

Good morning,

Another summer is coming to an end. Sad in a way but also exciting! We always look forward to the hallways being full of youthful energy again. I know the move to secondary school can cause some anxiety, but most kids adapt quickly and for those needing it, we have lots of supports in place. It will all be good!

We are anticipating another phenomenal year. Our school continues to be recognized as one of the top comprehensive schools in the Province – offering students many opportunities in academics, the arts, technology, philanthropy, athletics, etc. Please encourage your kids to get involved!

I have included some information below and attached some documents that may be useful. It may seem like a lot and I am sure there are questions but rest assured that we will communicate with parents and students throughout the first week and everything will come together nicely.

On September 3rd, Grade 9 students will attend from 9:15-12:30.

Students will be organized into Advisory groups (lists will be posted outside theatre).

**9:15 am:** All Grade 9s meet in the theatre - Introductions and Shape of the Day

**9:30 – 10:00:** Advisory with teachers

**10:00– 10:45:** Group activity – Scavenger Hunt

\*Half of advisories go to photos first, then hunt, other half hunt, then photos.

**10:45 – 11:00:** Grade 12 Panel – Q+A (theatre)

**11:00 – 11:30:** Digital Literacy Session

**11:30:** Prize draw for Scavenger Hunt

**11:30 – 12:30pm:** BBQ in front of the school

\*Any students that didn't get photos yet go during BBQ.

**12:30pm:** Dismissal

### **Attendance:**

If your child is going to be absent you can report it by using the online form on the website or calling the office directly. The same applies if your child is going to be late or leaving early.

For safety reasons, students arriving late are to sign in at the office and students leaving early are to sign out at the office.

\*\*If you know that your child will be absent for the first week of school please let the office know asap. Having accurate attendance data is critical for us at the start of the year.

### **School Fees:**

Students will be given a fee statement on the first day along with an information verification form. We are hoping to achieve 100% of payments on-line for the coming year!

See website for instructions: <https://sd43.schoolcashonline.com/Home/Index>

\*Teachers will not be collecting fees (allowing us to get into our regular schedule right away).

\*\*However, payments can still be submitted to the office (cash or cheques payable to Heritage Woods Secondary School).

### **Verification Forms:**

Students will be bringing home a Verification Form. If the information is correct on the form, simply sign it and return or if changes need to be made just write them on the form. Students will return the forms to their block 2 teachers during the first week.

\*\*We will send a notice home when the eForms are live so they can be completed (School Policy form is mandatory).

### **Lockers:**

ONLINE LOCKER ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM (there will be a link under Quick Links on our homepage called "Locker Assignment").

*THE LOCKER ASSIGNMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHES AUGUST 29th at 1:00 PM FOR GRADE 11 &12 AND AUGUST 30 FOR GRADE 9 & 10.*

*Student accounts have been created for access to the system.*

*Your user ID is your usual first name and last name together with no capitals and a "." between them. ex. Mickey Mouse would be mickey.mouse. Dashes, apostrophes and spaces should not be used.*

*Your student number is your default password. This number is located on your school ID card (Middle or Secondary). If you do not know your student # you can call the school office at 604-461-8679 (please check your student card first!).*

*If you have problems logging in please contact Mr. Rao ([mr Rao@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:mr Rao@sd43.bc.ca)).*

\*A reminder to students to only get a locker if you know you are going to use it. Also, it is not acceptable for students to remove a school locker lock and use it in the PE change rooms. You are also not able to use a personal lock on our school lockers.

**\*\* We will send out another locker reminder next week.**

### **Student Schedules:**

Grade 12s will receive their schedules in advance. Students in Grades 9-11 will receive their schedules in Advisory on September 3rd.

### **Course Change Process:**

As explained in the previous email, there will be very few course changes. Our staffing and course offerings are based on the students' Spring selections, plus we are limited by class size and composition regulations.

### **Criteria for changes:**

If a student requires a change for one of the reasons listed below, they will see their Vice-Principal who will then direct them to their counselor if the request meets the criteria.

Course changes in September will only be made for extenuating circumstances:

- incomplete schedule
- change in course request due to summer school
- failed a course

- received courses that were neither primary requests or alternates
- received a course they have already taken

However, NO course changes will be made for the following reasons:

- Wanting a class in a different block
- Wanting a different elective
- Wanting a different teacher
- Wanting a class with a friend

### **FLEX:**

A few words about FLEX. The 30 minute block in the day that has been part of HWSS's schedule since the school opened. It allows students the opportunity to take control of their learning – they can complete assignments in an area of choice, collaborate with peers and receive extra help from teachers in a particular area. It is instructional time and not meant to be a break (it also happens after what is the first block of the day for most students so a break should not be necessary). Students are expected to be in a class that is in their current schedule or in the library.

Interestingly, numerous other high schools in SD43, and across the province have been adopting Flex in the last couple years. Notably, all Secondary schools in West Vancouver will have Flex this coming year.

I encourage you to speak regularly with your child about how they are using this important time as it can really make a difference in terms of success in their courses.

### **Music Program:**

The Music Department is getting ready to start another exciting year of music making.

Thursday, August 29th is our music set up day and any music student wanting to volunteer is welcome to come and help out. We will be meeting in the music room at 9:30 - 11:30 am. Any music student that has applied to serve on the music council, check for an email from Mrs. Fester outlining the activities for the same day.

Wednesday, Sept. 4, all music students from grade 9-12 that have signed up for concert bands, jazz bands, string orchestra, concert choir and/or vocal jazz are to attend a mandatory meeting in the school theatre at 8:00 am sharp - Period 1. It is at this time that a schedule will be provided and introductions will be made with the music teachers, Mrs. Fester and Mrs. Gay. Please note that course timetables given out on Tuesday, Sept. 3 will not have the courses above listed with accurate times. It is at this meeting, that the schedule will be given.

We look forward to meeting all of the new members of the music department and seeing our past students return rested and ready to have some music fun!

Note to parents: a music department parent/student meeting for all performance ensembles is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 12. in the school theatre. To accommodate our agenda the following times are:

7:00 pm - 7:30 pm for all new students and parents to the program

7:30 - 7:50 pm the Whole Music Department for music students and parents

8:00 - 8:15 pm any parent interested in volunteering and working with the music teachers and music council

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the music teachers:

[kfester@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:kfester@sd43.bc.ca) or [jgay@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:jgay@sd43.bc.ca)

### **Change to Student Accident Insurance**

For some time now, School District 43 has been offering our families the opportunity to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance thru the Kids Plus Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.

We were recently notified by the provider that they will be discontinuing the Kids Plus Accident Insurance program and will be replacing it with the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan. The new product is called *Accifamily* and offers comprehensive insurance coverage for the whole family.

The cost of this policy depends on whether you select Basic Coverage or Enhanced Coverage, as well as the number of family members to be covered.

For more information on this new accident insurance, please visit the Accifamily website at:

<https://ia.ca/individuals/insurance/accifamily>

... or call their toll free number to speak to a customer support representative. That number is :

1-888-266-2224

Thanks for your support!

**Todd Clerkson**

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