

John Maclure
Community School
2025/2026



THUNDERBIRDS

Home of the Thunderbirds

Website: johnmaclure.abbyschools.ca
or use our Abby Schools App

This agenda belongs to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ POSTAL CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

TEACHER _____ DIVISION _____

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Principal’s Message

Welcome back to another great year at John Maclure Community School. We have a wonderful staff and a variety of programs to meet all students’ learning needs.

This handbook has been developed to help students and parents learn about our school and what we believe in. It is a quick reference that you will find useful all year. It is also a communication tool that goes between home and school.

In addition to the strong academic programs offered at John Maclure, we offer extra-curricular sports programs, and after school activities.

We are excited about starting a new year, and the entire staff wishes you a great year with much success. Let’s work and learn together! We *are* the Heart of the City.

Mrs. Fay Christie, Principal

Email: fay.christie@abbyschools.ca

MISSION STATEMENT

1. We believe all children can learn.
2. We believe that all members of the school community should be treated with respect.
3. We believe that it is the right of every individual to learn to their potential, in an environment of quality instruction and encouragement.
4. We believe that collaboration within the school is the key to success.

2025/2026 SCHOOL GOALS

1. To increase vocabulary language skills.
2. To increase student all awareness of SOAR expectations using common language.

FRAGRANCE & NUT AWARE SCHOOL

It is very important to the safety and health of some of our staff and students that our school remains a fragrance and nut aware school.

- **NO** perfumes, body sprays, colognes, perfumed hairsprays, etc.
- **NO** nuts of any kind, or any items that contain nuts, (i.e.: granola bars, cookies, peanut butter, Nutella, etc.)

**SCHOOL CALENDAR
2025/2026**

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| School Opening (½ day) | September 2 |
| Non-Instructional Day #1 | September 29 |
| National Truth & Reconciliation | September 30 |
| Thanksgiving Day | October 13 |
| Half-Day-Parent-Teacher Conferences | October 22 |
| Early Dismissal (2 hours) | October 23 |
| Non-Instructional Day #2 | October 24 |
| Non-Instructional Day #3 | November 10 |
| Remembrance Day | November 11 |
| Report Cards Term 1 | December 12 |
| Last day before Winter Vacation | December 19 |
| Winter Vacation | Dec. 22 – Jan. 2 |
| Schools reopen after Winter Vacation | January 5 |
| Non-Instructional Day #4 | February 13 |
| Family Day | February 16 |
| Half-Day-Parent-Teacher Conferences | February 18 |
| Early Dismissal (2 hours) | February 19 |
| Report Cards Term 2 | March 6 |
| Last day before Spring Break | March 13 |
| Spring Break | March 16 – 27 |
| Schools reopen after Spring Break | March 30 |
| Good Friday | April 3 |
| Easter Monday | April 6 |
| Non-Instructional Day #5 | April 24 |
| Non-Instructional Day #6 | May 15 |
| Victoria Day | May 18 |
| Last day for students (Report Cards) | June 25 |

BELL SCHEDULE



| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 8:25 | Warning Bell |
| 8:30 | Classes Begin |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Recess - Grades 3 - 5 |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Recess - Grades K - 2 |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Lunch Playtime – Grades 3 – 5 |
| 12:30 – 1:00 | Lunch Playtime – K – 2 |
| 2:23 | Classes Are Dismissed |

DIRECTORY

JMCS Office: 604-853-6450
 JMCS Website: johnmaclure.abbyschools.ca
 Abbotsford School District: 604-859-4891
 Abby Community School Society: Phone:604-853-2221 opt. 6
 Website: www.abbycommunity.com
 Location: Sweeny Centre, P208 – 33355 Bevan Ave.

S.O.A.R.

SAFE

ORDERLY

AMBITIOUS

RESPECTFUL

Students are encouraged to follow the social values of our S.O.A.R. award criteria.

S.O.A.R. is an exciting way for our students to improve their behaviour at school, at home, and in the community.

Our mascot at the school is the Thunderbird.



