

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2024 - VOLUME 1



We are thrilled you chose to be a Highlander!

This step into high school marks an important transition and milestone, and we are here to support you and watch you thrive.

SEPTEMBER DATES:



2: LABOUR DAY

3: SCHOOL OPENS: GR. 8 MEET AT **SOUTH CAMPUS**

3: SCHOOL PHOTOS

4: REGULAR SCHEDULE BEGINS AT 8:30AM

5: REGULAR SCHEDULE

6: GRADE 8 TEAM BUILDING DAY – PINNACLE PURSUITS

19: MEET THE TEACHER

20: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

30: NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



Opening Week

PRIOR TO SEPT. 3:

- Please complete the school district Policy and Procedures Form: <https://eforms.sd45.bc.ca/Account/Login?rr=Form/PandP>
- If you have any questions about this form, please contact ravontis@wvsschools.ca

TUESDAY, SEPT. 3:

- Gr. 8 students: Please arrive at the **South Campus between 8:10–8:25am** to check in prior to a short presentation in the **south gym at 8:30am**.
- Following the presentation, students receive a WVSS Athletic T-Shirt, then meet their Day 1, Block 2 teacher.
 - They will receive their timetable, an overview of what to expect, and have their school photos taken.
 - Students will receive **permission forms for the Sept. 6 Team Building day which must be returned asap to the South Campus Office.**
 - Students also meet their senior mentors.
- Dismissal is approximately **10:20am from the South Campus**.
- No school supplies needed today.
- Drop off and pick up is at 1735 Inglewood Ave.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- A 3 Ring Binder, with lined paper and pencil/pen is sufficient for Wednesday.
- Teachers will discuss specific supplies needed during the first week of classes.
- We recommend students have their own laptop or Chromebook to use daily at school. Please see the district's policy on Personal Digital Devices on pg.4.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6: GRADE 8 CULTURE BUILDING EVENT!

- The entire grade 8 class will engage in team-building activities with fellow students and staff.
- The event will be held rain or shine.
- Students dress with their House Shirt, with extra layers for the weather, if necessary.
- Bring a water bottle. Lunch is provided.
- **ACTION ITEM FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:**
 - Please sign the permission form that students will receive on Tuesday Sept 3 and return it to the South Campus Office by Thurs. Sept. 5 at 8:30am.





Administration/Counselling Team

- Mr. Rauh: Principal**.....(srauh@wvschools.ca)
- Ms. Towers: Grade 10/11 Vice Principal**.....(jtowers@wvschools.ca)
- Ms. Frith: Grade 8/9 Vice Principal**.....(sfrith@wvschools.ca)
- Ms. Rice: Grade 8/9 Counsellor**.....(arice@wvschools.ca)
- Mr. Chan: Youth Worker**.....(ichan@wvschools.ca)
- Ms. Krieger: South Campus Office Admin**..... (tkrieger@wvschools.ca)

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We encourage all of you to get involved in our school community whether it be through **CLUBS, MUSIC, ART, DRAMA, INTRAMURALS, STUDENT COUNCIL OR ATHLETICS**. Stay tuned for more information coming up.

ATHLETICS

Athletics updates:

- **Athletics Bulletin Board:** Information and team meeting dates are posted on the athletics bulletin board on the main campus (in between new and old gyms)
- The South Campus will also have information specific for Grade 8s.
- Instagram: Check out @wvss_athletics onfor season updates and scores.
- **Athletic Directors: Ms. McKee & Mr. MacGillivray** are here to answer your questions! - jmcKee@wvschools.ca & cmacgillivray@wvschools.ca

Fall Sports: Tryout dates will be posted on the Athletic Bulletin Board

- Volleyball (Girls)
- Cross-Country (Co-Ed)
- Field Hockey (Girls)
- Soccer (Boys)
- Rugby (Boys)



West Vancouver Schools

Personal Digital Devices (PDD) Best Practice Guidelines

Personal Digital Devices include any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as cell phones, phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches and any other portable technology device.



Laptops are the preferred device for school use.

Plans and Routines

- Have a plan for personal digital devices use in your classroom.
- Have a place for students to store their devices when not in use
- Have a process for how you will handle students who choose not to follow expectations

Communication

- Direct teach your digital device expectations to all of your students and make sure it is posted and visible in your teaching space
- Make sure students understand your expectations and the consequences of not following them
- Refer to your digital device policy often, especially after winter and spring break
- Make sure you have communicated your digital device expectations and consequences to parents/guardians

Classroom Environment

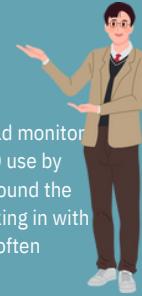
- If there is no instructional purpose, technology should not be used
- Before using tech, be clear with your purpose and connection to instruction
- Be clear on expectations for use as well as consequences for misuse
- Begin class with technology turned off
- When the teacher is speaking or direct instruction is occurring, student devices should be closed, clam-shelled or turned over
- Students should not be using devices in unsupervised areas like hallways
- Be consistent with your actions and instructions

Where possible, involve students in developing class expectations around PDD use



Teachers should model proper PDD use

Teachers should monitor student PDD use by wandering around the class and checking in with students often



- Ensure that all adults working with students are aware of the expectations for PDD

Elementary

Cell phones should NOT be used in elementary



Secondary

Cell phones should only be used in class if specifically required for a learning task