

Dr. Charles Best Secondary Newsletter

Issue 1 – August 31, 2023

2525 Como Lake Avenue, Coquitlam, BC V3J 3R8 604-461-5581

Website: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/charlesbest/Pages/default.aspx>

Principal – Heather Murphy

Vice-Principals – Michelle Ciolfitto, Kelly Fridge, and Joel Nelson

Our school goal is to develop a culture of connectedness and belonging within the school, among school staff, students, and our parent community, in order to enhance opportunities for collaborative partnerships.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ELL Welcome and Assessments	Thursday, Aug 31
Welcome to new Grade 9's, including photo day	Thursday, Aug 31 8:45 am
Welcome to new Grade 10', 11', and 12's	Thursday, Aug 31, 11:30 am
First day all students attend homerooms (see below)	Tuesday, Sept 5
Grade Assemblies (Gr 12, 9)	Thursday, Sept 7
Photo Day	Friday, Sept 8
Grade Assemblies (Gr 10, 11)	Tuesday, Sept 12
Terry Fox Run	Friday, Sept 15
Club Day	Wednesday, Sept 20
Grade 9 Parent Night	Wednesday, Sept 20
School Pro D Day (students do not attend)	Friday, Sept 22
Senior Sail	Wednesday Sept 27
Truth & Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) Assembly (Assembly Bell schedule)	Friday, Sept 29
Truth and Reconciliation Day (School not in session)	Monday, Oct 2
Thanksgiving Day (School not in session)	Monday, Oct 9
Learning Updates out (Progress reports)	Wednesday Oct 11
Parent – Teacher Night (In-person and on Teams)	Wednesday, Oct 18
Photo Retakes	Thursday, Oct 19
Provincial Pro D Day (School not in session)	Friday, Oct 20
Autumn Music Concert	Wednesday, Oct 25 @7pm
School Assembly (Assembly Bell Schedule)	Tuesday, Oct 31
Provincial Assessments (select students)	Nov 1 - Nov 3 (schedule TBD)
Take Your Kids to Work (Gr 9 only)	Wednesday, Nov 1

REMINDER: NEW BELL SCHEDULE FOR 2023-2024

Our calendar year had to be adjusted by a few minutes here and there because of the extra day we have over the entire year. Here is our Bell Schedule for 2023- 2024.

REGULAR bell schedule – please note all the start and end times. changes.

ASSEMBLY bell schedule – please note all the start and end times.

ADVISORY (Homeroom) bell schedule – this schedule will be used in a limited capacity. The schedule will be published ahead of each event.

**This schedule can also be referenced on our website homepage.*

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 5

- Gr 9, 10 Advisory (Homeroom) at 10 am
- Gr 11, 12 Advisory (Homeroom) at 1 pm
- Advisory locations will be posted all around the school entrance.
- Expect to stay for about 30-45 minutes.
- **Sept 6-8 regular bell schedule (8:16-3:13)**

DR. CHARLES BEST BELL SCHEDULES



Regular Bell Schedule

Period	Start	Finish
1	8:16 am	9:35 am
2	9:40 am	10:59 am
3	11:05 am	12:24pm
4	12:29 pm	1:49 pm
5	1:54 pm	3:13 pm

Assembly Bell Schedule

Period	Start	Finish
1	8:16 am	9:20 am
2	9:25 am	10:30 am
Assembly	10:35 am	11:45 am
3	11:50 am	12:55 pm
4	1:00pm	2:05 pm
5	2:10 pm	3:13 pm



**Dear Dr. Charles Best Staff, Students and Parents,
Welcome Back to School!**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the start of the 2023/2024 school year at Dr. Charles Best Secondary School. We are proud to continue our tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts. Our school is full – we have over 1600 students enrolled this year – half of our school is in the French Immersion Program. Thank you to Mr. Karmali and our leadership students for hosting our grade 9's this week for orientation day today. We would also like to thank our office staff, caretakers, and district maintenance staff for the work they put into our school over the summer.

We are pleased to welcome new staff and returning staff who were on leave or returning from lay off situations – Welcome to the Best staff.

Jillian Anderson	French Immersion	Whitman Mclallen (Ms. Burnham)	Business Education
Ajagbe Ayobami (Mme. Fortier)	French Immersion	Megan Meredith	English
Irina Birsan	School Counsellor (P-Z)	Sukh Randhawa	English/Skill Development
Chantelle Coss	School Secretary	Nancy Rideout	Head Secretary
Karen Howardson	E.A.	Matthew Shin	Math
Nadia Kadhim-Welcome Back!	French Immersion	Sam Willett	English
Hannah Kim	E.A.		

