

MIDDLE SCHOOL SECONDAIRE

BACK TO SCHOOL 2026 - 2027

Dear Families,

As the end of summer approaches, we are very pleased to welcome you to the 2026-2027 school year. It is our pleasure to communicate to you some essential information that will help you to get prepared and familiarise yourself with our organisation.

PROGRAMME FOR THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL

1. Orientation Day for Level 6 (6e/BIL6/Grade 6) – level 7 (5e/BIL7/Grade 7) – 4e and Grade 8 **NEW** students to CDL
2. Welcome Morning for Level 6 **RETURNING** students (who attended CDL in Level 5)
3. First day back to school for all students

THURSDAY 20th AUGUST

1. Orientation Day for Level 6 – 7 – 8 **NEW** students to CDL

The day begins with a welcome check-in at the Eiger entrance from 8:00 a.m., followed by the programme starting at 8:30 a.m., including time with homeroom advisors, teambuilding activities and lunch in the Concha Garden, as well as placement tests and parents' sessions.

On this day you will be able to pick up:

- Locker key and student card in the Welcome Desk in Panthers Café. You will find your books directly inside your locker. We kindly ask that you do not take your books home before Monday, 24th.
- iPad for Level 7 and Level 8 students: Room CR 113. Please refer to our website for more information.

Boarding students will be accompanied by their House Parent during the day.

Time	Activity	Participants	Location
8:00 – 8:30 am	Welcome Desk	Parents & Students	Eiger Entrance
8:30 – 9:00 am	Welcome by the Principals	Parents & Students	Eiger Auditorium
9:00 – 9:30 am	Welcome by Home-room advisors	Parents & Students	Homeroom classrooms



Time	Activity	Participants	Location
9:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Level 6: Welcome morning	Parents & Students – New and Returning	Olympus Gymnasium
9:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Level 7 & Level 8: Team Building	Students	Concha Garden
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Parents: Introduction to Performing Arts and Learning Support	Parents	Cervin auditorium
11:15 – 12:00 a.m.	Mathematics Placement Test	NEW Grades 6-8, BIL6, BIL7	Mont Blanc hallway
11:15 – 12:00 p.m.	Pick up iPad (5e/BIL7/Grade 7, 4e/Grade 8)	Parents & Students	CR 113
11:15 – 12:00 p.m.	Meet Principal, Deputy, Pastoral Heads, Parent Faculty Association	Parents	Outside Panthers Cafe
12:00 - 12:45 p.m.	Picnic lunch provided by CDL	Parents & Students	Concha Garden
12:45 – 1:30 p.m.	Grades 6-8 English placement test	NEW STUDENTS ONLY	Mont Blanc hallway
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Introduction to ItsLearning/CDL App	Parents	Eiger Auditorium
1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	Grades 6-8 French placement test	NEW STUDENTS ONLY even if they have never studied French before	MB 211 - MB 212
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.	School tour with student guides	Parents	Outside Cervin Entrance
1:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Pick up iPad (Grade 7/5ème/BIL7, Grade 8/4ème)	Parents & Students	CR 113
08:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m.	Pick up sports kits	Parents & Students	Dance studio



To alleviate the problem of parking, we encourage families to park in the "La Bécassière" parking lot (Centre Sportif de Versoix). Parking is free for the first 3 hours for cars that register at the pay station. Additional hours may be added. A shuttle bus will run between the parking lot and the school from 07:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

THURSDAY 20th AUGUST

2. Level 6 (F6, Grade 6, BIL 6 students) Welcome Morning for Returning students who were with us in Primary

In Olympus from 09:45 to 11:15 a.m. : get to know your homeroom advisors and Principals, who will support your smooth transition from Level 5 to Level 6.

Time	Activity	Participants	Location
9:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Level 6: Welcome morning	Parents & Students – New and Returning	Olympus

To alleviate the problem of parking, we encourage families to park in the "La Bécassière" parking lot (Centre Sportif de Versoix). Parking is free for the first 3 hours for cars that register at the pay station. Additional hours may be added. A shuttle bus will run between the parking lot and the school from 07:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY 24th AUGUST

3. First day of school for all students in Middle School Secondaire

The starting time for each grade has been staggered to allow each year group to be welcomed in turn. Students should come to the Eiger building for meetings scheduled as follows, aiming to arrive at least 10 minutes before the scheduled time:

8:20 - 8:40 a.m.	Level 6
8:40 - 9:00 a.m.	Level 7
9:00 - 9:20 a.m.	Grade 8/4e

- Students will be welcomed by the Middle School Secondaire leadership team and will then meet with their homeroom advisors, who will take them to class for their first Homeroom session.
- Parents may accompany their children as far as the Eiger entrance, but we ask that goodbyes are said outside the building.



