

**MT. LEHMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
"Home of the Lions"**

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-24



"Home of the Lions"

**6381 Mt. Lehman Road
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This agenda belongs to:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

POSTAL CODE

PHONE

CLASSROOM TEACHER

Mt. Lehman Elementary School

2023-24

Principal's Message:

Welcome to Mt. Lehman Elementary School! Originally opened as a two-room schoolhouse in 1884, we are the oldest school in continuous operation in the Abbotsford School District. We currently enroll approximately 110 students from kindergarten to Grade 5.

Mt. Lehman Elementary School's theme is about respecting the richness of its history and preparing our students for the future through a focus of Science, Agriculture, and Technology. You will see evidence of this focus in our greenhouse, garden boxes and the use of technology in the school.

Mt. Lehman community members collectively share responsibility for the growth and development of our children. Students, parents, grandparents, teachers, support staff, and administration are all important members of this Mt. Lehman school family.

As a rural elementary school, students will have the opportunity to develop their full potential as individuals and as contributing members of society. Students will also be encouraged and expected to achieve their personal best in school, to maintain a positive sense of self-worth, and to become socially responsible individuals. One natural outcome is the opportunity for our grade four and five students to learn to serve as school monitors and take leading roles as school ambassadors and school assembly hosts.

We believe that through education, students will be able to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes which will allow them to develop intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally, and artistically. We believe that the school should foster in students a love of learning and that students should be active participants in the learning process.

We are looking forward to a successful and productive year for all students at Mt. Lehman Elementary.

Ms. Lincoln
Principal

"Respecting the Past...Responding to the Future"

School Bell Schedule

9:05 a.m.	Warning bell
9:10 a.m.	Morning classes begin
11:00 a.m.	Recess starts
11:15 a.m.	Recess ends
12:30 p.m.	Lunch starts
12:45 p.m.	End of eating period
1:13 p.m.	Warning bell
1:15 p.m.	Afternoon Instruction begins
3:01 p.m.	Classes dismissed

School Calendar 2023-24

School Opening (1/2 day)	September 5
Non-Instructional Day #1	September 29
National Day for Truth & Reconciliation(in lieu)	October 2
Thanksgiving Day	October 9
Early Dismissal	
For Parent Conferences	October 18
Early dismissal	October 19
Non-Instructional Day #2	October 20
Non-Instructional Day #3	November 10
Remembrance Day(in lieu)	November 13
Report Cards	December 1
Winter Vacation	December 25 – Jan 5
School re-opens	January 8
Early Dismissal	
For Parent Conferences	February 7
Early dismissal	February 8
Non-Instructional Day #4	February 16
Family Day	February 19
Report Cards	March 8
Spring Vacation	March 18 to March 29
Easter Monday	April 1
Schools Re-open	April 2
Non-Instructional Day #5	April 26
Non-Instructional Day #6	May 17
Victoria Day	May 20
Last Day for Students/Report Cards	June 27

Parents as Partners:

Parents are important members of the educational team at Mt. Lehman Elementary. Active parent involvement is crucial to a child's success in school. Parental input to the School Plan for Student Success is encouraged and valued. Parents are encouraged to meet with classroom teachers, to volunteer time helping in the school, or to get involved with our Parent Advisory Council and School Planning Council.

Parent Advisory Council:

The Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.) is open to all parents/guardian of students at Mt. Lehman Elementary School. P.A.C. meetings provide a forum to share knowledge and give input on supporting school goals and activities.

The P.A.C. provides support to the school in several ways. Members of the P.A.C. have opportunities to provide input into such matters as school policy, goals, programs and resources. The Parent Advisory Council can also assist the school with fundraising and volunteer programs.

We invite all parents to attend our monthly P.A.C. meetings. Dates and times will be posted in our monthly school newsletter and regular website updates.

School Visits:

Mt. Lehman Elementary School is a closed campus. Upon arrival, visitors are expected to check in at the office. Parents dropping off student materials should drop them at the office. Approved visitors will sign in at the office and be issued a visitor tag, which should be worn visibly while at the school. Please return the visitor tag when you are leaving the school. Students have been instructed to inform their teacher or the office if they see a stranger in the school.

Communication:

School Website information

School information updates will be posted onto our school website (mtlehman.abbyschools.ca) and/or emailed to our school families. We welcome comments/suggestions from parents to improve communication between home and school.

If Concerns Do Arise:

There may be occasions when parents have a problem or concern about their child's progress in school. In cases such as these, it is helpful if parents know how to get the problem resolved, the concern shared, or the question answered. The Mt. Lehman staff wants to respond to parents in ways that are helpful, that show our mutual interest in the child, and that resolve problems. Generally, it is recommended that parents take the problem to the staff member closest to the topic involved.