Thank you for your patience as we start up our new year. Our counsellors, admin and office staff have been working to finalize students' schedules but please understand that our timetable is extremely tight and there is little to no room for course changes.

Please help us help you and your child. Please keep in contact with us and work with us to make this another fabulous year. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us (email) if you have any concerns or questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Heather Murphy

Principal, Dr. Charles Best Secondary School

COUNSELLORS, VICE PRINCIPALS AND STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF

Please stay in contact with your child's teachers, counsellor, and administrator. Our email addresses are listed on the website. We organize our students by alpha groupings:

Principal: Heather Murphy

A-G VP: Michelle Ciolfitto

Counsellor: Rachel John (A-G)

H-O VP: Kelly Fridge

Counsellor: Warren Chang (H-O)

P-Z VP: Joel Nelson

Counsellor: Irina Birsan (P-Z)

Youth Workers:

Heather Bjornson

Alanna Waunch

Yvonne Xie

Career Education Facilitator:

Silke Kaufmann

International Education Coordinator:

Shannon Joba

Head Secretary:

Nancy Rideout

Accounting Clerk:

Nicole Mitianin

Student Records:

Kym Thibault

Reception:

Ramiza Hajdarevic

School Secretary

Christine Wynne

School Secretary

Chantelle Coss

Information Technology Support:

Andy Wong

Daytime Caretaker

Dave LeBlanc

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Grade 9 Photo Day, Thursday, August 31st

As part of the Grade 9 Welcoming Orientation on Thursday, August 31st, those in attendance had their school photos taken by Artona photo company.

****Note:** If your child is not able to attend the orientation, they will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with the rest of the student body on Friday, September 8th.

Grade 10's-12's Photo Day, Friday, September 8th.

All students, regardless of grade, must have their photo taken even if they choose not to purchase photos. Individual student photos are needed for the yearbook, student ID cards and the school data base. As photos are used for identification purposes, students are to be reminded that hats, props, masks are not to be worn. Those choosing to wear a mask will be asked to remove the mask the moment the photographer is ready to take the picture. Students will be brought down to the small gym by Leadership students when it is their turn to have their photo taken.

Tentative times for photos are listed below:

Period 1 8:16 - 8:30 – Photograph any grade 9's who did not attend the Aug. 31st Welcome Orientation

Period 1 8:30 – 9:40 - Photograph Grade 10 classes

Period 2 9:40 - 10:59 - photograph Grade 11 classes

Period 3 11:05 - 12:24 - photograph Grade 12 classes

12:30-12:45 – Last call for any students who have not had their photos taken.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE

Dr. Charles Best Secondary is a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) school and many of our classrooms use laptops on a regular basis. If your student does not have a device, we have a laptop loaner program operated through our school library. Students requiring a loaner laptop can come to the main office to receive a form to apply for a temporary device. Recommended Laptop Specs include:

- A minimum of 13-inch screen
- A full-sized keyboard
- Touch screens are not necessary.
- Hard Drive of 256GB or more
- Ram of 8GB or more

SCHOOL LOCKERS

On the first day of school, in Advisories,

- All grade 9s and 10s will be assigned a locker
- Grade 11's and 12's will be offered a locker from within a limited bank close to their advisory classroom.
- Students who miss this initial locker assignment should visit the main office to obtain a locker.
- Students are responsible for the locker they are assigned all year and will return the lock to the main office in June.

More details will be available on Sept 5th in Advisory.

SCHOOL FEES

Student Activity fees for the 2023-2024 school year are \$45.

Please visit your School Cash online Account to pay for this item.

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Parents, if your child is not able to attend school on the first day, please contact the office by phone or email the school office at charlesbestattendance@sd43.bc.ca. It is important to know if your child will be attending Dr. Charles Best Secondary and will be returning on a certain date. For any absences throughout the year please use the same email above. It can be found on our school website home page under quick links "Absence Report."

DROP OFF/PICK UP

We have an extended day schedule. We have a few classes that start at 7 am and we have a few classes that start at 3:20 pm but most of our students attend between 8:16 am and 3:13 pm. Please know that students are expected to be in their classrooms by 8:16 or if they start in Period 2 then 9:40 am so they should arrive at school with enough time to get organized and get to class by these times. We have two main areas: the front of the school and the upper parking lot. Please understand that our drop-off and pick up areas get VERY congested so please plan for the extra time and we ask that you are patient, kind and careful. If your schedule allows, you might consider dropping your child off a little earlier than the rush and picking up a little later than the rush and maybe we can spread out the congestion.

