students, whether during the school day or staying on campus after hours. It is not enough to simply wear the appropriate dress, grooming is equally important.

Shirts must always be kept tucked in, except for tailored shirts with no tails. Hair must be of natural colour and always presented in a clean-cut manner. Students must be clean shaven, and makeup must be tastefully applied. Earrings must be simple (small stud or hoop is appropriate). Nail polish, if worn, must be clear.

Outdoor Jackets

If required outside and while moving between buildings, a solid-coloured navy blue or black jacket or SMUS top may be worn over the sweater or blazer. Outdoor jackets are to be removed once inside buildings.

The school cannot be held responsible for lost items, and it recommends that all uniform items be labeled. See [page 7](#) in this handbook for more information.

The table below refers to “crested” items, which means the SMUS logo or name.

Middle School	Number One Uniform	Number Two Uniform
	Worn on Tuesdays at Middle School, on school outings and on special occasions	For everyday wear, same as Number One dress with these options
Tops	White crested SMUS dress shirt Navy blazer with school crest School tie	Navy crested sweater or cardigan, navy sleeveless vest or navy school fleece White crested SMUS dress shirt
Pants/Skirt	Solid medium grey SMUS dress trousers or SMUS tartan kilt	Same as for Number One uniform
Socks/Tights	With trousers: grey, navy, or black dress socks With kilt: navy knee socks or navy tights	Same as for Number One uniform
Shoes	Black, polishable shoes <i>Boots (incl. Blundstones), sandals or slides are not appropriate.</i>	Same as for Number One uniform

Middle School Sports Clothing

A high standard of dress for physical education classes and co-curricular pursuits is important. Please be supportive. All these items are available at the Campus Shop with the exception of footwear and towels. All students require the listed clothing.

- 2 SMUS T-shirts (short- or long-sleeved)
- 1 SMUS hoodie or crewneck sweater
- 1 pair of Adidas™ SMUS-crested pants
- 1 pair of black SMUS shorts
- 3 pairs of white athletic socks
- 1 pair of non-marking running shoes
- Team uniforms are loaned to students as required

Senior School Information

3400 Richmond Road, Victoria, BC, V8P 4P5
Phone: 250-592-2411, Fax: 250-592-2812

Eliot Anderson, Director of Senior School
Richard Curry, Assistant Director, Administration
Robyn Amiel, Assistant Director, Academics
Richard Primrose, Assistant Director, Student Life and Leadership
Laurie Erwin, Assistant to the Director of Senior School

The school year has six terms. In addition to major school holidays in December and at Spring Break, and there are also a number of long weekends throughout the year. The dates are set in advance so that you can make early arrangements to avoid students missing school time.

Students may not leave early for holidays and long weekends unless there is a very special reason. You, as their guardian, must request the leave in writing or via email to the Assistant Director, Student Life and Leadership of Senior School (see Holiday Extensions or Other Non-School Absences on the right).

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Traffic gets congested at the Richmond Road campus during peak drop-off and pick-up times for Middle and Senior school students. Two entrances to campus exist: one on McRae Avenue and one on Knight Avenue. Please avoid stopping in the middle of the roadway or driveway, as this impedes traffic flow.

Parking

Student parking is very limited, and only vehicles with an authorized decal are permitted to park on school grounds.

These vehicles must be registered with the Assistant Director, Student Life and students are required to explain their need to drive to school before a student can obtain a parking pass. Unregistered student vehicles, those without a parking pass, or those illegally parked may have their wheels locked (resulting in a fine) or be towed without warning.

Once parked at school, vehicles are to be left alone until the owners leave campus. Vehicles are not to be used as book lockers, sports lockers or social centres. Students are not authorized to park their vehicles along the roads bordering the school where it is posted "Residential Parking Only." Vehicles can be towed without warning if these signs are not respected. Vehicles are left at the owner's risk; SMUS accepts no responsibility for vehicles left on campus.

Boarders are not allowed to keep motorized vehicles at the school, nor to rent, borrow, or drive any vehicle while under school jurisdiction. School buses or public transportation take care of most of the transportation needs of boarders.

Absences and Lateness

Parents are asked to leave a message at 250-370-6133 or email srattendance@smus.ca before 8 am when your child is going to be absent.

Off-Campus Leave During the School Day

All students must sign out at the reception desk when leaving campus for any reason during the school day. **Grade 9 and 10** students are not permitted to leave the campus without permission from a parent. This can be done by either signing the student out at reception, by calling 250-370-6133, or by emailing srattendance@smus.ca. **Grade 11 and 12** students may sign out for the lunch break and medical appointments

Holiday Extensions or Other Non-School Absences

All day and boarding students are expected to attend all academic classes, except under exceptional circumstances. Any student who will be missing school time for vacations, non-school-organized trips or other priorities must have their parents or guardians email the Director of Senior School at srattendance@smus.ca **before making their travel arrangements** to request permission for their child to miss school and provide the specific reason for the absence. Students shall not leave early unless this procedure has been completed. **Requests should be received at least one week before the planned absence** to ensure sufficient time to meet with teachers.

Once permission has been granted, students must complete a "Green Sheet" to inform their teachers of their plans and to collect work to complete while they are away. The green sheet must be returned to the Attendance Administrator for day students and to Boarding Services for boarding students within three days prior to departure. The Attendance Administrator or Boarding Services will then forward the completed green sheet and formal request from parents to the Director of Senior School for final approval.

Boarding parents should then input the information as required within the REACH electronic system.

Please note that holiday extension absences are considered as "unexcused" by the Ministry of Education and will be recorded as such on the school report card.

Illnesses and Medical Appointments

Day students who feel unwell during the day must contact their parent or guardian and be picked up as soon as possible. Day students are required to sign out at the office.

Boarding students who feel unwell during the day must see the nurse on duty in the Health Centre. Students may not excuse themselves from class for sickness. Boarding students must check in with the nurse at the Health Centre and the nurse will determine appropriate care. Boarding students who are not well enough to attend classes will also have their off-campus leave suspended for the remainder of the day.

Students who have medical or dental appointments must sign in and out at School House reception.

Smartphones

Our school aims to create an environment in which students are focused and present, both in class and during non-instructional time. The school is continually examining its smartphone culture, consulting with students and faculty, while being guided by the best available research. While it is clear that smartphones offer many benefits, it is widely accepted that excessive screen time can lead to many negative side effects, including distraction and mental health issues, and may be harmful to school culture.

Students in different grades have varying levels of developmental readiness for smartphone use and this is reflected in our policies.

Grade 9 and 10 students may bring smartphones to school but are expected to leave them off and away unless told otherwise.

Grade 11 and 12 students may bring smartphones to school and are expected to have them off and away during class and in other public areas where they are with fellow students. This off-and-away policy contributes to a positive social climate and give students a reprieve from excessive screen time. To support this positive climate, cellphones are not to be used at any time in the dining hall, the Chapel, during homeroom or in assembly.

Students who are unable to meet these standards can expect to have their phones confiscated and parents contacted.

Security of Personal Items

The school strongly recommends that students record serial numbers of items brought to campus and that they enable any smartphone locator apps. It is also highly recommended that students use their lockers and not leave their bags unattended.

