



Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year! OPENING DAY—TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

RETURNING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018—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 placed 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 4, 2018—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
- **Quamichan School** – Grade 8 students
- **Cowichan Secondary** – Grade 10 students and new 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. 27th to Aug. 31st.

OPEN LEARNING STUDENTS

Cowichan Valley Open Learning Co-op (CVOLC) students at all sites will be contacted by their teacher for their own specific schedule for the week and a meeting will be scheduled for Student Learning Plan creation. No regularly scheduled classes in the first week.

THE GROVE (DISTRIBUTED LEARNING)

During the first two weeks of September, the Distributed Learning teachers will be contacting new and returning families for intake meetings and Student Learning Plans. The Grove (CVLDL) Learning Lab hours and blended learning classes will commence the week of September 17th. We are still accepting new enrolments for our K to 12 program. Please visit our new website for more information: <http://grovecvdl.sd79.bc.ca>

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 the child's Canadian birth certificate, status card or passport, as well as the parent's identification and proof of residency (such as a BC Services Card). Students without Canadian documentation and/or proof of B.C. residency will be redirected to the Principal of International Education located at Cowichan Secondary School. 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. 27th.

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 (such as a BC Services Card).

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.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION SELF-IDENTIFICATION

If your child has Aboriginal ancestry, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class. If you would like more information, please visit our website at <http://abed.sd79.bc.ca/faq>.

BUS REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULES

All students requiring bus service for the 2018-19 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. 27th. The transportation office will re-open on Aug. 27th 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 2018-2019 school year—welcome back!