Please know that you **cannot** pick up or drop off at the roundabout at the west side of our lot, staff lot on the west end by the bus parking cage, or down by the portables – it is dangerous and causes traffic issues. Please help us as we try to maintain a safe and efficient lot for your children and our staff.

VERIFICATION FORM/EMERGENCY RELEASE FORM UPDATES FOR 2023-2024

As our district continues to move towards digitization of student forms to ensure the confidentiality of personal information, Student Verification forms will no longer be printed and distributed to students during their first day of school advisories. Rather, starting this school year student verification forms will be published to the Family Portal for parents to access. An email will be sent to all parents during the 2nd week of September that will provide details of this new process.

DISTRICT EMERGENCY PROCEDURE INFORMATION

Please see attached two very important documents pertaining the emergency situations: District Emergency Procedures and Dr. Charles Best School Emergency Preparedness Information. Next week during your child's advisory they will receive a "Student Emergency Release Form". For the safety of your child, it is important that you fill out the form and have your child return to the main office in the bin under their alpha last name; A-G, H-O, M-Z by September 15th.

SCHOOL CLUB INFORMATION

Every year Dr. Charles Best offers approximately 25 student-led clubs. Participating in a club is a great way for your child to meet new students, get involved with school and community initiatives and broaden their skills. On Wednesday, September 20th we will be hosting our official club day in the courtyard at the front of the school. On this day students will receive information on clubs being offered this school year and how to sign up to become an active club member. Please encourage your child to get involved!

GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS-SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar! Fraser Health will be onsite this school year to conduct three immunization clinics for our grade 9 students. The three clinic dates will occur on the following dates:

- February 9, 2024
- February 16, 2024
- March 1, 2024

Watch for more information at the start of the second semester!

TIPS ON STAYING UP TO DATE WITH SCHOOL EVENTS

Want to stay informed as "BEST" as possible this school year? Please use the following platforms to help you.

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/charlesbestscho>

Dr. Charles Best Secondary (@charlesbestscho)

2210 Followers, 106 Following, 1430 Posts - See Instagram photos and videos from Dr. Charles Best Secondary (@charlesbestscho)

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/charlesbestpac>

Dr. Charles Best Secondary PAC (@charlesbestpac)

176 Followers, 21 Following, 49 Posts - See Instagram photos and videos from Dr. Charles Best Secondary PAC (@charlesbestpac)

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/charlesbestathletics>

Dr. Charles Best Secondary Athletics (@charlesbestathletics)

909 Followers, 43 Following, 248 Posts - See Instagram photos and videos from Dr. Charles Best Secondary Athletics (@charlesbestathletics)



This is our School App. Download it on the APP Store or get it on Google Play. Please see attached PDF for instructions.

2525 Como Lake Avenue, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 3R8 | Phone: 604-461-5581 | [Contact Us](#)

École Dr. Charles Best Secondary School
School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

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School News

Best Informer June 23

[VIEW ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

District News

SD43 District-level Restructure
The School District 43 (Coquitlam) Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools, Patricia Gartland are pleased to announce important adjustments to the district leadership structure. While the number of...

Superintendent's Year End Letter to SD43 Families

Dear SD43 families, As the 2022-2023 school year draws to a close, I wish to thank all the families that SD43 serves. I am grateful for the support our...

Administrative Appointments Effective July 1, 2023

The district would like to congratulate our newly appointed vice-principals and principals, and thank those that are retiring or leaving the district. Other administrators are moving to new communities...

On the Calendar

Grade 9 Welcome BBQ (including photos)
31 Aug 2023 All Day

ELL Welcome and Assessments
31 Aug 2023 All Day

First Day all students attend homerooms
05 Sep 2023 All Day

[VIEW CALENDAR](#)

Bell Schedule

Period 1	8:16-9:35 am
Period 2	9:40-10:59 am
Period 3	11:05 -12:24 pm
Period 4	12:29-1:49 pm
Period 5	1:54 -3:13 pm

Career Advisory Schedule

Quick Links

- Student Fees
- SD43 Emergency & Inclement Weather Information
- Newsletter
- Cafeteria is open on Monday to Friday from 8:00 - 1:30pm
- Scholarships and Bursaries
- New PAC Website
- Parent Portal
- Club Event Application
- Provincial Assessments
- Absence Report
- Career Centre

BEST STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

This summer the Best Gay-Straight alliance participated in the Vancouver Pride Parade. This was the perfect way to celebrate students' success in advocating for a pride event and pride flag raising in Coquitlam. Students were joined by City Councillor Matt Djonlic, MLA Selina Robinson, MP Bonita Zarrillo, CTA President Ken Christensen and several members of the PAC. The crowd got louder when they saw the Charles Best Banner approaching, many people expressed how delighted they were to see that schools are becoming 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusive. We look forward to chances to participate in the future.