Communication of Student Learning

Our primary goal is to ensure that there is ongoing, regular communication about how your child is progressing throughout their learning.

Homeroom Advisors will connect with parents at the start of the school year and then throughout the year, when necessary, to communicate student progress and concerns. Houseparents report at regular intervals on the progress of boarding students. At the discretion of the Director of Senior School, a specific update on student progress may be provided with action items to address.

Although there is a regular schedule of formal communication of student learning, parents are welcome to contact their child's teacher at any time to discuss any issues that arise.

Student-Teacher-Parent (STeP) Conferences

Formal STeP conferences are arranged via video conferencing using Google Meet throughout the year. Dates and times are published in the online calendar. Please watch for emails from the Assistant to the Director of the Senior School for an invitation and registration details.

We understand boarding parents will have difficulty attending the designated parent-teacher meetings. However, should there be an opportunity, the Assistant to the Director of Senior School, in consultation with the student's Homeroom Advisor, will be happy to arrange teacher meetings at another time. To this end, we ask for adequate prior notice so that teachers can effectively prepare for these meetings. At all times through the school year, individual teachers can be contacted by telephone or by email for information and updates on a student's progress.

If you have questions regarding academic information and guidelines, please contact Denise Lamarche, Director of Academics, at denise.lamarche@smus.ca.

University Counselling Centre

The University Counselling Centre assists students in making course choices, post-secondary planning, enrolling in summer and enrichment programs, and career exploration. Five academic or university advisors and an administrative assistant help students from Grades 9-12, with small group and individual appointments required of all students in Grades 10-12. We encourage parent participation in any stage of the post-secondary process.

The Centre features university catalogues and viewbooks from around the world, as well as resource and reference books (many of which are also available in The Snowden Library) to help guide students and their parents in the post-secondary research and application process. These include resource books for career planning, scholarship opportunities, and standardized testing.

The Centre also maintains a website for students and a university- and career-planning portal called MaiaLearning, that students can access. Our administrative assistant supports many aspects of the application process, including arranging, at a student's request, for transcripts to be sent to universities.

In addition to presentations by representatives from post-secondary institutions from around the world, we also host information evenings each year for you and your child. The first is for Grade 12 students and parents in September and the second, in late January, focuses on the course selection process for the next academic year. Additionally, regular postings at smus.ca/news throughout the year address a range of topics related to university counselling.

Academic Advisors

Students' timetables indicate the academic advisor that supports them. Academic advisors are the student's and parent's primary contact to discuss any program or course planning, as well as post-secondary planning. All course changes and program questions or issues should be brought to the academic advisor.

The Snowden Library

Hours:

Monday-Thursday	7:30 am - 9 pm
Friday	7:30 am - 4 pm
Sunday	1-6 pm

The library is also open on Saturdays during exam periods. Library hours are emailed to students during exam periods.

The teacher-librarian is available during school hours to answer reference questions and guide students in research and reading.

Library Expectations

Quiet conversations, reflection, reading and study are encouraged. Drinks are allowed but no food. Respect for others and appropriate computer etiquette by all users is essential at all times. All students should be engaged in reading, quiet study or academic collaborative work. Anyone who disrupts the library will be asked to leave. If unacceptable behaviour persists, a student may lose their library privileges.

Facilities

The Snowden Library occupies two floors in School House. The study carrels in the whisper zone offer a quiet place for students to study in an otherwise busy library. The group study rooms offer spaces for collaborative work and are equipped with multi-touch digital monitors and webcams. The library also has a Media Room. The library art gallery displays student art.

Library Information Literacy (Grades 9-12)

Students in all grades receive instruction from the teacher-librarian based on the Grade 9-12 information literacy skills curriculum. This is taught through collaborative, integrated research assignments that are planned by the teacher-librarian in collaboration with subject teachers.

Councils, Clubs and Activities

In all facets of student life, we want our students to take initiative and pursue opportunities that interest them. With the support of a dedicated faculty, we offer a wide range of clubs and councils through which students contribute to school life.

Our students put tremendous effort into school life, and we encourage all students to get involved in existing clubs or to start their own. For detailed information on extracurricular options, see the school's website.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement courses are rigorous university-level courses with examinations developed by the College Board, of Princeton, New Jersey. The benefits of taking an Advanced Placement course and examination include intellectual challenge, academic enrichment and excellent preparation for university-level studies. Students who achieve high standing in an Advanced Placement examination may receive university credit, advanced placement or exemption from certain university courses.

AP Exam Information for Students

AP exams typically occur in early May. Exam dates and times will be posted on the SMUS calendar as they become available.

Students must ensure they maintain academic responsibilities in their other courses during the AP exam session and plan accordingly.

The school does not send the AP exam score (1-5) to post-secondary institutions; this is a separate process between the student and the College Board. Students should speak to their academic advisors about how universities regard AP exam scores or if they provide university credit.

Senior School Workload Guidelines

Students are expected to discuss any academic issues with their teachers well in advance of any assessments or due dates.

- When scheduling tests and assignments, teachers confer with their students and endeavour to determine dates that are mutually agreeable.
- Students are provided with sufficient notice of major assignments and of tests that require significant studying or that represent a large percentage of their term mark.
- Assessment dates and due dates for major assignments are recorded on the calendar posted on the school data system (SDS). Students are advised to refer to SDS regularly.
- Non-scheduled assessments (e.g., quizzes) generally do not exceed 15 minutes in length and may or may not count for marks.
- Major assignments and assessments will not be scheduled for the week prior to exams. This includes school exams and discipline-specific Advanced Placement exams. If there is a conflict for an individual student, a discussion must take place, in advance, between teacher and student to determine a plan.
- Students are not expected to write more than two major assessments per day or five per week. If students show as 'overloaded' in SDS, they are advised to speak directly to their Academic Advisor and/or Homeroom Advisor. A major assessment is one that meets one or more of the following criteria: covers a substantial amount of material; requires a significant amount of preparation; requires more than half a period to write; or has a significant weighting in the students' overall grade.
- Students are not expected to write tests or submit assignments on the first day back after a long weekend.
- Homework is not assigned over long weekends or holiday periods. Advanced Placement courses may require additional reading and review, to be agreed upon in class. Students registered in Advanced Placement courses should enrol in these courses with this understanding.
- Students who have been absent for several days due to illness, field trips or team commitments are not compelled to write an assessment on their first day back. It is the student's responsibility to make appropriate arrangements, in advance, with the teacher, as per the Late Assessment Policy.
- Teachers consider the situation of students involved in activities such as the school musical, school concerts, outdoor leadership trips and major athletic tournaments when assigning work and scheduling assessments and assignments. It is the student's responsibility to make appropriate arrangements, in advance, with the teacher.
- Homework is assigned regularly and is a valuable university preparatory learning experience, helping students learn how to focus, study independently and take responsibility for completing assignments. Success in academics is greatly enhanced by developing strong independent work habits.

