

Dear Future MACC student,

I am Arjun Subash. I have been in MACC for 1 year now. Here's everything you'll need to know to survive the year. MACC stands for Middle-Ages Cluster Classes. Remember this because other students will tell you very different things!

The first thing you should know is: MACC is not easy. If you got the highest grades in the class, always caught up and never falling behind, that all might change when you come to MACC. You will be put with 55 other kids who may be better than you at some subjects, but don't panic, you aren't falling behind. At MACC, everyone learns at their own pace, and comparing yourself to others will just make your life worse.

While you probably should not try to be the best, it is also important to keep in mind that more is expected of you here. In elementary school, you may have had little to no homework, just taking home what you did not complete in class. Here, you will have many more assignments to complete, and you may feel overwhelmed. Your other non-MACC friends may get less homework than you. The best way to stay on top of your work, is to remember: **Due dates are always closer than they appear, so never procrastinate.** There's literally a poster in one of the classrooms, nice and big so everyone can see. A few times, I have made the terrible mistake of forgetting about my homework and playing games, and the next day I suddenly remembered all the homework that was due today.

Not only will you have to complete the daily assignments from each subject, you will also have to study for weekly math test called *Mastery of the Basics* tests (MTBs). You will be given a practice test for each assignment, and the real test will be on Friday. After passing all your tests, you will move on to Grade 7 tests, and then to Grade 8. You will also have to work on an *Independent Reading Project or IRP* – you will have to read a book, answer any 5 of 13 questions, and do any of 9 project options. This process will be repeated 6 times, leaving 3 projects that you do not have to do. Here are some tips to stay on top of your homework:

- Never procrastinate.
- Write down your homework and the estimated time to complete it, then add 30 minutes to your estimated time.
- Plan all the homework you will do each week.
- Don't stress out over MTBs too much, you will always have a chance to try again.
- Pick your IRP book early, but decide on a project first to make sure your book fits the project criteria. Don't forget about IRP and leave it to the last minute.
- Organize your Word documents in folders for each subject.
- Don't forget about any homework, or you will regret it!

Anyway, MACC may seem scary at first, but trust me, you will get used to it, and you will be thankful you got selected. I hope you have a nice year!

Sincerely
Arjun Subash