The Thunderbird is capable of soaring for hours high in the sky. The thunderbird, an eagle, is a legendary creature in certain North American native peoples' history. A wonderful depiction of it can be found on the plaza at Abbotsford's Civic Centre and on the mural painted on the front wall of our school. It is considered a supernatural bird of power and strength. The thunderbird's name comes from the First Nations belief that the beating of its enormous wings causes thunder and stirs the wind. We would like to be like the Thunderbird, and S.O.A.R. on the winds of success.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

John Maclure Community School operates under the philosophy that children learn their actions within their environment. For this reason, staff work hard to create a school in which children will choose to get along and treat each other with respect. Organized games and programs, and friendship groups are all positive, proactive approaches to building a happy community.

All students are expected to know and follow our SOAR rules. When children have difficulty with these, our school-wide approach to discipline will . . .

- help the student to identify his or her problem
- help the student solve the problem
- leave the student's dignity intact



Minor offences are handled "on the spot" by the principal, any teacher, or an adult supervisor, Students will know what an inappropriate choice on their part was and will be helped to formulate more acceptable alternatives for the future.

Major offences will be dealt with by the principal in consultation with staff members and parents. Some examples of major offences are conduct which interferes with or threatens the orderly function of the school or classroom or which adversely affects the wellbeing of others; or conduct which is injurious to the safety or dignity of students or staff. Consequences may vary depending upon the situation. Parents may appeal decision as per District Policy.

Some examples of major offences are . . .

- physical or verbal abuse of another student
- disobedience of a teacher or adult supervisor
- stealing • vandalism • continuous disruptive behaviour (It is the repetitiveness of the event as well as the fact that the student is unwilling to change his or her behaviour that matters.)
- inappropriate and unsafe use of washrooms or other areas in the school or grounds

Cell Phones & Multimedia Devices

Cell phones and multimedia devices (iPods, mp3 players, iPads etc.)

Elementary school students are not permitted to have cell phones at school.

Please go to the Abbotsford School District website to view the most up to date policy regarding student cell phones & multimedia devices.

www.abbyschools.ca

DRESS CODE

You are at school to learn. In order to do that well, try to be clean, neat, dry, and warm. In addition:

1. Be modest and respectful of yourself and others: girls, your shirt straps should be at least “two-fingers” wide, shorts must be in good taste and midriffs need to be covered, please don’t wear make-up; boys, leave your “muscle-shirts” at home, and take your caps off when you enter the school.
2. Look your best: groom hair so that it is clean and safe for any school activity.
3. Value your mind: as per district policy, do not wear clothing that promotes the use of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, or other stimulants or has suggestive, rude or disrespectful comments on them.

These are habits which are helpful in establishing self-respect and confidence.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Please ensure your child(ren) come to school dressed for the changing weather! Children will be going out to play in the drizzle and will need to have outerwear that keeps them warm or dry!



SHOES AND BOOTS

Take off and put on outside shoes at the school door. Inside shoes with non-marking soles are required. Wear boots on soggy days so you can play outside.

STAYING AFTER SCHOOL

Students who stay after school to compete in events, work on assignments, or assist a teacher must have permission of their parents and must have teacher supervision. Students who want to play on the playground after school must go home FIRST to check with their caregivers. Please note there will be NO supervision of the playground after school.

STUDENT ARRIVAL & SUPERVISION

Student supervision is not available until 8:15 am prior to school and does not extend beyond 2:35 pm each day. Children cannot remain at school unsupervised as it is unsafe.

We ask that parents do not send children to school prior to 8:15 a.m. when supervision begins. Students will be let into the school at 8:15 a.m. during severe weather (i.e. heavy rains, very cold weather), otherwise they are asked to line up at the assigned locations.

PARKING - DROP OFF & PICK UP

We ask parents to use the drop off - pickup area by the portables when driving your child to or from school. There is absolutely **NO STOPPING** permitted in the driveway in front of the school. Double parking behind staff vehicles and parking on sidewalks is also not permitted. Please drive slowly & cautiously to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and community members. Thank you for your support in this matter - it helps us keep your children safe.

HOMEWORK IS IMPORTANT

Most John Maclure students are great readers. This is important for school and job success, and for enjoyment of life. For these reasons, every John Maclure student is required to read with a family member for at least 15 minutes each night. Students in grades 4 and 5 should read independently for an additional 15 minutes. Active, physical play is important, too. In order to lead a healthy life, every child needs at least 30 minutes each day.