Homework volume will fluctuate during the school year and when project deadlines approach. Homework time may also fluctuate as a function of an individual student's work habits rather than reflecting the time a teacher may have expected the homework to take. Students and parents are advised to monitor work habits more than the time it takes to complete assignments when considering homework-load issues and communicate with teachers immediately should issues arise. Clear and regular communication is critical to ongoing homework and independent study success.

These are guidelines only. **Students and teachers may work outside these guidelines, provided they agree.** Any questions or concerns should be addressed to the student's teacher and the Assistant Director of Academics.

Late Assessment Policy (Revised 2023)

Rationale

An essential part of preparing oneself for life is acquiring the necessary work ethic and habits of mind that lead to success. The goal of the SMUS Late Work Policy is to help students develop their organizational skills, learning behaviours, and executive functioning to meet responsibilities and honour commitments.

The Late Work Policy applies to all forms of assessment and assigned student work. We expect that students will be proactive in communication and follow-through with their teachers.

The Proactive Student and the Supportive Teacher

It is the responsibility of every student to ensure that they complete assignments and meet course deadlines as outlined by the teacher. Teachers will work with students to ensure an appropriate amount of time is provided to complete assignments.

Tutorial time is provided to students for opportunities to meet with teachers and obtain extra help. Such times include morning tutorial (8:00-8:30), lunch time, spares, and/or immediately after school. These times are negotiated between students and teachers, with an effort to find times that are mutually agreeable.

Students who know they will have difficulty completing an assignment or assessment by the due date must communicate with the teacher at least two days in advance to:

- explain the mitigating circumstances
- ensure that the student understands the assessment requirements and can complete it
- negotiate an alternative due date

The consequences outlined below are all subject to the discretion of the teacher in their application.

Late Assessment Policy (cont.)

Level 1: Missed Deadline

If a student has not met with their teachers in advance and has failed to meet the original deadline, the student must

- meet with the teacher in person to explain the circumstances and ensure that the student understands the assessment requirements and can complete it. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements for additional help with the teacher if deemed necessary.
- be available to meet with the teacher, if additional help is needed, during one or all of the following: morning tutorial, lunch, after school, spares.

The teacher

- will determine if extra help or structured work time is needed for the student to complete the work before the new deadline.
- will support the student and work together with them to negotiate an alternative due date.
- may, if late assignments are a repeated occurrence with the student, bring the lateness to the attention of the student's Homeroom Advisor, Academic Advisor, and parents/houseparent (via phone call or email)

If the above measures do not result in completion of the work as per the new due date, the student moves **to Level 2.**

Level 2: Second Missed Deadline

Students who fail to meet the second negotiated deadline may experience one or more of the following consequences:

- referral to their Homeroom Advisor and Academic Advisor for the record

- parents and/or houseparents will be informed
- requirement to meet with the Assistant Director of Academics to discuss the issue and to determine a time, place, and process for the missing assessment to be completed
- requirement to attend supervised extra help sessions until the assessment is complete. The time of these sessions will be determined by the teacher.
- the student may be removed from extra-curricular activities and free time under the supervision of the teacher, the Homeroom Advisor and/or the Assistant Director of Academics.
- an "I" (incomplete) or "IE" (insufficient evidence) may be assigned as a course grade until the assessment is complete.

If the above measures do not result in completion of the work, it may become necessary to consider alternative supports to ensure that the student remains on track academically. These supports may impact the student's ability to participate fully in the extra-curricular program at the school. This decision will be made collaboratively with the teacher, Assistant Director of Academics, and the Director of the Senior School.

Level 3: Work is not completed before the conclusion of the academic year

If, after every effort, the work is not submitted at the end of the academic year, the grade for any unsubmitted or incomplete assessments will be converted to zero.

Behaviour and Discipline

The school embraces the principles of restorative practices, which includes helping students understand the impact of their actions and working with students to repair harm. However, in cases where there is a serious breach of school rules, students may be suspended or expelled. Offences which require mention include the following:

Peer Conflict, Mean Behaviour and/or Bullying

The school has a comprehensive policy, "Supporting the Social and Emotional Development of our Students," that details our response to situations involving peer conflict, mean behaviour, and bullying, including cyberbullying. The school's Social and Emotional Development Policy can be found on the Links for Current Parents section of our website.

While conflict is considered a normal part of peer interaction and a student's academic discourse, SMUS views conflict that includes mean behaviour or bullying as unacceptable and will respond accordingly.

We use language that includes peer conflict, mean behaviour, and bullying to educate our students on the topic of social conflict, as well as to help guide us towards an appropriate response. As each situation is unique, the school has a variety of responses that it uses to help resolve conflicts. These responses seek to rebuild relationships first; only if a situation warrants it is a more punitive approach considered.

These actions may include:

- restorative techniques including restorative circles
- guidance, with a warning of consequences should the behaviour continue
- student behaviour contracts
- suspension (in-school or out-of-school)
- expulsion

The school may involve experts from the community and, if necessary, the local police. Additionally, should students want to report an incident of bullying anonymously, the school works cooperatively with the Ministry of Education and is a partner with erasebullying.ca.

Theft

Students involved in theft may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

Marijuana and Drugs

Students found to be involved in the use of or in possession of marijuana in any form, or other drugs or drug paraphernalia, on or off the campus, or on any school-sanctioned excursion or field trip, will be subject to suspension or expulsion. If any student is found to be involved with marijuana in any form, or another drug, and is suspended for their use, a condition of their return may be a behavioural contract that includes drug testing.

Vaping and Smoking

Consistent with British Columbia law, the school campus is a smoke-free and vape-free zone. This applies to the use of e-cigarettes and/or vaporizers, including those that do not contain nicotine. Students are not allowed to smoke or vape at any time or in any location, on or off the campus, or on any school-sanctioned excursion or field trip. Students are also not permitted to possess any type of e-cigarette and/or vaporizer, including those that do not contain nicotine.

Alcohol

Students must not be under the influence of alcohol while on or off the campus, or on any school-sanctioned excursion or field trip. It is against the school rules for any student to consume, purchase, or be in possession of alcohol on campus or during a school event.

Weapons

Any student found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon on or off the campus, or on any school-sanctioned excursion or field trip, will be subject to suspension or expulsion.

Parties

The school does not support the holding of parties at students' homes where alcohol is served or where there is no parental supervision. If parties are held under these unacceptable conditions, the school strongly encourages parents to prevent their children from attending and to notify the school administration.

Public Displays of Affection

Students at SMUS must be considerate of all people within the community regarding expressions of affection. Public displays of affection that may make others uncomfortable because of their intimate nature are inappropriate. We are a diverse community in many ways, and what may be acceptable to some could make others feel uncomfortable. It is important that students are aware of the entire school community and conduct themselves accordingly.

Dress Code for Senior School Students

Dress and Appearance

Appropriate dress is expected of all students, including day students travelling to and from school, or staying on the school campus after regular hours. We expect students to respect themselves and be proud of their school. This self-respect and pride is reflected in a student's general appearance. Students who opt not to meet these criteria will be referred to the Assistant Director, Student Life.

The table below refers to "crested" items, which means the SMUS logo or name.

