Hello Journey Families, May 7, 2025

**Journey Middle School Start-Up for September 2025**

Over the last few years, we have moved to a staggered start for our students to begin the school year. We realize this schedule may not be convenient for some families, but we feel this staggered start time is best for students at a large middle school, and it has been very successful over the past few years. In some cases, buses may not be available for all trips, so please see information below.

So, for week one, the schedule will be as follows:

**Tuesday morning, September 2 – Grade 6 students only.** Students will arrive for an 8:35am start time and will stay at school until 11:25am. All students will meet on the field in front of the school. Bus schedule is yet to be determined, so parents may want to arrange rides for the first day. However, we do know bus transportation is provided to and from school on Tuesday, September 2, so it would be a great day for our new grade 6 bus students to try the bus on day one since it will only be grade 6 students riding that day. No school for Grade 6 students on Wednesday, Sept. 3.

**Wednesday morning, September 3** **– Grade 7 students only.** Students will arrive for an 8:35am

start time and will stay at school until 11:25am. All students will meet on the field in front of the school. Bus transportation will be provided in the morning, but it will not be available for the 11:25am pick-up. We will update you on this as we get closer to September. Parents may want to organize rides for the 11:25am pick up time from school.

**Wednesday afternoon, September 3** **– Grade 8 students only.** Students will arrive for a

12:30pm start time and will stay at school until 2:36pm. All students will meet on the field in front of the school. Bus transportation will be provided for the after-school pick-up, but it will not be available for the 12:30pm start time. We will update you on this as we get closer to

September. Parents may want to organize rides for the 12:30pm start time.

**Thursday and Friday, September 4 & 5. Full day for all students.** School will begin with the welcome bell at 8:32am and will end at 2:36pm. This is the regular start and end times for our students Monday to Friday. On Thursday, Sept. 4, we will be asking all students to meet on the field in front of the school in the morning.

**Play Forever**

We had a great start to our Play Forever Program after school and we had a great turn out of students. We could still have students sign up for this program if they are interested. As announced earlier this month, Play Forever is a non-profit organization that was started in Toronto to provide basketball opportunities to youth. The program is expanding to Vancouver Island and Journey will be one of the first sites.

We are looking to provide opportunities for students at Journey that want to play basketball, but can't play on our school teams, or club teams because of transportation or financial issues. Play Forever is a 3 vs 3 basketball program being offered to grade 6, 7, and 8 students, both girls and boys for FREE! To make the program more accessible to our Port Renfrew students, we have arranged to have a bus travel to Port Renfrew leaving Sooke at 5:00pm. Students will also get pizza at the end of each sessions as well!

If your child is interested in this program, please have them talk to Mr. Vine at school. The next day will be Wednesday, May 7 and it will continue for the next 4 weeks on Wednesdays evenings (2:45 – 5:00).

**Message from our PAC**

**Bottle Drive - Saturday May 10th - 10am to 2pm**

Location: Sooke Elementary School Parking Lot

[Bottle Drive Volunteer Sign Up](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/volunteersignup.org/LKCDT__;!!AqQTiOZlHyw!-gAfbCAlnuXFbe-BscnKoZqT3MBP5YHN3PNYGaecm3R4RQe5iVtqCA2X3DL_co0B-6c_LCge6UhBlma9igstcEr1eKxGXg$)

**PAC Fun Lunches - Spring session is now open for ordering!**

[Order here through Munch A Lunch](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/munchalunch.com/login__;!!AqQTiOZlHyw!-gAfbCAlnuXFbe-BscnKoZqT3MBP5YHN3PNYGaecm3R4RQe5iVtqCA2X3DL_co0B-6c_LCge6UhBlma9igstcEoPjDQKhA$)

Friday, May 16th (order deadline Sunday, May 11th) - Panago Pizza

Friday, May 30th (order deadline Sunday, May 25th) - Subway

Friday, June 13th (order deadline Sunday, June 8th) - Panago Pizza

**Secretary Skills Needed!**

Do you like taking notes? We are in need of a PAC Secretary for our last three meetings of the year. No extra commitment needed. Contact Emma: [journeymiddleschoolpac@gmail.com](mailto:journeymiddleschoolpac@gmail.com)

**PAC Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday, May 13th, 7-8:30pm, Journey Library

Tuesday, June 10th, 7-8:30pm, Journey Library

Cheers, Emma

Parent Advisory Council

[journeymiddleschoolpac@gmail.com](mailto:journeymiddleschoolpac@gmail.com)

**A few dates to mark in your calendars:**

Professional Development Day – Monday, May 12 (no school)

Victoria Day – Monday, May 19 (no school)

Last day of school – June 26, 2025

John Mennie Darren Russell Kelly Dvorak

Principal Principal Vice- Principal

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| A black and red dragon with a red and white text  Description automatically generated | **Darren Russell (He/Him)**  Principal  **Journey Middle School**  5422 Throup Road, Sooke, B.C. V9Z 0W6  O: 250-642-5881  <https://journey.web.sd62.bc.ca/> |

We acknowledge the traditional territories of the Coast Salish: T'Sou-ke Nation and Sc'ianew Nation and Nuu-chah-nulth: Pacheedaht Nation. We also recognize some of our schools reside on the traditional territory of the Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation.