

Welcome to Division M7!

Welcome to Division M7 and the 2025/2026 school year! M7 is a multiage division made up of grade six students and seven students. Our multiage classroom is a fantastic way to support the diverse needs of all learners, socially, emotionally, and academically. We continue to work on the BC redesigned curriculum, with a focus on the core competencies - communication, thinking (creative, critical, and reflective), and personal and social responsibility.



A couple notes about our classroom:

- This year, I will be teaching our class all four core subjects; Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics. Each year is a new blend of grade six and seven curriculum. Ms. Espedido will teach French to M7 and Ms. Curnow (or Mr. Bridgman for band students) will teach PE.
- Division M7 will partner with Division M6 (Mr. Goy) throughout the year. We will do similar learning activities and pair up to work and learn collaboratively.
- Teaching and learning in our classroom will take place in a variety of formats - direct instruction, project based learning, and structured and free inquiry based learning. As middle school students, it is expected that they will take on much of the responsibility for their own learning, with the support of myself and our other M7 teachers.
- In addition to being the homeroom teacher for M7, I am also a support teacher at our school and, with this role, I am the case manager for our class.

Meet the Teacher

My name is Jenaka Laton and this will be my 16th year teaching in the Saanich School District and 7th year at ROMS. I have previously taught at North Saanich Middle School, Sidney Elementary, and Cordova Bay Elementary. I grew up in Saanichton and earned my teaching degree from the University of Victoria. I then obtained a Diploma in Special Education. My husband, Mike, and I have an eight year old son named Memphis and a five and a half year old son named Knox. We like to spend our free time exploring new hiking trails and playgrounds.

Some of my Favourites:

Drink: Coffee and Chai Lattes
Subject: Social Studies/History
Sweet: Anything chocolate
Sport: Hockey

Hobbies: Reading, playing piano and guitar, baking
Season: Winter
Characters: The Peanuts gang!

Class Website

Our class website is <https://sites.google.com/sd63.bc.ca/mrs-laton>. You can find the link by going to the ROMS website (<https://royaloak.saanichschools.ca/>), looking under the ‘**Contacts**’ tab, and clicking on ‘**Staff Directory**’. There you will find the class schedule, the grade six and seven Big Ideas from the curriculum, copies of handouts and resources, homework, and general class and school information. Please check the website regularly for information, updates, and homework.

Here are some important points to remember for the coming weeks:

- You play an important role in your child’s success. Encouraging good sleep routines, healthy eating, daily reading, and time outdoors makes a big difference. Checking in regularly with your child about their school day helps them reflect and stay organized.
- This year, students will be using lockers quickly. Grade 7s who have their lock from last year can re-use it this year. Grade 6s (and any new grade 7s) will purchase a lock from the school (see details in start up forms).
- Please do your best to pack a ‘waste free lunch.’ At school, we will be trying to reduce the amount of waste and recycling that is done.
- Bring a water bottle daily to keep at your desk and use during PE.
- A change of clothes, socks, and shoes, as well as deodorant, are encouraged for PE.
- See the attached school supply list for Division M7. Please do your best to supply these items by early next week. I understand some family budgets are tight - reach out to me if this is a financial issue and I’ll supply what is needed.

Over the coming weeks, we will be discussing personal and social responsibility, work quality, homework, and the routines and expectations for Division M7. September will be a time of transition. Some students will experience some nervousness and others will embrace the flow of middle school. Please feel free to email me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have. I can also be available before and after school most days to schedule a meeting whenever needed. As well, I hope that you will advise me if at any time you or your child has any academic, social, or emotional concerns so that we can identify the cause and find strategies and solutions together. I value ongoing communication and I welcome opportunities to connect regularly to ensure your child’s needs are met. I believe that by all of us working together as a team and communicating regularly, we can make this a very successful year. I consider it a great privilege and responsibility to be your child's teacher this year, and look forward to meeting each of you.

Finally, please ‘Save the Date’ of September 17th for the **ROMS Welcome Back Open House**. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

I look forward to an amazing and memorable year with you!

Jenaka Laton

Division M7 and Support Teacher - jlaton@saanichschools.ca