Senior School	Number One Uniform	Number Two Uniform
	Worn on Mondays at Senior School, on school outings and on special occasions	For everyday wear, same as Number One dress with these options
Tops	White crested SMUS dress shirt Navy blazer with school crest School tie Optional: The addition of a navy school sweater or navy sleeveless school vest	White or pale blue crested SMUS dress shirt, with or without tie, or crested SMUS uniform polo shirt
Pants/Skirt	Solid medium grey SMUS dress trousers or SMUS tartan kilt	Same as for Number One uniform. Grade 12s can opt for the SMUS grey pleated skirt
Socks/Tights	With trousers: grey, navy, or black dress socks With kilt: navy knee socks or navy tights	Same as for Number One uniform
Shoes	Plain, black polishable dress shoes	Same as for Number One uniform

Other Uniform Information

Outdoor Jackets: If required outside and while moving between buildings, a solid-coloured neutral or SMUS jacket may be worn over the sweater or blazer. Outdoor jackets are to be removed once inside buildings. Hoodies, including SMUS hoodies, are not considered jackets and are not allowed. SMUS hoodies may be worn to PE class.

Senior School Sports Clothing	Tops	Pants/Skirt	Socks/Tights	Shoes	
	For Physical Education Classes (there will be no exceptions to the items below)				
	SMUS T-shirt – white or royal blue short- or long-sleeved Royal blue hooded top or crewneck top or SMUS Athletics track suit	SMUS athletics shorts	White socks	Running shoes or cleats (optional)	
For sports teams and recreational pursuits, coaches will contact you about specific clothing requirements					
Please note:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Students need a combination lock for their games locker, in which they are expected to lock their belongings while involved in sport or physical education classes. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items. b. Portable music players (i.e., smartphones, iPods) may not be worn while playing sports or during physical education classes. c. Jewelry must not be worn while playing sports or during physical education classes. d. Hats, bandanas, headbands and kerchiefs must not be worn while playing sports or during physical education classes. e. Mouth guards are recommended for all sports. 					
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Director of Athletics at 250-370-6131 or lindsay.brooke@smus.ca .					

Boarding Community

The boarding staff, faculty and administration welcome you to the boarding program at St. Michaels University School! We are so glad you are here and we look forward to your contribution to our school. The following information is designed to help with the transition into the SMUS boarding community and with day-to-day life while students live in boarding. We encourage you to refer to it when questions arise and seek answers from houseparents and the wider community if they are not answered in this handbook.

The boarding program at SMUS is based on trust and respect. The school mission states that we prepare students for life. This statement is especially true in the boarding community. We will provide an environment for students to develop personal and social responsibility through engagement. They will learn to cooperate with people from diverse cultural backgrounds and, in turn, develop a better understanding of themselves. They will cultivate a sense of independence and self-awareness that will enable them to conduct life challenges with increasing confidence.

It is crucial that students make the most of their time at SMUS and become involved in a wide variety of activities. House events and weekend outings, athletics, the arts and many of the other extracurricular opportunities thrive within our school program. Engaging with the community and broadening your horizons will teach the most valuable lessons students will ever learn.

Campus Life, House Allocation and Houseparents

The six boarding houses on campus operate under one philosophy: we promote an environment for students to develop personal and social responsibility through engagement. Students who choose to attend boarding school act in a spirit of honesty and goodwill, and do their best to contribute to all aspects of campus life.

Toward the end of August, the Director of Boarding and Student Life, in consultation with members of Admissions and the Senior Houseparents, places new students into their houses. New students are informed of their house name upon arrival in September. Students are a member of this house throughout their time in boarding and will develop a strong sense of loyalty and house pride.

Each house is staffed by Senior Houseparents who are responsible for the students in their house. These Senior Houseparents also have at least five assistant houseparents. House staff provide primary care and supervision, leadership and support for the boarders in their house. Together, the houseparents help create a strong sense of community in the boarding houses.

The Senior Houseparents invite each boarding family to meet with them during orientation or on the day that the students arrive at school. This is a very important opportunity to connect,

where parents can also discreetly share any information that might help the boarding staff to better support the students in their care and to quietly monitor any sensitive situations.

Areas of particular concern to houseparents include things related to social, emotional or medical well-being, any recent changes in behaviour, or any background details (including formal assessments). Similarly, if something develops during the course of the year, the school encourages parents to immediately contact their child's Senior Houseparent or the medical staff to inform them of these details. A lack of disclosure could compromise the school's ability to properly care for your child.

Telephone Calls and Messages

In the evening or on weekends, parents may contact the house staff or students by calling the offices at the numbers listed below. For emergencies or for communications after office hours, parents of boarding students will be provided with the appropriate contact information upon arrival in September.

Questions and enquiries of a general nature should be directed to the Boarding Services office at 250-370-6157 or the Director of Boarding and Student Life at 250-370-6136, between 8 am and 4 pm, Monday to Friday.

Contact Numbers and Email Addresses for House Staff

Barnacle House: Tom Hollingworth

Phone: 250-361-7406

Office: 250-370-6184

Email: tom.hollingworth@smus.ca

Bolton House: Evan Fryer

Phone: 250-896-6978

Office: 250-370-6185

Email: evan.fryer@smus.ca

Harvey House: David Kerr

Phone: 250-508-5257

Office: 250-370-6186

Email: david.kerr@smus.ca

Symons House: Nikki Kaufmann

Phone: 250-516-6943

Office: 250-370-6186

Email: nikki.kaufmann@smus.ca

Timmis House: Elisha Gardiner

Phone: 778-977-2004

Office: 250-370-6185

Email: elisha.gardiner@smus.ca

Winslow House: Riley Doland

Phone: 250-514-3226

Office: 250-370-6184

Email: riley.doland@smus.ca

Community Expectations

We believe that boarding life provides the opportunities for students to continually challenge themselves and their leadership capacities. The following practices are used to guide students through this growth and in doing so create a community where they develop personal and social responsibility through engagement.

Our boarders lead by action, or “model the way.” A student’s actions often speak louder than their words and to become involved in the community demonstrates their commitment.

In boarding we share a vision of ourselves, our school, our community and our world. Our boarding students think towards the future and are able to communicate and share that vision with others.

Our boarding students “challenge the process.” They are not satisfied with the status quo, but embrace change. They are innovators in the fields they choose.

Successful boarders don’t act alone; they enable others to become involved. These students understand and foster teamwork, encouraging others to exceed their own expectations.

Finally, our boarding students “encourage the heart.” This simply means they recognize and celebrate others. This helps foster a strong sense of community.

Living with Others

Living away from home and with others may be a new experience for some students. It is important to embrace the values of honesty, respect and consideration for others, and to practise open communication. Being open to new ideas and having the courage to try new things goes a long way to making new friends.

Contribution to the Boarding House and Community

Boarders are expected to get involved in a variety of athletic, artistic and service activities throughout the year. It is extremely important that they participate in house games, community dinners and chapel, volunteer their time in the boarding house, and help promote a positive environment. By engaging with those around them, boarders are sure to gain the most from their boarding experience.

