



Chilliwack Secondary School | [SCHOOL START-UP INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES](#)

## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME MESSAGE



Hello CSS Families! My name is Danielle Wicker and I am so excited to be the new principal of Chilliwack Secondary School. We hope you had an amazing summer that has you refreshed and ready for an exciting school year at CSS. **In this email you will find important information for the start of our school year including links to important documents that require parent signatures.** We believe it takes all of us (staff, students, parents, and community) to create an amazing school. Let's work together to make CSS the most respectful, inclusive, caring, and innovative environment possible!

## GRADE 9 LINK WELCOME DAY – WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>

We are thrilled to be offering the Grade 9 Link program at CSS. All Grade 9 students are strongly encouraged to attend their session of [Link Welcome Day on Wednesday August 31st](#).

- 9:00 am – 11:00 am – Student Last Names beginning with **A-L**
- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Student Last Names beginning with **M-Z**

The Link program is an orientation and mentoring program for Grade 9 students run by carefully trained Grade 11 & 12 students. The Link program helps transition Grade 9 students to CSS in a fun, supportive, and informative way. Grade 9 students will meet their Link Leaders, participate in fun activities, have a tour of our school as well as receive their timetable.

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH - 8:29 AM TO 10:54 AM

The first day of school is a partial day. Students will come into the CSS Grand Hall in the center of our school to find Period 1 Class Lists organized by Grade Level. Students will look at the Class Lists to find their Last Name. The Period 1 Class Lists will indicate the teacher, class, and room number our students should go to. All of the Link Leaders and our Staff Members will be there to help students find their name and class.

Once students are in their Period 1 Class, we will begin a Mini-Cycle. This means students will rotate to all of their Semester One and Linear Courses this day. Don't worry, the Period 1 Teachers will help students figure out where they are going.

On the first day of school, we will also have a brief School-Wide Welcome Message and Free Welcome BBQ!

Busses are running 4 hours early on the first day of school. Busses will arrive at 10:54am; however, bus students may want to make alternate transportation arrangements so they can enjoy more time at our Welcome BBQ.

<b>First Day of School Schedule</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>8:24am</b>	<b>Warning Bell</b> ➤ Before this time, find name on class lists in Grand Hall
<b>8:29am – 9:14am 45 min</b>	<b>Period 1, Lockers, Timetables, and Welcome Message</b> ➤ Welcome & Get to Know Students ➤ Share Brief Course Information ➤ Assign Lockers ➤ Timetable Distribution & Explanation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bell Schedule</li> <li>○ Semester and Linear classes</li> </ul> ➤ Review of Mini-Cycle and Today's Schedule ➤ <b>Play Welcome Message Video (5 minutes)</b>
<b>9:14am – 9:19am 5 min</b>	<b>Change Periods – Head to Next Period Class</b>
<b>9:19am – 9:39am 20 min</b>	<b>Period 2</b> ➤ Welcome and Get to Know Students ➤ Share Brief Course Information ➤ If Semester Course, keep students for entire period ➤ If Linear Course, send students to their Day 2 location when announced on PA (approximately 9:29am)
<b>9:39am – 9:44am 5 min</b>	<b>Change Periods – Head to Next Period Class</b>
<b>9:44am – 10:04am 20 min</b>	<b>Period 3</b> ➤ Welcome and Get to Know Students ➤ Share Brief Course Information ➤ If Semester Course, keep students for entire period ➤ If Linear Course, send students to their Day 2 location when announced on PA (approximately 10:54am)
<b>10:04am – 10:09am 5 min</b>	<b>Change Periods – Head to Next Period Class</b>
<b>10:09am – 10:29am 20 min</b>	<b>Period 4</b> ➤ Welcome and Get to Know Students ➤ Share Brief Course Information ➤ Ensure students with Linear Classes know their Day 2 classes
<b>10:29am – 12:15pm 106 min</b>	<b>BBQ for Staff and Students</b> ➤ <b>Bus Students Picked Up at 10:54am</b> - Grab food quickly before leaving!

