

Welcome to the 2026/2027 School Year!

NOTE: On September 8th all schools will have two-hour early dismissal.

RETURNING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Tuesday, September 8th

All elementary schools in the Cowichan Valley (including Grades 4-7 at Lake Cowichan School) will be open on September 8th. Elementary schools will have a **two-hour early dismissal**. 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 8th and Wednesday, September 9th

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

- Frances Kelsey Secondary – Sept 8th – Grade 8s and students who are new to FKSS only. Sept 9th – ALL students – regular school day.
- Quw'utsun Secondary – Sept 8th – Grade 10s and new to QSS students only. Sept 9th – ALL students – regular day.
- Chemainus Secondary – Sept 8th – ALL students. Sept 9th – ALL students.
- Lake Cowichan School – Sept 8th – Grades 4-8. Sept 9th – ALL students.
- Quamichan School – Sept 8th – Grade 8s only. Sept 9th – 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.

BLENDED LEARNING PROGRAMS GRADES K-9

- Students who were registered with The Grove last school year will be contacted by a teacher between September 8th–11th to schedule a meeting to review their Student Learning Plan (SLP) meeting.
- Meetings will take place between September 9th–25th.
- Students who registered after June 30th will be contacted to continue the registration process between September 9th–25th.
- Blended learning classes begin September 28th.
- Please note that class lists may not be finalized until October.

ONLINE LEARNING GRADES 10-12

- Full-time Grove students will be contacted the week of August 31st–September 4th to schedule their Student Learning Plan and Graduation Plan meetings.
- These meetings will take place between September 8th–19th.
- Students who were cross-enrolled last school year will be contacted between September 8th–11th to confirm their course status.
- Students who registered for cross-enrollment over the summer will also be contacted between September 8th–11th to confirm their courses and teachers.

COWICHAN VALLEY PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY, GRADES 8–12

- Students will meet with their teachers the week of September 8th–11th for their Student Learning Plan and Graduation Plan meetings.
- Classes begin September 14th.
- Inquiries can be directed to vmacdowell@sd79.bc.ca

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 31st. 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, 2026. 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 31st. 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 17th–31st, families may also email Ann Kissinger, Director of Instruction, at akissinger@sd79.bc.ca.

BUS REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULES

All students requiring bus service for the 2026-2027 school year should have registered between April 15th–May 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 April 15th–May 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.

New students who require Transportation services who enter the school district after May 31st must email transportationregistration@sd79.bc.ca with all applicable information. New students will be given priority if space is allowed on their catchment school bus. Alternate arrangement will need to be made until confirmation of bus services is provided.

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 14th, resuming to full operating hours August 17, 2026 8:30am-4:30pm. If you have any questions regarding busing, please email transportationregistration@sd79.bc.ca or call 250-748-1066 ext. 276.