Please note that this year's back-to-school organisation has been redesigned to make the start of the school year smoother. For **returning Secondary** students, there will be no need to collect ID cards, locker keys or books in advance:

- **ID cards and locker keys** will be distributed by homeroom advisors on **Monday, 24th August**.
- Books will be placed directly in each student's locker, whether they are new or returning students, according to their curriculum and language choices, and will be available on Monday, 24 August.
- For the first day, students are encouraged to arrive with basic stationery (notebook, pen, etc.). Specific details about school supplies needed will be given out by each subject teacher.
- Normal classes from 12:40 p.m. to **3:40 p.m.** (exceptionally, to allow for students taking the school bus to find the correct location of the bus).
- School bus service starts in the afternoon at **4:00 p.m.** Please contact the transport department service if you have not received confirmation of registration before the start of school: bus.cdl@alsa.com or 022 775 55 83.

For students taking the school bus

- Buses will be in place (in front of and behind the Olympus building) to take students home after school.
- Lists of names of students taking each bus will be posted.

As of the second day (Tuesday), students will start school at 8:20 a.m. and finish school at 3:50 p.m., joining their bus at this time.

TUESDAY 25th AUGUST

Normal school day. Classes will begin at 8:20 a.m. and finish according to the usual timetable at 3:50 p.m.

Class Trips Programme – For ALL students

Each grade level will participate in a two-night camp in September or October. This residential activity will promote bonding amongst students as well as with their teachers, which is especially important as they get to know one another at the beginning of Middle School Secondaire. During the camp, the school values of RISE will be a key. These trips form a significant part of our educational programme and provide valuable opportunities for learning, independence, and personal growth. For this reason, we encourage all students to participate and regard attendance as an important element of their educational journey. More specific information will follow at the start of school.



14 th – 16 th September	Grade 6	Saas Fee	approximately 575 CHF*
16 th - 18 th September	F6 & BIL 6	Saas Fee	approximately 575 CHF*
14 th – 16 th September	Grade 7	Leysin	approximately 550 CHF*
16 th – 18 th September	F5 & BIL 7	Leysin	approximately 550 CHF*
28 th – 30 th September	Grade 8	Torgon	approximately 580 CHF*
30 th September – 2 nd October	F4	Torgon	approximately 580 CHF*
<i>*Please note that these amounts are estimates and may be subject to adjustment.</i>			

School Calendar

Please note that the school calendar, including the holiday dates and school events of 2026-2027, is posted on our website under 'Parent Essentials', and always available on our 'CDL News' Parents app.

Please visit the Information tile of our 'CDL News app': you can also find all the information in the Information tile.

Music Programme

All MSS students will follow a Music course that incorporates materials from the **Juilliard Creative Classroom** that integrates practical skills of performance and composition with those of listening and theory. In line with programme principles, all students will learn to play the keyboard in order to develop skills with which to better explore, understand and create music. For this reason, it is **necessary that students in Level 6 and Level 7 have a keyboard instrument on which to practice at home**. For reference, in school, we use Yamaha PSR 453 keyboards.

While it is not essential for students in 4e and Grade 8, many students find having access to a keyboard useful as a creative and practical tool for experimenting with harmony, composing ideas, and reinforcing theoretical concepts.



KEY DATES FOR YOUR AGENDA

- Monday 7th September – Friday 25th September - Cambridge Secondary Insight (Baseline) (11-14) tests
- Tuesday 8th September – iPad Information Evening for Level 6 parents - Eiger auditorium from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 22nd September: Homeroom Parent Presentations, followed by our traditional Welcome Back Barbecue gathering the whole school – exact timings to be confirmed
- Wednesday 23rd September – Level 6 iPad Summits for students during the school day
- Tuesday 29th September – “A Good Start in MSS: A Conversation for Level 6 Families” room MB211, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

We will be available in early August to answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact the Middle School Secondaire office at mssoffice@cdl.ch

We hope that you have a pleasant summer, and we look forward to meeting with you and your child. On behalf of the Middle School Secondaire leadership team, we wish you a warm welcome to our community.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Betsy J. Harvey".

Dr. Betsy Harvey

Principal, Middle School Secondaire