



# CDS

EDUCATION WITH BALANCE

August 2023

Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you all are enjoying a fantastic summer break and are experiencing some wonderful moments with your children. A very warm welcome to all our new grade seven and eight students and families who will be joining us for the first time in the Middle School. We are sure you will quickly feel part of our close school community.

As a school of balance, we don't operate from a "one size fits all" approach. Instead CDS differentiates instruction and seeks to meet the individual needs of each student. This approach is in everything we do. We cultivate the passion a middle schooler brings with them, or help them to discover one here.

The start of a new school year enables us to set the tone for learning in the Middle School. It is an important time for teachers and students to establish classroom routines and to set expectations. We will create a climate where students will know their boundaries and expectations clearly, while ensuring that making mistakes along the way is part of the learning process. We set high standards for students, and we expect everyone to contribute positively to the school. We have established a *Managing Independent Decision* (M.I.D) charter that allows us to set tender boundaries for the middle schoolers in our care. When students make a mistake, we strive to help them rejoin the path laid down by the M.I.D. This will form the basis of all discipline discussions and will be at the heart of our work and conversations with our students. Please take the time to review the *Managing Independent Decision* (M.I.D) charter enclosed in this mailing with your middle schooler prior to the start of the school year. A signed copy should be returned to your child's homeroom teacher on the first day of classes.

Highlighted below is key information to mark on your calendar to support your transition from summer to back-to-school life:

- **Orientation Day** on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. All grade 7 students and all new grade 8 students along with their mentors should meet in the Di Ciano Atrium by 8:45am. The day will end around 12:00pm, except for new middle schoolers to CDS who need to complete a music orientation. New students will be picked up by parents at 12:30pm. Middle schoolers do not need to wear their school uniform today.
- **First Day of Classes and Welcome Back BBQ** on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. All Middle School students are to arrive at school in #1 Dress. The BBQ runs from 2:30-4:30pm. #1 Dress to be worn Weds. Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> – Mon. Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Please help us by ensuring your child is in school by 8.30a.m. (in preparation for homeroom at 8.40a.m.), wearing the correct school uniform, and prepared for the day's learning ahead.
- **Photo Day** is on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and **Middle School Extracurriculars** begin. The extracurricular program is a fun and important component of school life. We achieve balance by pairing a solid foundation in academics with visual art, drama, music and a multitude of extracurricular activities. We challenge our Middle School students to become well-rounded, to reach their full potential and to make a positive contribution to their

community. I would urge you as parents to encourage your children to become involved and to take part in one of the numerous opportunities that are available at CDS.

- **Middle School Curriculum Night** on Thursday, September 21st. We will begin the evening at 7:00pm in the Paul C. Duckett Theatre with a short presentation. Parents will then follow a timetable, meeting your child's teachers in the Middle School learning environment.

Your Middle School is filled with educators who understand this age group; that should bring great comfort. We know a strong partnership with you makes a significant difference in your middle school child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for your child's success. The Middle School Faculty and I are always accessible, and in partnership with you, we look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Thank you all in anticipation of your support for the forthcoming year. Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. D. Waldron".

Rob Waldron  
Director of Middle School