Care of the House

There is one formal room check each week, but students are expected to keep their rooms tidy at all times. Cleaning supplies are provided and cleaning staff take care of the common areas in the house. Room decorations are subject to approval of the house staff and students may not decorate their rooms with inappropriate or offensive material. This includes items that involve alcohol, illicit substances, nudity or suggestive behaviour. Boarders are held responsible for the costs of repairs for any damage in their rooms or common areas.

Prep

Prep occurs each evening from Monday to Thursday from 7 to 9 pm. This is a time of day when the house is quiet and all students from Grades 9-11 are in their rooms studying and preparing for the school days ahead. It is a vital time in which students learn proper study habits and have time to organize themselves.

Prep has a few simple guidelines:

- The doors to all students’ rooms are left open.
- No telephone or cellphone use is permitted. We request that parents assist us by not calling their child from 7 to 9 pm.
- Computers are used for school-related work only.
- Students are sitting at their desks.
- Students are prepared to begin work at 7 pm.

Visitors to the Boarding House

To ensure the safety and security of all students, visitors are only allowed in boarding houses at designated times and need permission from a houseparent. Students are not allowed to have visitors after check-in times or during the school day.

Students visiting a boarding house that they do not live in are allowed access to common areas only. If a student wishes to bring a friend to their room during the allowed times, they must first get permission from an on-duty houseparent.

Any student found to have not followed any of the above rules will be subject to discipline.

Behaviour and Discipline

Boarders are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful, trustworthy and appropriate in line with the school's expectations for all students (see [page 25](#)).

Boarders Electronic Distraction Policy

Electronics (i.e., computers, game systems, hand held games, cellphones and other similar devices) can be a distraction from academic study and disruptive to sleep patterns. Therefore, the use of electronics may be restricted at the discretion of the Senior Houseparent.

Having electronics in a boarding room is an earned privilege that can be revoked.

- Grade 8, 9 and 10 boarders are not permitted to have a game system at school, nor can they play on anyone else's game system during the academic week. They may be invited to play at appropriate times on the weekends, only if at least one of the occupants of the room is present.
- Grade 11 and 12 boarders in good academic standing must request permission from their Senior Houseparent before bringing a game system into their room.
- To develop strong sleep routines, students are expected to stop using electronic devices 30 minutes before lights-out.

Cellphones

See page 16 for the Middle School (Grade 8) cellphone policy and page 21 for the Senior School (Grades 9-12) smartphone policy.

Boarders should note that inappropriate use, including use during prep and after lights-out, is not permitted and could result in confiscation.

We recommend parents do not provide boarders with a cellphone plan that has unlimited access to data. The school has an on-campus WiFi network that is restricted during lights-out times to encourage healthy sleep and electronic-use habits among boarders. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's cellphone bills and to speak with a Senior Houseparent if they have concerns.

If an initial cellphone package is set up by an adult for a boarder, please advise the Boarding Services Coordinator of the adult's name, particularly if the bills are going to be sent to the boarder at the school's address. Otherwise, if the recipient cannot be identified, bills will be sent back. Please note that cellphone bills cannot be paid through the school account.

Sign-In and Lights-Out Times

Every evening, the houseparents on duty ensure that all boarders are safely in their houses at sign-in time.

On weekends, boarders who are not on weekend leave are expected to sign in with the houseparent on duty between 10 and 10:30 am to discuss plans for the day.

Students are expected to check in to their house and proceed to their own rooms by the following times:

Sign-in Times	Grade 8	Grades 9-11	Grade 12
Sunday to Thursday	10 pm	10 pm	10:30 pm
Friday and Saturday	11 pm	11 pm	11:30 pm

The school strongly believes that a proper amount of sleep is an important part of every student's overall health and ability to function at optimum levels. This includes putting electronic devices away after evening check-in. Students are expected to be in their own rooms with the lights out at their designated lights-out time:

Lights-out Times	Grade 8	Grades 9-11	Grade 12
Sunday to Thursday	10:30 pm	10:30 pm	11 pm
Friday and Saturday	11:30 pm	11:30 pm	Midnight

Between lights-out and 6:30 am the next morning, students need to obtain special permission from a houseparent in order to leave their boarding house.

Boarding Curriculum

Sunday afternoons and evenings every weekend immediately following any school holiday are times for the full boarding community to come together for special events such as house games and community dinners. All boarders must be on campus and engaged in these activities.

Activities On and Off Campus

Houseparents offer a variety of weekend activities every weekend. Special events like golf, photography, yoga, rock climbing, ice hockey and many others are offered to help students explore their Island home. Some of these activities will cost little or no money, while the more extensive options may require payment and parent permission. Students in Grades 9 and 10 are expected to participate and all boarders are welcome. Grade 8 students have their own set program of activities. The Outdoor Education department plans activities on certain weekends such as hiking, sailing, skiing, kayaking and surfing. Information about the activities and trips will be distributed through announcements a few weeks prior. Students wishing to participate in the trip will need to complete a registration form and pay up front.

Personal Effects

Required Items

In addition to all toiletries, casual clothing, outerwear and school uniform, boarders require the following items:

- Labelled large suitcases or plastic tubs for storage purposes (maximum of two)
- Two pairs of fitted sheets and pillowcases (for an OVERSIZE twin bed - measurement of mattress is 37" x 78", or 94 cm x 198 cm)*
- Pillow and comforter with removable washable cover for bed*
- Clothes hangers*
- Mug, bowl and cutlery, water bottle
- Bath towels (four) and face cloths (two)*
- Combination lock
- Laundry basket and washable laundry bag*
- Warm sleeping bag with a water-resistant stuff bag (This item is for all Grade 8-11 students for their outdoor education trips. This item can be purchased locally.)

*These items can be ordered online and delivered to the school (heirloomlinens.com/products/category/st-michaels-university-school-65).

Optional Items

- Desk lamp with extension cord (two lamps are useful for the desk and night table)
- Musical instrument
- Alarm clock
- Surge-protected power bar for electronics
- Personal sports equipment (tennis/badminton racquet, ice skates, skateboard and helmet, etc.)
- Bicycle and helmet. (The boarding community has shared bicycles to borrow, but avid cyclists are welcome to bring their own bike. Please bring a high-quality bike lock.)

Please note: each house has a storage room with bike racks and a room for luggage, trunks or plastic tubs, sports equipment and any other items, however, space is limited. When preparing for school, please use a clearly labelled, lockable trunk or plastic storage container.

Items kept in storage are locked and students may gain access to this room by asking a houseparent. The school does not take responsibility for any lost, damaged or stolen articles in the house.

Items Not Allowed

- Fridges (this is a Grade 12 privilege only)
- Cooking appliances (e.g., hot plates, microwaves, rice cookers) or electrical equipment without an automatic shutoff
- Televisions
- Pets
- Matches, lighters, candles or incense
- Empty alcohol bottles
- Subwoofers
- Weapons of any kind (including pocketknives)
- Motorized vehicles
- Computer monitors over 24"
- Personal gaming devices

Safety and Security

All student rooms can be locked and each student is given one key to their room at the beginning of the year along with a swipe card to access their building. If a key or card goes missing, a request for a new one must be submitted to the Senior Houseparent along with payment. New swipe cards can be obtained at the Campus Shop. Possession of a key or card belonging to someone else is strictly forbidden.

Students should not keep large amounts of cash in their rooms or on their person at any time. The possibility of theft is an unfortunate reality in any large institution. Using a debit or credit card provides a better level of security.

We encourage students to:

- Make use of a debit or credit card to avoid the need to have large amounts of cash on hand.
- Avoid bringing items of significant value to school. Always secure all valuables in the lockable top desk drawer and bring a combination lock.
- When in class, lock your room and carry your key and card with you.
- Register your bike with project529.com.
- Use the fireproof vault in the Boarding Services office for storing extra travel money, passports or other important documents.
- Introduce all your visitors to your houseparents. If strangers are on campus, report them to a houseparent or Campus Security immediately.

Throughout the year the boarding community conducts a series of fire and earthquake drills in which all boarders participate. Every room is equipped with a smoke detector. Furniture in the rooms must be arranged in a way that does not impede access to the door. The fire marshal conducts regular inspections and requires that belongings be stored properly and nothing be left in the hallways.

Insurance

The school cannot be held responsible for any items lost or stolen. It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that their own valuables are securely locked away when not in use. The school does not provide insurance for the students. If there are items of considerable value being kept on campus, we strongly suggest that parents ensure that their homeowner's insurance policy covers their child's possessions while at school. A record of serial numbers may be helpful when trying to track down missing items.

Leave Guidelines

There are opportunities throughout the week where students may leave campus, provided that all their school commitments have been met and they sign out properly. Students are always responsible for informing the houseparents of their plans and following proper sign-out procedures. They must also communicate any changes that occur.

	Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30 pm	Mon-Thu 7-9 pm	Mon-Thu 9 pm - Curfew	Friday Evening	Saturday	Sunday
Grade 8**	No off-campus leave	Evening prep	No off-campus leave	Outings with an adult (*HP)	Outings with an adult (*HP)	Outings with an adult (*HP)
Grade 9	Local leave only	Evening prep	No off-campus leave	Local leave or downtown until 10 pm with seniors (*HP)	Local leave or downtown until 10 pm with seniors (*HP)	Local leave or downtown until 6 pm with seniors (*HP)
Grade 10	Local leave only	Evening prep	No off-campus leave	Local leave or downtown until 10 pm with seniors (*HP)	Local leave or downtown until 10 pm with seniors (*HP)	Local leave or downtown until 6 pm with seniors (*HP)
Grade 11	Local leave only	Evening prep	Limited local leave only (by special permission)	Local leave or downtown until 10 pm (*HP)	Local leave or downtown until 10 pm (*HP)	Local leave or downtown until 6 pm (*HP)
Grade 12	Local leave only	Limited local leave only (by special permission)	Limited local leave only (by special permission)	Local leave or downtown until 10 pm (*HP)	Local leave or downtown until 10 pm (*HP)	Local leave or downtown until 6 pm (*HP)

*HP: At houseparent's discretion.

**Grade 8 Leave: As the year progresses and Grade 8 students demonstrate a sense of responsibility, they have an opportunity to earn more independence (Grade 9 Leave Guidelines). The decision is made by the Senior Houseparent, Grade 8 coordinator and Director of Boarding and Student Life on a student-by-student basis. Parents are notified before their child earns more independence.

Local Leave: Hillside Shopping Centre, Shelbourne Plaza, local recreation centres or tennis courts. These are all within 10 to 15 minutes walking distance.

Downtown and other locations: When signing out to go downtown or other locations, your listed destination must be specific (i.e., which stores, theatres or restaurants). Simply declaring "downtown" is not acceptable.

- Students who are too sick to attend classes will be denied off-campus leave.
- Travelling in groups is recommended, especially for Grade 8, 9 and 10 students and those for whom English is not their first language.
- If any student expects to be off campus for more than four hours they must phone to check in with the houseparent on duty.
- Boarders may be allowed to go to a day student's house if they are properly supervised by the host parent(s). Permission for these events will be granted at the houseparent's discretion.

Submitting Leave Requests - REACH

All leave requests are submitted via an electronic leave approval system called REACH. Full details must be entered, including name of the person the boarder will stay with, address, phone number, time and date leaving, time and date returning, and mode of transportation both ways. If plane travel is involved, flight itineraries must be entered into the Notes field of the form. If a boarder is going to more than one location, details for each must be entered. Once saved, parents and hosts will each receive an email asking that they review the request and either Approve or Reject the details. Once all confirmations are in, the Boarding Services Coordinator will provide the final approval.

It is important that as much detail as possible be submitted on these requests; house staff and the Boarding Services Coordinator need to know how to locate people at any given time, particularly in emergency situations.

Overnight Leave

Weekend leave will be granted to students, but they must make arrangements via REACH no later than the Thursday evening prior to the weekend in question. If all details are not entered or approvals are not obtained from parents and hosts well in advance of travel, leave will be rejected.

Major Breaks and Long Weekends

The school breaks are designed to provide students and staff with the well-needed rest that is required when living in the busy environment of boarding. Winter Holiday and Spring Break are longer and students are expected to spend time with their families. Most of the four-day weekends coincide with a statutory holiday.

As with weekend leave, all off-campus breaks require the completion of a leave form in REACH with full details.

When electronic leave forms are submitted to the Boarding Services Coordinator prior to each of the long weekends or major breaks, all details must be completely filled in. This includes each place the boarder will stay and all methods of transportation. For example, if the boarder intends to return home but is staying in Vancouver for a day or two en route, all their Vancouver travel details should be included on the form.

Alternatively, if a child is leaving the country for a period of time during their stay within Canada or the United States, that information must also be provided. This information will be used to locate people in emergency situations.

Please note that leave permission will not be granted to a destination where there is no responsible adult to assume full responsibility for that student for the duration of the leave in question. Parents are asked to respect this requirement and not request weekend leave for their child to any unsupervised locations, including hotels.

Due to the high volume of processing all leave forms for a break, students are asked to submit their requests at least two weeks in advance, and parents and hosts are asked to submit their approvals as quickly as possible.

We ask that if your child is travelling by air at any time during the school year, the flights originate from and return to Victoria, if at all possible. This avoids any potential problems with ferry travel between Victoria and Vancouver.

Missing Academic Time

If it is absolutely necessary that a boarder either leave early and/or return late from a break, the reason must be entered into the REACH leave request, in Notes. Permission to miss classes is only granted by the Director of Senior School (who must also receive details from the parents). Students must fill out the necessary paperwork (called a 'green sheet' and obtained from the Boarding Services Coordinator). This involves speaking to each individual teacher for classes they will be missing.

We request that when booking flights, families adhere to the dates set by the school. Students may leave early in exceptional circumstances. To leave early or return late means that they will miss not only valuable class time, but possibly important boarding events. Students may be expected to make up any time missed when they return to school.

If, after submitting the correct leave request, the leave time is changed, the student must speak to the Boarding Services Coordinator. Boarders may not change their destination within the last week before a break, unless extreme circumstances necessitate a change. In those cases, parents must contact the Boarding Services Coordinator directly.

As students are usually expected to leave immediately after their last exam or school obligation, it is strongly recommended that when booking the original tickets, they should be the type that can easily be changed to accommodate the exam schedule.

