

Welcome to the 2025/2026 School Year!

All schools on Tuesday September 2nd will finish 2 hours earlier than their normal dismissal time.

RETURNING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Tuesday, September 2nd

All elementary schools in the Cowichan Valley (including Grades 4-7 at Lake Cowichan School) will be open for a partial day on Tuesday September 2nd. Elementary schools will begin at normal start times on September 2nd and will dismiss two hours early.

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 bell schedule for the year.

RETURNING SECONDARY STUDENTS

Tuesday, September 2nd (9 am-1:15 pm) and Wednesday, September 3rd (9 am-3:15 pm)

To help support with student orientation, attendance on the first two days are limited to the following:

- Frances Kelsey Secondary – Sept 2nd – Grade 8s and students who are new to FKSS only. Sept 3rd – ALL Students – regular school day.
- Quw'utsun Secondary – Sept 2nd – Grade 10s and new to QSS students only. Sept 3rd – ALL Students.
- Chemainus Secondary – Sept 2nd – Grade 7s only. Sept 3rd – ALL Students.
- Lake Cowichan School – Sept 2nd – Grades 4-8. Sept 3rd – ALL Students.
- Quamichan School – Sept 2nd – Grade 8s only. Sept 3rd – ALL Students.

All secondary schools will send information regarding the first two days via email or post on their website or social media pages, we encourage you to check in with your principal should you have any questions. Detailed program and course information is available at each school. Counselors are available prior to the start of school, please phone your school to make an appointment.

OPEN LEARNING STUDENTS

Cowichan Valley Open Learning Co-op (CVOLC) and satellite open learning centre students start school on the following days:

- Teachers will be contacting families to set up individual Student Learning Plan meetings with families for September 3rd to 5th. Regular class attendance will begin on September 8th.

THE GROVE DISTRIBUTED LEARNING

Students in Grades K to 9:

- K-9 students who were registered with The Grove last school year will be contacted by a teacher between September 2nd and 5th to arrange a meeting to review their annual Student Learning Plan. These meetings will be held between September 8th and 19th.
- For students who registered over the summer (after June 30th) and families already on the waitlist, Grove staff will contact you during the week of September 8th to inform you of your status (waitlisted or accepted). Teachers will follow up shortly after to schedule a Student Learning Plan meeting.
- Blended learning classes will start on September 22nd.
- Class lists may not be finalized until October.

Students in Grades 10 to 12:

- Students who were cross-enrolled with The Grove for Grade 10-12 Distributed Learning last school year will be contacted by their online teachers between September 2nd and 12th to confirm their teacher and active course status.

- Students in Grades 10-12 who registered as cross-enrolled over the summer will be contacted between September 2nd and 12th to confirm their new courses and teachers at The Grove.
- Grade 10-12 students who are registered only at The Grove (not at another district school) will also be contacted by an academic advisor or administration to schedule a Student Learning Plan and Graduation Plan meeting. These meetings will be held between September 8th and 19th.

Students with CVPAA (at Adage), Grades 8 to 12:

- You will meet with academic advisors and staff to schedule a Student Learning Plan and Graduation Plan meeting the week of September 2nd and 5th. These meetings will be held between September 8th and 19th.

OUT OF AREA REQUESTS

There is limited availability in our schools 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 and check in with your principal. Every effort will be made to inform families of availability by the end of the second week of school. This information will come from the school principal.

NEW STUDENTS

Welcome to the Cowichan Valley School District! Please use the school locator tool to find your neighbourhood school click [here](#) or visit the school district website (www.sd79.bc.ca - under Schools). 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 School.

Registration requirements are set by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. We require the child's Canadian birth certificate 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 Vancouver Island University Cowichan Campus, 2003 University Way, North Cowichan. 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 August 25th. Please call your school to set up an appointment. Online registration is available by [clicking here](#).

KINDERGARTEN

We look forward to welcoming our Kindergarten students! Kindergarten students begin the year with a gradual entry to better support their transition into school. Schools will be sharing with parents specific information related to the gradual entry schedule via email. If you have not heard from your child's school, please reach out to the school.

If you have not yet registered, please contact your neighbourhood school. If you are unsure of your home school or would like more registration information, click [here](#) or visit the school district website (www.sd79.bc.ca - under Schools). Children entering Kindergarten in September must be five years old by Dec. 31, 2025. 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 are new to the Cowichan Valley, and you feel your child may require specialized support or resources for diverse learning needs, please register for your neighbourhood school and provide any medical documentation or assessments with your registration package. Families are also encouraged to speak directly with the school principal during the week of August 25th. The principal of the school will collaborate with families and school/district teams to ensure that necessary supports are in place for a

smooth transition. From August 11th-25th, families may also email Darlene Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent, at dereynolds@sd79.bc.ca.

BUS REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULES

All students requiring bus service for the 2025-2026 school year must register between May 1st-31st. Registration information is available on the school district website, click [here](#) or visit (www.sd79.bc.ca - under Services/Transportation). Routes are based on registration received between May 1st-31st. Eligible riders will be sent an email mid-August with routing and bus pass information. All student information will be available on My Ride K-12 app for parents and guardians to view.

For the most up-to-date information, please check My Ride K-12 app as close to the first day of school, for any possible schedule changes. Please have your student at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled time for the month of September.

Any delays in routing more than 10 minutes will be messaged out via My Ride K-12 app and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CowichanSchools>.

The transportation office is open from 9am-1pm July 2nd-August 15th, resuming to full operating hours August 18, 2025 8:30am-4:30pm. If you have any questions regarding busing, please email transportationregistration@sd79.bc.ca or call 250-748-1066 ext. 276.