## TIMETABLES:

Grade 9-12 timetables will be available for students when they arrive at their first period class. A list of each first period class will be posted in the Grand Hall, sorted by Grade for student reference. Please note timetables are created from the student course requests (including alternates) submitted last February/March. At times, due to conflicts in the timetables, student's first requests are not possible and alternate courses are used. If there is a concern with your timetable (an error, missing graduation requirement or important changes needed for future goals) please email your counsellor with the appropriate request. These will be processed in the order in which they are received. Elective and teacher changes will not be considered at this time. We appreciate your patience as we process a high volume of requests. Our counsellors find it more efficient to respond to emails and will offer appointments when and if things are too complicated to resolve by email. Counsellors are assigned to students based on their last names:

<b>A - E</b>	Ms. Stephanie Linau	(email: <a href="mailto:stephanie_linau@sd33.bc.ca">stephanie_linau@sd33.bc.ca</a> )
<b>F - L</b>	Mr. Chris Olafson	(email: <a href="mailto:chris_olafson@sd33.bc.ca">chris_olafson@sd33.bc.ca</a> )
<b>M- SH</b>	Mrs. Sarah Lee	(email: <a href="mailto:sarah_lee@sd33.bc.ca">sarah_lee@sd33.bc.ca</a> )
<b>SI - Z</b>	Ms. Jodie Cornell	(email: <a href="mailto:jodie_cornell@sd33.bc.ca">jodie_cornell@sd33.bc.ca</a> )

## ATTENDANCE:

Success in school is directly linked to attendance! Students who are chronically absent (miss 10% of classes) fall significantly behind academically and have a higher risk of dropping out. We need your help, a unified message on the importance of being in school and attending class goes a long way. We will use the following ways to communicate attendance issues:

- Our daily phone dialer will alert you to your child's absence from school. (please ensure we have the best number to reach you at in our system). Students default to present in their classes and have to be actively changed to late or absent. It is rare for the phone dialer to phone as an error. If you child is repeatedly telling you that the dialer is calling in error please contact the classroom teacher right away to find out why.
- We will send home monthly attendance reports for students with chronic absences
- Feel free to contact the school if you have any questions about attendance and to report excused absences.

Our goal is to help your child graduate and prepare for their next step, being here on a regular basis is KEY.

## FLEX BLOCK:

Flex is a 45 minute block of time every Tuesday and Thursday before Period 1. Students and teachers will be given a choice each week on where they wish to go. We will send information out in September about how students and teachers will make Flex Block choices using our My Flex App.

Flex Block is a **mandatory instructional time** at Chilliwack Secondary. Flex is a 2-credit course where attendance is taken and monitored. In other words, Flex is not a free block of time and students must be in class.

In Flex Block students can:

- Revisit concepts and get additional teacher support
- Have time for making up assignments, tests, or projects
- Do extension activities
- New learning

## BELL SCHEDULE:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Bell Schedule	
TIME	PERIOD
8:29 – 9:51	Period 1 - (82)
9:51 – 9:56	Change (5)
9:56 – 11:17	Period 2 – (81)
11:17– 12:02	Lunch – (45)
12:02 – 12:07	Transition time (5)
12:07 – 1:28	Period 3 (81)
1:28 – 1:33	Change (5)
1:33 – 2:54	Period 4 (81)

Tuesday and Thursday Flex Day Bell Schedule	
TIME	PERIOD
8:29 – 9:14	Flex (45)
9:14 – 9:19	Change (5)
9:19 – 10:29	Period 1 - (70)
10:29 – 10:34	Change (5)
10:34 – 11:44	Period 2 – (70)
11:44 – 12:29	Lunch – (45)
12:29 – 1:39	Period 3 (70)
1:39 – 1:44	Change (5)
1:44 – 2:54	Period 4 (70)