Travel Documents and Study Permits

Please ensure that all the relevant documentation, visas and study permits are in place before school starts.

Upon arrival at school:

- All students are required to present their passport to the Boarding Services Coordinator. The passport must remain on campus: either with the student or in the Boarding Services office's fireproof vault. (Passports are available to the student at any time during office hours.)
- All international students must be in possession of a Canadian Study Permit (Student Visa) valid for the entire school year. Not only is this a requirement of the Canadian government, but also for the BC Medical Services Plan. Medical coverage will not be granted without a copy of the study permit.
- Any student arriving in September without a valid Study Permit will not be allowed into class until they obtain the proper documentation. This is a legal requirement of Canadian immigration. The parent or guardian is responsible for following this process.
- Canadian students who were not born in Canada must bring the original or photocopy of both sides of their permanent resident card or both sides of their Canadian citizenship certificate.
- Any boarder coming from a "visa-exempt country" must obtain an eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization) before entering Canada. This is a simple process which can be completed online on the Canadian Government website.

All travellers are required to show their passport when crossing the border into the United States. A US visitor visa is a must-have for possible school trips. International families are strongly encouraged to obtain US visitor visas prior to arrival at SMUS. Even if a school trip is passing through the United States, an "in transit" visa may be required. Travel to Vancouver to obtain US visas is discouraged as it involves weekday absence and substantial expense. Students applying for US visitor visas from inside Canada must have been in Canada for one year before they will be considered.

Transportation

During the term, students are strongly encouraged to travel by public transit whenever possible, as this is reasonably priced and easily accessible. Bus tickets are available from the Boarding Services Coordinator and several buses stop close to campus.

As part of our school's policy to be environmentally sensitive, we discourage the use of taxis. However, a taxi may be necessary in the evenings or for a daytime medical appointment. Please note that if a medical appointment cannot be scheduled outside of class time, a taxi chit will automatically be issued to the student by the Health Centre. Other than for medical reasons, students are expected to pay directly for taxi travel by cash or debit/credit card.

Boarders Bus

SMUS provides a boarders bus for students who are travelling to the ferry on most weekends and an additional bus to the airport prior to longer school breaks.

Please note:

- Students must reserve their seat on the bus on their leave request.
- Changes to boarders bus reservations may be made up to 24 hours before travelling.
- Late cancellations or no-shows will be charged.
- Boarders must sign in and scan their student card at the bus at least five minutes before departure. Late arrivals will have to arrange their own transportation.

If students need to travel to downtown Vancouver, they may purchase a ticket for the BC Ferries Connector bus on the ferry.

If a student is flying, the bus can also stop at the airport. Parents are asked to arrange flights which correspond with the bus times if at all possible:

- For a 3:30 pm boarders bus departure, the plane should not depart from Victoria before 5 pm.
- For a 1:30 pm boarders bus departure, the plane should not depart from Victoria before 3 pm.

There is no pick-up at the airport for the boarder's return trip to campus.

Services Available to Boarding Students

Boarding Services

The Boarding Services Coordinator is responsible for the operation of the Boarding Services office. In addition to other functions, this office looks after many of the external needs of boarding students, including:

- Assisting in the processing of student visa renewals (Canadian Study Permits);
- Processing travel requests, leave forms, confirmation of long weekend leave and arranging the boarders bus;
- Handling student and parent enquiries;
- Safely storing passports, visas, notarized letters and any other important documentation;
- Distributing boarder mail;
- Organization of boarder participation in various social functions throughout the year, including Boarders Without Borders and the Family Gala.

City bus tickets are available through the Boarding Services office, but the Boarding Services Coordinator does not provide petty cash to students. All boarders are required to have a bank account with a debit card for their basic spending needs. Emergency funds can be obtained from the ATM in the Boarding Services office. Assistance to set up a new bank account is provided during the New Boarder Orientation.

Mail

All incoming mail is directed to the houses through the Boarding Services office. Each house appoints a mail person who collects the mail each day and delivers it to the house. Friends and relatives should address all mail by stating the student's name, house, room number and full school address. For example:

Ron Jones (Boarder)
c/o Boarding Services
Bolton House - Room #203
St. Michaels University School
3400 Richmond Road
Victoria, British Columbia V8P 4P5
Canada

All packages or couriered document deliveries to boarders are held in the Campus Shop for pick-up. Deliveries are never brought directly to the houses. Boarders are notified of deliveries by looking for their name on the whiteboard outside of the Campus Shop. Please note that the school does not pay for custom charges; when an amount is owing, the Boarding Services Coordinator will let the student know to pick up a waybill slip, detailing the charges and who to contact with payment. The courier company will hold onto the package until all fees are paid.

Students are expected to place their own postage on outgoing mail. If packages are to be couriered, they may be sent from the school reception with the charges going directly to the boarder's school account. However, packages to be sent by regular post need to be taken directly to the post office. There is a post office at the nearby Hillside Shopping Centre.

Parents should monitor their child's online purchases and speak to a Senior Houseparent if you have any issues. We value sustainability and do not want to encourage overconsumption and wasteful spending habits.

Medical Services

St. Michaels University School promotes health and wellness through the on-campus Health Centre, which serves the boarding student population.

All boarding students are expected to be registered for the BC provincial health care plan (MSP). If not on the plan before entry into the school, the school will automatically sign up each boarder for coverage. Monthly charges will be debited from students' accounts for the entire time at the school, including summer months to allow for uninterrupted coverage. There is a three-month waiting period for MSP. All new international boarding students are, therefore, signed up for three-month coverage from JF Insurance, which is charged to students' accounts.

The Health Centre is supported by the school doctors to address the medical needs of the boarding students. Nurses will triage and arrange for boarding students to see the school doctor as needed. Hours vary depending on the doctor's availability.

The Health Centre arranges appointments for boarding students to external specialists including dentists, orthodontists, and optometrists. Emergency services are provided through Royal Jubilee Hospital or Victoria General Hospital. Athletic injuries are addressed by the school's athletic therapist, and students can book appointments online at smus.ca/campus-services/athletic-therapy.

Please note: If students are not well enough to attend classes, the nurse will determine where they will rest, and they will also have their off-campus leave suspended for the remainder of the day.

Food and Dining

Meals are served in our dining hall, Graves Hall, three times per day (breakfast, lunch and dinner), except Saturday and Sunday when breakfast and lunch are replaced by a single extended brunch. In addition, a continental breakfast is provided for early risers on the weekend.

All students in Grades 8-10 must sign in and eat breakfast every morning.

Snacks are provided at recess each weekday, after school and each evening (except Friday and Saturday).

- There is always a salad bar, a vegetarian entrée and soup available.
- Dress is casual for dinner, but it must follow the house guidelines. Wearing pyjamas and other inappropriate garments to the dining hall is not allowed.
- Food may not be taken out of Graves Hall.
- For more information about dining options, please visit smus.ca/campus-services/dining.

The dining hall staff are committed to providing well-balanced, nourishing meals for our boarders and they welcome input from all students. The kitchen conforms to the BC Food Guidelines for healthy eating in schools, and can accommodate allergies (e.g., gluten or lactose intolerance). Students should discuss their individual needs directly with the kitchen staff.