If a student is not able to complete his or her homework, a note from a parent should be written in the planner.

DOGS

District Policy states that dogs are not allowed on school property at any time.



BICYCLES & OTHER THINGS WITH WHEELS

Lock your bicycle in the storage racks. ID marking of bikes by the police is strongly encouraged. It is unsafe to ride bicycles on the school grounds.

Skateboards, scooters, wheelie shoes and roller blades are to be left at home as we have no room for storage and it is not safe to use them around our small children.

ENTRANCE TO THE SCHOOL

Students are to line up at their assigned locations:

- Entry to the school is at 8:25 at the outside classroom door or designated entry.
- Late students report to the office.

USING THE TELEPHONE

In emergencies (injury, forgotten things, sickness), a child may ask his or her teacher or the office for permission to use the phone.

Children may not use the phone to make arrangements for going to a friend’s house after school.





**VISITORS MUST REPORT
TO THE OFFICE BEFORE
PROCEEDING ANYWHERE
IN THE SCHOOL**

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

We encourage adults to volunteer and support our students and our school. All volunteers are informed about issues of confidentiality and ethics. Applications forms are available in the school office. Criminal Record Checks are required and need to be completed at the Abbotsford School Board Office. Volunteers sign in at the office and wear a badge while working in the school. Ways to volunteer may be through the Parent Advisory Council, field trips, classroom helper, or special activities. For more information, please go to JMCS's office.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

During emergency situations schools will be closed to ensure the greatest possible level of safety for students and staff. Reasons for such closures could include bomb threats, gas leaks, fire, smoke, power failure, extreme weather situations, earthquakes and other causes that may endanger students and staff. The Superintendent is responsible for all decisions relating to school closures.

In the event that inclement weather requires a school closure prior to the school day starting, the District will advise the following media outlets as early as possible before 6:00 a.m. of the details of the closure:

- District/School Websites (www.abbyschools.ca);
- Our "Abby Schools" app, available for download from the iTunes Store or Google Play;
- Twitter (@AbbotsfordSD), Facebook (@AbbotsfordSD) and Instagram (@AbbotsfordSD); and
- Email and/or Phone Call via SchoolMessenger.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Our Public Health Nurse is located at the Abbotsford Health Unit at (604) 864-3400. Please feel free to phone with any medical concerns you may have.

ABSENCE AND TARDINESS



**Use the Abby Schools App
on your phone to report
your child's absence or
late arrival!**



Get the app: <http://go.schoolmessenger.ca/>

You can also set this up by going to www.johnmaclure.abbyschools.ca and going to the tab "Report Absence or Late" on the menu bar.

You also may call the school office at 604-853-6450. Leave a message if calling before or after office hours.

We would like to thank all the parents who call into the office to report their child's absence from school. It helps ensure your child's safety.

It is a requirement of the Ministry of Education that schools track pupil attendance and absence. The principal will contact the homes of those students who are at risk because of extended absence or tardiness. Other governmental agencies may be informed as well. Example, Ministry of Children and Families.

For reasons of safety, we will be expecting phone calls and notes from parents to explain pupil absences or lateness. When children are well enough to attend class, please send them to school. Regular attendance and punctuality are very important for maximum progress.

Abbotsford Parks & Recreation



Abbotsford Parks & Recreation offers a variety of programs and lessons for all age ranges. Program and lesson information can be found on their website including after school options and winter, spring, and summer break camps.

Telephone Number: 604-859-3134
Email: prcoffice@abbotsford.ca

For more information, please check out their website at: www.abbotsford.ca/parks-recreation-culture

SCHOOL GOALS

The School Achievement plan includes the following goals.

Goal #1:

To improve vocabulary skill.

- Small group blitzing
- ELL/Teacher collaboration

Goal #2:

Using SOAR to be aware of common expectations around the school.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

PAC PURPOSES (as per PAC Constitution):

1. To provide a link and enhance communication between the parents, the students, the school administration and the staff.
2. To assist, promote, support, and contribute to the education of the students at John Maclure Community School along with the administrators and educators.
3. To provide a representative voice for the parents in our school.
4. To provide leadership in developing and understanding the rights and responsibilities of parents within the educational system, by helping them become more familiar with the facilities and services of John Maclure Community School.
5. To contribute to the effectiveness of the school by promoting the involvement of parents and other community members.
6. To organize PAC activities and events.