CHARLES BEST ALUMNI DANCING HIS DREAMS ON SAM SMITH GLORIA TOUR

Daniel Atwell, who is a Dr. Charles Best graduate is a dancer on Sam Smith's Gloria Tour. He performed on August 22, at Rogers Arena for Smith's "Unholy" song. Daniel graduated from the Grandville Island dance program in 2013, moved to Quebec to dance with Ballet Jazz Montreal and has been working in New Year and all over Europe ever since. We are so proud of our Dr. Charles Best graduate.

SENIOR SAIL

Grads we are very pleased to let you know we have booked the ship for our Senior Sail on Wednesday, September 27th.

The cost of this event is \$78 and includes transportation to and from the event.

Grads meet at Dr. Charles Best at 4:30 pm. Meet in the gym and get organized to get into the buses waiting to take us Downtown Vancouver. We will be cruising aboard the Queen of Diamonds. Grads will dance with their friends to the tunes supplied by a DJ. Pizza and pop will be supplied but you might want to eat something between after school and the cruise. We will cruise around Vancouver Harbour for 3 hours and then load back into the buses and travel back to Dr. Charles Best. We should be back to Best between 10:15 and 10:30 pm depending on traffic etc.

How do I purchase a ticket? Go to School Cash On-line (on our website same place you pay your fees) Tickets will go on sale starting Sept 1st. There are a limited number of tickets as the boat has a limited capacity. Tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis. If you want to go buy your ticket as soon as soon.

Can I bring a guest? No this is for Dr. Charles Best Grads 2024 only.

Do I have to ride the bus, or can I drive myself? You must take the bus. You can only go if you ride the bus. It's fun! We can sing!

What should I wear? The dress code is semi formal. Not too fancy. It's a night out. It's a special grad activity and you will want to take lots of pictures so dress appropriately. But also, be comfortable. You are travelling on a bus, dancing, eating, going up and down stairs on a moving boat so wear comfortable shoes. There are two floors to hang out and dance and then a top floor that is outside so you might want to bring a coat to wear outside. There is nowhere to store a bag and the security at the docks will check your coats and all bags. Please do not bring any backpacks or bags. (small cross body bags are ok but will also be searched)

This is a school function. All school rules and the District Code of Conduct apply. Please do not make foolish choices on this evening. The company supplies Security who will check every grad. If they find any drugs, alcohol, vapes or weapons they will be confiscated, and you will be sent home at your parents' expense. You cannot vape, smoke or drink on the boat. Please be aware that if you chose to not abide by the rules, you will not be refunded and you will not be able to attend the Grad Dinner Dance in June. You are risking quite a lot – please factor that into your decision making for this event.

The safety and security of all our participants who attend this event is our highest priority. Also, our reputation in the community. Please help us preserve our outstanding reputation and I guarantee you will have more fun as well.

If you have any medical alerts that could relate to this activity, please contact Ms. Fridge kfridge@sd43.bc.ca.

Any questions or concerns- contact Ms. Murphy hmurphy@sd43.bc.ca (principal)

All Aboard!

DR. CHARLES BEST GRADS 2024-SAVE THE DATES

Dinner Dance/After Grad will be held on **Saturday, June 15th 6 pm** at the Fairmont Waterfront Vancouver.

The cost of tickets for this will be assessed and published in April.

Commencement will be held **June 25th 7 pm** at the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver.

Grad Commencement Fee is \$65. This fee covers the cost of your Grad Commencement Gown (royal blue), V-stole, cap and 2024 tassel. You keep all these items. It also includes the cost of the Grad Certificate folders, rental cost of the Orpheum Theatre (Vancouver), flowers, decorations, tickets, program, and other related costs. Payment of this fee orders your Grad Gown – you just have to provide your height information. If you have any issues with this grad related fee, please speak to your VP asap. Thank you.

Commencement fees will be available to be paid on your School Cash Online account beginning next week.

2024 AFTER GRAD FUNDRAISING

2024 After Grad has partnered with 'Return-It' recycling centres to make fundraising for next year extra easy!

- 1) Use Recycle Account – Charles Best AfterGrad 2024
- 2) Use the school's phone # (604-461-5581) when you print labels for your recycling bags.

PAC CORNER

Please join our PAC for the first Parent Advisory Council meeting of the 2023-2024 school year.

It will be held on Monday, September 11 at 7pm in the school library on the second floor.

All parents are welcome-we look forward to seeing you there!