A Food Committee is formed to represent boarders and we encourage students to get involved and communicate with their representatives regularly.

Throughout the year, our community holds special theme nights and cultural meals in the dining hall. Students can get involved by speaking with their Food Committee representative.

In an effort to establish good eating habits, there are strict limitations regarding food deliveries to campus. Boarders are expected to ask permission before having any food delivered.

Laundry

The school laundry facility is open Monday to Saturday and the hours are posted. **Boarding fees cover the use of the school laundry facility.** Students will each have a laundry box where clean laundry will be placed. For a minimal charge, the school will order name tags to be sewn into the student's clothing for each boarding student. Students will be given two mesh bags in which to put small items for washing.

Students should not expect a one-day turnaround, nor should they bring dirty laundry back to school if they have been home for a break.

For sustainability and environmental reasons, the bulk of the laundry should be given to the laundry staff. However, washing machines are also available for urgent use in each of the boarding houses and environmentally friendly soap is provided.

Dry cleaning services are offered twice per week with regular charges applied. Any mending or hemming will be done by the laundry staff. Some charges may apply.

Student Safety and Privacy

Student Safety

Student safety is a central element of everything we do at SMUS. Staff training, emergency drills and risk assessments are all examples of practices in place to reduce the frequency and severity of accidents and injuries. The school recognizes that all school activities involve some degree of risk and that a thorough risk management and training system prepares and protects our entire community. In keeping risk management and student safety as priorities, we allow our students to take full advantage of the opportunities at SMUS.

Harassment and Abuse

Both SMUS and the British Columbia Ministry of Education have extensive and well-established policies on situations of harassment or abuse in the school environment. The school's policy is to maintain a respectful school environment, and we will not tolerate harassment or offensive behaviour by or toward any member of the school community. Copies of the school's and Ministry's policies are available through the Office of the Head of School.

Privacy Policy

The protection of personal information is of importance to SMUS, not only because we have legal obligations with respect to privacy but also because we wish to earn and maintain your trust with respect to our personal information practices.

Provincial and federal private-sector privacy laws cover all personal information collected, used, or disclosed in the course of commercial activity. We have adopted privacy principles for St. Michaels University School. A copy of these principles is available on the next page and at smus.ca/privacy.

We must ensure that any personal information we collect, use or disclose, is done in compliance with privacy legislation. For example, the legislation, among other things, requires the clear statement, at or before the time personal information is collected, of the purpose for which personal information is being collected. Appropriate consent to the collection, use and disclosure of personal information must be obtained.

We consider these obligations to be integral to our working relationship. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rita Lord, the SMUS privacy officer, at privacy@smus.ca.

Privacy Principles

We at SMUS want you, our parents, students and staff, to be aware of how and why we handle your personal information.

We work hard to respect and maintain your privacy. However, the very nature of our business is such that the collection, use and disclosure of personal information is fundamental to the services we provide.

SMUS has adopted these privacy principles, which apply to the collection, use and disclosure of personal information.

Personal information, for the purposes of these privacy principles, means information that identifies an individual. For example: an individual's name, birth date, address, age, health and financial information is personal information which SMUS may collect, use and in certain circumstances, where necessary, disclose, in the course of carrying on business.

These privacy principles may be modified. You may obtain our most up-to-date version by contacting us at the address set out in the section called "Contacting the SMUS Privacy Officer" or at smus.ca/privacy.

1. Consent and Personal Information

SMUS obtains consent for the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, except where inappropriate.

In obtaining consent to the collection, use and disclosure of personal information, the purpose for which information is collected, used or disclosed is either obvious by the very nature of the transaction or if not, we state the purpose, either at or before the time the information is collected. When we do collect personal information, we collect only that personal information which is necessary to such obvious or stated purpose.

You may decline to consent, or revoke your consent, to the collection and use of your personal information for these purposes but if you do the services that we can provide to you may be limited.

SMUS may also collect and use personal information for school advancement and development purposes or for Parents' Auxiliary activities. This may result in identifying and communicating with individuals who are likely to participate in school advancement and development or Parents' Auxiliary activities. Your consent to this use of your personal information is voluntary. You may opt not to have us use your personal information for this purpose. If you do this, we will collect and use your personal information only for school purposes and in accordance with our contractual rights and obligations, but we will not use your personal information for advancement, development or Parents' Auxiliary purposes. Please refer to the section of these privacy principles called "Contacting the SMUS Privacy Officer" for information on how to decline or revoke your consent to the use of your personal information for advancement or development purposes.

2. Collecting Personal Information

Whenever practical, we collect information directly from the individual. We log information about visitor activity on our website to help us monitor site performance and provide you with a better experience.

We also collect information for the purpose of marketing, including online advertising opportunities such as retargeting. Retargeting requires that cookies are stored on your computer. This is standard practice on the web and these cookies are not harmful. They inform SMUS's advertising partners that you previously visited a SMUS website but they do not provide SMUS with personally identifiable information. If you wish to opt-out of the most common form of retargeting, Google advertising, you can set your preferences at google.com/settings/ads.

3. Using Personal Information

We use personal information in accordance with the consent provided by the individual to whom the information relates, in accordance with these privacy principles, our contractual rights and obligations and the law.

Personal information shall not be used by SMUS employees and representatives for purposes other than as required in the performance of their employment duties.

4. Accuracy of Your Personal Information

SMUS maintains procedures to ensure that the information we collect and use is accurate, up-to-date, and as complete as possible. However, we rely on you to disclose all material information to us and to inform us of any changes. You may, with proof of entitlement, request to access and, if applicable, request that we correct information in our possession. You may make this request by writing to our privacy officer at the address in the section called "Contacting the SMUS Privacy Officer."

5. Safeguarding Your Information

We apply appropriate safeguards to our computer networks and physical files and we restrict access to personal information about you to those SMUS employees and authorized administrators who need to know that information in order to administer your services.

6. Disclosure of Personal Information

We do not sell our customer lists or other personal information.

7. Retention and Access to Your Personal Information

We retain personal information only for so long as is necessary to fulfill the purpose for which it was collected and to meet our legal and contractual obligations. If personal information is no longer required, it will be destroyed or rendered anonymous.

If you have a right of access, you or a person authorized in writing to act on your behalf may, with satisfactory identification and proof of entitlement, request access or, if applicable, request a correction of your personal information which SMUS has in its possession.

The right to access is not absolute. For example, you do not have a right to access and we may decline your request for access if the information requested is subject to a legal privilege.

We do not provide personal health information directly to individuals unless the individual provided it directly to us. Instead we provide access to personal health information through the individual's health-care professional.

8. Contacting the SMUS Privacy Officer

Please contact us if you:

- have questions about our privacy practices;
- have a request to access or correct your personal information;
- wish to decline or revoke your consent to the use, collection or disclosure of your personal information for advancement, development or Parents' Auxiliary purposes.

Please include your name, address and, if applicable, your student number.

The Privacy Officer
St. Michaels University School
3400 Richmond Rd
Victoria, BC V8P 4P5
Email: privacy@smus.ca