All John Maclure Community School parents are voting members of the PAC and each parent is encouraged to attend the monthly PAC meetings.

DISTRICT PAC PARENT ADVISORS

District Parents Advisors are parent volunteers who are trained to provide information or support to resolve a school-related problem. Their purpose is to assist parents in achieving resolution. All emails are kept confidential.

For information or assistance email dpac@abbyschools.ca

PREPARING FOR PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Of the many ways that communication takes place between the home and school, the conference creates the best opportunity for sharing information, ideas and concerns. By having students be active participants in these conferences we help them to become reflective learners who take responsibility for their own learning and actions. Parents, students and teachers can make the most of these opportunities by spending some time thinking about what they want to gain from the meeting.

As a parent, you can...

- talk to your child about his or her thoughts and feelings about school
- write down any questions you have about your child's development
- share your views at the conference; you know your child best
- ask how you might support and extend your child's learning- at the conference you may be asked to write down two things that you feel your child has done well and to talk to the teacher and your child to set one goal for future learning - arrange alternate care for younger siblings. School age siblings should wait outside the room so that the attention is focused on the child leading the conference.

As teachers we will...

- assist the child to coordinate materials for the conference
- discuss with each child their celebrations and goals. We will help the children to write down these ideas in their own report cards.
- write down any questions we have about your child
- listen to your comments, suggestions and questions
- develop future learning goals with you and your child
- try to offer specific suggestions of how you can support your child's learning at home

The students will...

- prepare a self-evaluation of their learning
- prepare materials for the conference
- lead the conference
- set their own personal learning goals and participate with their parents and teacher(s) in setting further goals



The Board of Education of School District No. 34 (Abbotsford)

September 2025

As Superintendent of the Abbotsford School District, I sincerely hope you have a successful year. Our commitment to ensuring our schools are safe and welcoming is unwavering. The Board of Education wants to remind students that we all have a part to play to ensure our friends are safe as well. As a result, we have included the 'Fair Notice Letter,' the Code of Conduct, and district procedures on Harassment (bullying), Search and Seizure, and Emergency Closure of Schools for your information

CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose:

The Board of Education is responsible for establishing expectations of student conduct in schools as part of its governance role for the district. The Board believes that the responsibility for student behaviour and conduct in schools is shared among students, staff and parents/guardians in order to create a safe, caring and orderly learning environment. To support these aims, the Board has established a District Code of Conduct for Students that shall be followed in all schools.

The Board affirms its commitment to the anti-discrimination principles and values contained in the BC Human Rights Code, which includes the prohibited grounds of discrimination in respect of discriminatory publication and accommodation. The Board recognizes that students and staff have the right to a safe, inclusive and welcoming learning environment regardless of their "race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age..." (s. 7)

1. Responsibilities:

School staff are responsible for consistently supporting and applying the District and their School's Codes of Conduct and establishing a positive climate in which structure, support and encouragement assist students in developing a sense of self-discipline and responsibility. School staff are required to inform volunteers and the school community about the Code of Conduct and its expectations.

Students are responsible for respecting the rights and dignity of others in learning environments free from discrimination as set out in the BC Human Rights Code and becoming actively and productively involved in their own academic learning and social growth.

Parents/Guardians and all other adults working with students are responsible for knowing and supporting the District's and School's Codes of Conduct and encouraging students to understand and follow these Codes of Conduct.

2. Conduct Expectations:

The Board believes that acceptable behaviours and conduct are fostered in a positive climate in which:

- All students feel safe, valued and trusted, and have the opportunity to develop, assume and maintain responsibility and self-motivation;
- All students feel supported without fear of retaliation in reporting unsafe conditions, actions or potential incidents;
- There is a joint effort to learn and a feeling of mutual respect among staff, students and parents/guardians;
- Appropriate behaviour is taught, encouraged, modelled, practiced, and acknowledged, thereby increasing student self-respect and positive social behaviours;
- Disciplinary action, wherever possible, is preventative and restorative rather than solely punitive;
- Expectations for student behaviour increase as they become older and more mature;
- Disciplinary action is considerate of students with special needs if these students are unable to fully comply with the Code of Conduct due to a diagnosed disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.