## FORMS AND PERMISSION CLICK:

On September 1 you will receive a link by email from Permission Click that asks you to read our computer policy. Ensure you open the document and complete the form by providing a digital signature. Important information is provided in the links below. Please read, review and complete any applicable form :

- Career Education overview
- Aboriginal self-declaration form
- Summary of important dates
- Leadership /Student Council /PE Leadership application forms
- Demographics Change Verification/Change Form
- MYed student/parent portal sign in process

## MyEDUCATION BC

Please ensure you log into MyEducation BC to review your schedule and demographic information for the 2022-23 school year. Please email [css-officestaff@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:css-officestaff@sd33.bc.ca) with any changes to your demographic information. You can find instructions on how to access MyEducation BC on our website, under Student & Parents, if you require assistance. MyEducation BC is where you can access student marks as well.

## CALENDAR:

The CSS calendar of school events is located on our website. Please take some time to note the dates for reporting periods, holidays, parent/teacher interviews and other important events.

## CODE OF CONDUCT:

The CSS website includes our Code of Conduct and progressive discipline policy. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the site and review this information with your student. You can find the link to the Student Handbook here and on our school website. Our aim is to create a safe learning environment for all.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

CSS allows each classroom teacher to establish classroom expectations to maximize learning. Although devices can be a valuable resource in the classroom (when used appropriately) they can also be a distraction and at times pose a threat. **We do reserve the right to restrict students from the use of electronic devices in and around the school if concerns persist.** Parents are encouraged to review appropriate uses with their son or daughter and to be vigilant in understanding what their child has access to. To help your child build the best digital reputation and help keep them safe check out <http://www.safeonline.ca/> for valuable tips.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

School supply lists are not provided; if teachers have specific school supply requests, they will let your student know during the first week of classes.

## FEES

CSS is pleased to offer families the convenience to remit payment online using our Fee Management system ACORN. Here you can view your payment history, print receipts and pay selected school fees. Make fee payments for all middle/high school students in your family at one time. STORM BUCKS can be purchased and added to your students account. These gift cards are sold in increments and can be used at the school stores. A breakdown of the current 2022-2023 Student Fees can be found on our website.

## ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Chilliwack School District or Schools Protection Program (SPP) does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities. Parents/Guardians are responsible for these expenses. iA Financial Group offers a comprehensive accident insurance plan with a critical illness component designed for the whole family.

The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for supplementing costs not covered by your provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Regardless of the size of your family, all eligible family members can be insured under one set monthly rate.

To apply or to find out more, visit [solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc](https://solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc)

## YEARBOOKS:

Remember to buy your yearbook early. They are \$45.00 when purchased prior to December 31, 2022. Books purchased January 1- February 28, 2023 will be increased to \$55.00. [Books must be paid in full prior to February 28 in order to receive your yearbook in June.](#)

## SCENT AWARE ZONE:

CSS will attempt to limit the number of scents entering the building through our air. Environmental sensitivities is a diagnosed disability and students and staff that attend CSS each day experience the following range of symptoms as a result of their sensitivity: headaches dizziness, lightheaded nausea fatigue weakness shortness of breath upper respiratory symptoms, skin irritation and scents can trigger allergic or asthmatic patients. We ask that students limit the use of perfume and cologne and choose scent free options for the following products whenever possible: make up, shampoo, conditioner, and deodorants

## NEIGHBORHOOD CONSTRUCTION

Here you find a site map that shows the construction area over the next few months within our school neighborhood. This map can also be viewed on our website. The traffic disruption may cause delays in your commute to school. Please be aware and plan accordingly.

Let's co-create an awesome year and a fantastic school experience! Welcome back!

Sincerely,



Danielle Wicker, Principal



Website:  
<https://css.sd33.bc.ca/>



Contact:  
604-795-7295



Email:  
[css-officestaff@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:css-officestaff@sd33.bc.ca)