

Parent Communication: Week 1

Sept 2, 2019

We look forward to welcoming your kids on tomorrow!

Reminder: Your child will bring home the following documents:

Fee Statement:

If you have already paid on-line you can disregard this statement.

*The optional PAC donation does not show up on the paper form but is now on-line.

Verification Form:

Please check and confirm that the information is accurate. If so, simply sign and return. Otherwise, make any necessary updates. Students return to their block 2 teachers the following day.

**Grade 9s do not need their laptops for the orientation tomorrow

**If your child will be absent for the first day, please let the office know!

I send home info emails regularly.

*If you do not want to receive the emails just let me know!

The school website and app are also good ways to stay in the loop!

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/heritagewoods/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

App:

Download the **My School Day** app on your phone from the App Store. Follow steps to select our school. It is like carrying the school website around in your pocket. We also send out reminders via text messages through the app.

On September 3rd, Grade 10-12 students will attend at the following times:

8:30-9:30 AM (Gr 10s)

9:30-10:30 AM (Gr 12s)

10:30-11:30 AM (Gr 11s)

*Gr 9s will attend from 9:15-12:30.

Sept 3, 2019

Day 1 is in the books!

Students requesting course changes spoke to Vice-Principals and if the request fit the published criteria, they completed a form that has been submitted to counselors to work on. This will take some time. Classes are extremely tight and one change usually necessitates shuffling multiple courses around. There are many constraints to doing this. In the interim, students should attend the classes that are on their current schedules. Counselors will send an email to each student once attempts are made to satisfy the requests.

*Vice-Principals will be available in the Grand Hall tomorrow from 8:30-9:00 and again at lunch to discuss any potential changes, then that will be it.

We will be holding assemblies during Flex this week with each grade to discuss expectations for the coming year! Topics will include caring for each other and the school, being a Kodiak in our larger community, Flex, on-line behavior, vaping, litter, driving, conduct at school events, Honour Roll, etc....

Understanding Schedules:

Your child received their schedule today and should have received an explanation as to how to read it. However, it is definitely confusing so.....

The vast majority of our students, likely all grade 9s, start their regular classes in Period 2 (at 9:16 am).

Period 1 (8:00 AM) only contains a few classes like Agility, Foods, the odd Senior Science,

Classes like band and choir are assigned odd numbers like Period 8, 11, 16, etc... This just indicates that they occur outside of the regular schedule (like early in the morning or after school). Specific times will be arranged by those teachers.

When you look at the schedule S1 or S2 = Semester 1 or Semester 2.

2 (Day1-Day2) = Period 2

3 (Day1-Day) = Period 3

Ignore the Day1/Day2. It is meant to delineate classes that occur every other day. We do not have those but the system does not allow us to delete that line.

Digital Literacy happens outside of the normal schedule. Students will be called to meet several times throughout the year during Flex (which occurs from 10:30-11:00 AM each day) and then complete assignments to be submitted on-line. More info to follow on this.

As per the bell schedule I sent out earlier and is posted on the website, Period 2 starts at 9:16.

Sept 4, 2019

Since I inadvertently caused some confusion by sending out the district calendar which contained some incorrect dates, I thought I would send this complete/correct list out.

*All schools have 6 Pro-D days. These days are in addition to the 180 instructional days. All schools in our district share 4 of the days and then individually select 2 dates for school-based planning. This means that if you have children in multiple schools they may not necessarily share these same 2 dates (although the January date is fairly common). Hope this helps.

Heritage Woods Secondary School Pro-D Dates 2019-2020

September 20, 2019

October 25, 2019

January 27, 2020 (school based)

February 28, 2020

April 17, 2020

May 15, 2020 (school based)

Sept 5, 2019

Eforms:

The Eforms are now posted to School Cash On-Line. Even if you have already paid your fees, please log back in and review and check off the School Policy Form as it is mandatory.

*The Volunteer and Driver forms are optional.

<https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com/Home/Index>

English Courses:

The new BC curriculum was designed to provide students with more choices in the area of English.

For all grade 10s at HWSS, students earn 2 credits for composition and an additional 2 credits for either Literary Studies or New Media (these were the 2 modules that received enough enrolment to run the classes). All of the material is covered in the respective course (ie: Lit Studies 10 or New Media 10), but it shows up on the schedule and report card as two 2 credit courses, which is a bit confusing.

At the grade 11 level this year, students chose between Composition, Lit Studies and New Media.

The content in the different courses is similar, but with a different flavour/theme added to each module.

**When the curriculum was first introduced there was some question about whether UBC would accept all of the variations, they have since come into line with the other institutions and stated that they will be accepting all of the Gr 11 courses for admission purposes (Gr 10 courses are not considered at all for admissions at this time).

Vaping Products Information for Families

We will be discussing Vaping at our grade assemblies this week.

Main messages: It is illegal for students to purchase Vapes. It is against district policy to possess Vapes on school grounds. Students found Vaping will face automatic suspension. The biggest issue seems to be Vaping in washrooms, which are difficult to supervise. Our expectation is that students do not hang around in groups in washrooms. This makes it uncomfortable for students wanting to use the washroom for its purpose. If we find students loitering in washrooms their parents will be contacted.

The potential health risks associated with Vaping is discussed in PHE 9 and the Careers 10 courses, but it really is a conversation that needs to happen at home.

*The use of vaping products by youth is becoming increasingly common and has been making the news headlines as of late, particularly in terms of health effects. There are some misconceptions about the aerosol (vapour or cloud) produced, and currently the long-term health effects are largely unknown. As caregivers, you can connect and discuss issues around vaping products with your child. Read more [here](#).

Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation

Government has approved the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation requiring parents or guardians to report the vaccination status of their school-age children. This regulation comes into force on July 1, 2019 and public health units will begin implementation of the regulation in September of 2019. Read more [here](#).

Welcome Back Letters

Minister of Education Rob Fleming wishes all students and their families all the best for the year ahead. Read more [here](#).

SD43 Superintendent of Schools Patricia Gartland welcomes all students back to school. Read more [here](#).

Sept 6, 2019

The first week is in the books! We met with the Gr 9s, 10s and 11s this week during Flex. Great groups of kids! We will meet with the Gr 12s on Tuesday.

*A question I posed to them: *When you ask me to write you a reference letter, what can I say you contributed to making HWSS a better place?*

FLEX

We had 'Assigned Flex' this week in order to get the kids into the routine of being in their classes during Flex. They went to their P2 class Tuesday, P3 Wednesday, P4 Thursday, etc....

Starting next week they will be able to choose any class in their schedule. Flex occurs between 10:30-11:00AM. So, for instance, if they are struggling in Math, they can go to that class and use that 30 minutes per day to catch up, get extra help, etc.. It is also a good time to meet classmates to do group work, etc.....

This is instructional time and a chance for kids to take control of their own learning and use the time to maximize their understanding and performance. It is not a break.

Automated Attendance System:

Typically, when students are absent, we have an automated system that emails parents letting them know. However, the service we were using has been discontinued and we are waiting for the district to secure a contract with a new provider. In the meantime, we will have to rely on communication between teachers, administrators and parents. I will update when we have a timeline for the replacement system being in place.

*If your child is going to be absent please call the office or complete the form on the website.

Have a great weekend!

Todd Clerkson

Principal

HWSS