The Board believes that acceptable student conduct, based on respect for oneself, respect for others, and respect for property, is essential to the development of responsible citizens. Students are expected to:

- Be aware of and obey all school rules;
- Respect the rights of all persons within the school including peers, staff, parents/guardians and volunteers;

- Refrain from lying, cheating, stealing;
- Attend classes punctually and regularly;
- Work cooperatively and diligently at their studies and home assignments;
- Respect the legitimate authority of the school staff;
- Respect all school property, including buildings and equipment;
- Respect the diversity of our school community;
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner at all times;
- Refrain from any behaviour that would threaten, harass, bully (bullying includes but is not limited to, physical or verbal intimidation, verbal harassment and cyberbullying), intimidate, assault or discriminate against, in any way, any person within the school community on or off school property;
- Refrain from being in possession of, or under the influence of, drugs and/or alcohol in all school facilities or on school grounds or at school-sponsored functions and activities;
- Refrain from being in possession of weapons of any kind in school or at school activities.

STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES IN SCHOOLS (AP 345)

The Board believes in promoting online safety and a focused learning environment. To this end, students are expected to:

- refrain from inappropriate computer usage and/or multi-media devices in accordance with Board policies
- refrain from using personal digital devices during instructional time or during any school sponsored activity such as an assembly or presentation by a guest speaker unless given the express permission of the school administrator / teacher. A personal digital device is any personal digital device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet

The Board believes that any breach of Code of Conduct behaviours or expectations would be considered unacceptable. Students are encouraged to inform a responsible adult when becoming aware of any infraction of the Code of Conduct.

3. Notification:

The Superintendent will ensure that each Principal, in consultation with staff, parents/guardians and, when appropriate, students, establishes a Code of Conduct for their school that is consistent with the District Student Code of Conduct and reflects the provincial standards.

The school's Code of Conduct and a summary of the district's procedures on Student Suspensions (AP 333), Possession of Weapons or Explosives (AP 320), Drugs and Controlled Substance Abuse (AP 331), Search and Seizure (AP 332) and Information and Communication Services (AP 417) shall be communicated to all students annually

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) and/or other relevant legislation, it may be necessary to advise other parties of serious breaches of the District Student Code of Conduct. The School District will not disclose personal information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists and such a disclosure is necessary. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

4. Consequences:

Students will be disciplined in a timely and fair manner, and such discipline shall be in accordance with district procedure AP 333, 'Student Suspensions.' Students, while attending school and/or school-sponsored functions and activities, shall be subject to the District Code of Conduct and the school's Code of Conduct. Students may be subject to discipline under the school Code of Conduct and/or the District Code of Conduct for any conduct which has the effect of negatively impacting the school environment, whether that conduct occurs on or off School District property, at a school-sponsored function or activity, or elsewhere.

Serious breaches of conduct that threaten the safety and welfare of others will be referred directly to a District Board of Review (Level Three suspension). The condensed version of the District Code of Conduct is posted in every school.

References

Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide
School Act
BC Human Rights Code
Canadian Charter of Rights
School District Administrative Procedure (AP 333)
Constitution Act
Multiculturalism Act
Official Languages Act
Youth Criminal Justice Act

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT (AP 418)

Please refer to the complete administrative procedure on the district website at www.abbysschools.ca under the About Us tab under Administrative Procedures.

The Abbotsford School District is committed to fostering an environment within which all individuals are treated with respect. The district considers harassment in general and sexual harassment, in particular, to be violations of generally accepted standards of behaviour and the District's Code of Conduct.

In its efforts to eliminate harassment, the Abbotsford School District will provide a working and learning environment that will encourage respect for and fair treatment of all individuals within the community.

Definition

Harassment or bullying includes inappropriate remarks, jokes, taunting, comments, gestures, sexually suggestive comments or actions that create an uncomfortable or hostile environment.