Consistent communication between home and school leads to a greater understanding and appreciation of

the educational process, as well as each child's participation in this process. We welcome and appreciate your inquiries and visits. We trust you will contact us when, and if, concerns or questions arise.

Student Responsibilities:

Mt. Lehman Elementary has always taken pride in being a safe and caring school. We believe that we must be proactive in maintain a positive learning environment. Our school promotes leadership opportunities for our students.

Dress Code:

The responsibility for personal dress and grooming rests primarily with students and their parents. Clothing, which is comfortable, clean and modest is conducive to a positive educational climate. The following points indicate our expectations for student attire at Mt. Lehman Elementary School.

- Clothing should be appropriate for a learning/working environment, e.g. beachwear is not appropriate for school. Shirts should fully cover the torso when standing. Undergarments should not be visible. Shorts should fully cover the bottom and upper thigh.
- Dress, grooming and accessories should be appropriate and not cause health and safety concerns.
- Hats and sunglasses should be removed inside the school.
- Clothing items that promote alcohol, drugs, inappropriate language, racism or are in poor taste are not acceptable for school.
- Physical Education classes require proper footwear(runners), i.e. flip flops are not acceptable footwear for gym, inside or out.
- During physical activity times clothing should not move into a position that could cause embarrassment for the child.
- The school will contact parents when children come to school dressed inappropriately.

Footwear Policy:

Students are requested to remove their outside shoes after entering the school. They must change to inside shoes once they get to their classroom. No socks or bare feet.

Student Arrival and Departure:

Parents are reminded that teacher supervision outside is for ten minutes before and after school.

Lunch Time:

At Mt. Lehman Elementary students are encouraged to bring **nutritious snacks and lunches**. Pop, candy bars and other “zero” foods are discouraged.

Students will be going outside to play unless the weather requires us to call for an “inside day”. **Please dress your child appropriately for the weather, as most days will be outside days.**

Reporting Absences:

Every morning and afternoon, attendance is taken by classroom teachers. Parents will be notified of all unexcused absences. With the Abbotsford School District Safe Arrival system, you can report your child’s absence by phoning toll free: 1-844-487-3701 or by downloading and installing the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App store or Google Play store. You will need to create an account first time, select attendance, and then report an absence.

Absences can also be phoned in to the school (604-856-5083)

Lates/Leaving Early:

Students who consistently arrive late interfere with teacher instruction and the learning of the classmates. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time. Students arriving late in the morning or after lunch must report to the office. Chronic lates affect student achievement and will be followed up by the school administration. Students who leave before the end of the school day must report to the office and be signed out by a parent/guardian before leaving.

When children Become Ill at School:

Good health is necessary for effective learning. Students who are feeling ill will be directed by their teacher to the office. Our school policy/practice is to call parents and ask for your child to be picked up. For this reason, it is important the **parents keep work and emergency phone numbers current. Accidents and emergencies are to be referred to the office immediately.**

Homework/Home Study:

Work done at home is an important part of learning. It is expected that students will have homework assignments completed and handed in on time. If parents have concerns with the amount of homework being sent home, please contact your child’s teacher.

Students Technology and Valuables:

School is a place where students are encouraged to interact positively daily. Students are strongly discouraged from bringing valuables and recreational technology devices to school including cameras, cellphones/smartphones, tablet devices, MP3/MP4 players, expensive shoes, jewelry, expensive clothing, and toys. However, if parents make arrangements to permit their child to bring one to school, it must be turned off and stored away during the school day. Cellular phones may only be used after school, outside of the building. Due to privacy issues, students are not allowed to take photos while at school. Valuable items brought to school are brought at the owner’s risk; the school is not able to cover losses. All students are advised to be careful with their personal property. Please label your belongings with your child’s name.

Skateboards, Roller Blades, Scooters, Runners (with Rollers):

For safety reasons, these items are not to be used on school property, except during special designated activities.

Bicycles:

Bicycles are to be parked and locked using the bike racks on the north side of the school. Students are expected to wear proper headgear while cycling to/from school and walk their bike while on school property.

Textbooks:

Textbooks and other educational resources are the property of the school. Students are issued textbooks at the beginning of the year. Students are responsible for returning the same textbook they were originally issued when requested by teachers. Students will be charged for lost or damaged books.

Staff Room:

The staff room is designed for the use of staff only. Students are reminded that teachers require a break as much as students. Noon hour supervisors and the principal are available to assist students at break time.

Pets at School:

Animals are not permitted on school grounds, except by special permission.