



Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year! OPENING DAY—TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

RETURNING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017—2 HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL

All elementary schools in the Cowichan Valley (including Grades 4-7 at Lake Cowichan School) will dismiss two hours early on the first day. This allows for new enrolments to be carefully considered and enrolled for success.

Most schools will post information regarding the first day on their website or social media pages—we encourage you to check for any changes to your school's normal dismissal time for this year.

RETURNING SECONDARY STUDENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017—2 HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL

All secondary schools will dismiss two hours early on the first day.

FIRST DAY ATTENDANCE—to help manage enrolment and registration, attendance on the first day is limited to the following:

- **Frances Kelsey Secondary** – Grades 8, 9 and new students
- **Lake Cowichan School** – All Students
- **Cowichan Secondary (Quamichan Campus)** – Grade 8 students
- **Cowichan Secondary (James Street Campus)** – Grade 10 students
- **Chemainus Secondary** – Grade 8 and new students

Detailed program and course information is available at each school. Students must be registered and course assignments resolved before the first day of classes. Counselors are available at the school from Aug. 28th to Sept. 1st.

OPEN LEARNING STUDENTS

Cowichan Valley Open Learning Co-op (CVOLC) students start school on the following days:

- **Returning students:** Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 9:00 a.m.
- **New students:** Friday, Sept. 8th at 9:00 a.m.

Students in a satellite open learning program will be contacted by their teacher before school starts.

OUT-OF-AREA REQUESTS

The Cowichan Valley School District is growing, and with the restored class size and composition requirements there is limited availability for out-of-catchment requests. **If you have submitted a request and have not yet received approval, please go to your neighbourhood school for the first day.** Every effort will be made to inform families of availability by the end of the first week of school.

NEW STUDENTS

Welcome to the Cowichan Valley School District! Please use the school locator tool to find your neighbourhood school (www.sd79.bc.ca - under Student Registration). This is the school you will register your child at. If your child will be registered at Thetis Island School, your registration is done at Chemainus Elementary Community School.

Registration requirements are set by the Ministry of Education. We require evidence of the student's birth certificate or passport, as well as the parent's identification and proof of residency (a BC Care Card is **not** an acceptable form of ID). Parents should accompany the student. Please bring the student's most recent report showing final marks to help facilitate proper placement. Schools are open for registration beginning Aug. 28th.

KINDERGARTEN

All schools in our district offer full-day Kindergarten. **Kindergarten students start with a gradual entry to better support their transition into school.** Please register by contacting your school. Children entering Kindergarten in September must be five-years-old by Dec. 31, 2017. We require the student's birth certificate or passport, as well as the parent's identification and proof of residency (a BC Care Card is **not** an acceptable form of ID).

STUDENTS WITH DIVERSE LEARNING NEEDS

If you feel that your child might need specialized support during the school year, please connect with your school Principal.

BUS REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULES

All students requiring bus service for the 2017-18 school year must register for busing. Registration information is available on the school district website (www.sd79.bc.ca - under Transportation). **There are no transportation fees.** Students who are registered can view their bus schedule and registration information on the website through e-Link.

Routes are registration driven, so times change as registrations are received. For the most up-to-date information, please check the schedule as close to the first day of school as possible. Bus routes and times are subject to change; please have your child at the bus stop five minutes prior to the scheduled time. You can also follow us on Twitter (@TransportSD79) for updates.

For registered students, bus passes will be available at the student's school beginning Aug. 28th. The transportation office will re-open on Aug. 28th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you have any questions about busing, please call 250-748-1066 ext. 276.

Visit www.sd79.bc.ca for more information.

We are excited to begin the 2017-18 school year—welcome back!