A bully is someone who:

- Uses power to hurt others or harm their possessions;
- Purposely scares or intimidates others;
- Often hurts the same person repeatedly;
- Is sometimes supported by other people who just watch and laugh, instead of helping the person being bullied.

Complaint Procedures

If a student is being bullied or harassed, they should take the following steps to try and stop the harassment or prevent it from happening again.

1. Report all incidents to an adult you trust, such as a person of authority at your school, your parent/guardian or an adult you trust outside of school. It is important to tell your parents/guardians of any incidents of bullying or harassment that may occur at school, at school functions or on your way to and from school.

2. If the bully or harasser is an adult from within your school, then it is important to report this immediately to your parents/guardians or an adult you trust outside of school. You and the adult you have told should contact either the Principal or the Assistant Superintendent's office.

3. It is important to report all incidents of bullying or harassment; however, false allegations are a serious matter and can damage a person's reputation and are not acceptable in any way

If you require further information, please contact the School Board Office at 604.859.4891.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE (AP 332)

All students have a right to attend school in an environment conducive to learning. Dangerous objects, alcohol, and other drug possession (supply or sale) are illegal and interfere with both effective learning and the healthy development of all individuals. The Abbotsford School District is committed to protecting students from harm, maintaining the safety of our schools and promoting an environment free of substance use. Students are not required to obtain a school locker, but if they choose to do so, they do so on the condition that it is to be used only for authorized purposes. Lockers may be subjected to searches by Abbotsford School District staff.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS

During emergency situations, schools will be closed to ensure the greatest possible level of safety for students and staff. Reasons for such closures could include bomb threats, gas leaks, fire, smoke, power failure, extreme weather situations, earthquakes and other causes that may endanger students and staff. The Superintendent is responsible for all decisions relating to school closures.

Our Emergency Procedures are put into place by either a school administrator, Assistant Superintendent or the Superintendent. The Superintendent is responsible for all decisions relating to school closures. Information regarding each level of emergency status is listed in our Administrative Procedure 103 - Emergency Procedures. Procedures are practiced at each school multiple times throughout the year. In all scenarios, special considerations are to be taken by teachers and supervisors for the care and evacuation of students with special needs.

Notifications of emergency status will be circulated via:

- District/School Websites (www.abbysschools.ca);
- Twitter (@AbbotsfordSD), Facebook (@AbbotsfordSD) and Instagram (@AbbotsfordSD); and
- Email and/or Phone Call via SchoolMessenger.

FAIR NOTICE LETTER

September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Fair Notice: Student Threat Assessment Protocol

The Board of Education is responsible for establishing expectations of student conduct in schools as part of its governance role for the district. The Board believes that the responsibility for creating a safe, caring, and orderly learning environment must be shared by students, staff and parents/guardians. To support these aims, the Board has established both a District Code of Conduct for Students and a Threat Assessment Protocol for all schools.

The Abbotsford School District is dedicated to the creation and maintenance of school environments where all students, parents/guardians, staff, and visitors are safe. In keeping with this commitment, we have established district protocols, in partnership with the Abbotsford Police, for dealing with threats to members of the school community and/or school facilities. A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently and may be verbal, gestural, written, drawn, or posted online. We take all threatening comments and behaviours seriously.

Often, when we hear in the media about a violent incident, we learn that the threat-maker had made threats in advance of acting violently. To keep our school communities safe, students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members have a duty to report all threatening comments and behaviours.

When knowledge of a threat comes to light, the school's threat assessment team will investigate and appropriately enact the District's Assessment of Risk to Others (ARTO). The purpose of the threat assessment is to:

- Ensure the safety of students, staff, parents/guardians, and others;
- Ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat;
- Understand the factors contributing to the threat maker's behaviour;
- Be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker and others

Once the threat assessment process has been initiated, information will be collected from various sources and interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat-maker, parents/guardians and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response. Intervention plans will be developed and shared as required. The Abbotsford School District is subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws. Should you, as a parent/guardian, be invited to attend a meeting to discuss safety concerns regarding your child, please be assured that the primary goal of this meeting is to ensure safety.

With your assistance, we will ensure that our schools are safe as we create the most inclusive learning environments for all students in our district.

Sean Nosek
Superintendent of Schools