



## CHILLIWACK SECONDARY SCHOOL

### START-UP INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

#### PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME MESSAGE



Hello CSS Families! My name is Danielle Wicker and I am proud to be the 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 information booklet you will find important details about the start of our school year including links to documents that require parent/guardian signatures. We believe it takes all of us (staff, students, parents, and community) to create an amazing school. We want to work together to ensure CSS is the most respectful, inclusive, caring, and innovative learning environment possible.

Once again, we are asking our entire school community to focus on attendance. Attendance is crucial to school success at school. We want our students in each class every day. There are no days that students aren't expected to attend unless you have been specifically notified in our Storm Watch weekly message. You will always know if there has been a class absence by listening to absent reports that are sent to your phone. Research tells us that when students miss just two days per month, they become more at risk for not graduating. We want every young person at CSS to have the best opportunity for graduation and a flourishing life. Let's work together to ensure student success. Please contact us if you have any challenges and we will be glad to assist you.

The entire CSS Team is looking forward to having an incredible year with our students and families!

#### GRADE 9 LINK ORIENTATION AND WELCOME DAY – THURSDAY AUGUST 28<sup>th</sup>

We are thrilled to be offering the Grade 9 Link program at CSS. All Grade 9 students are strongly encouraged to attend **Link Orientation and Welcome Day on Thursday August 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am - 12:00pm. Meet in the front foyer.**

Link 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 and receive their timetable.

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND - 8:30 AM TO 10:30 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. Period 1 Class Lists will indicate the teacher, class, and room number our students should go to. Our Link Leaders and Staff Members will be there to help students find their name and class.

Once students are in their Period 1 Class, students get to attend each of their Semester One and Linear Courses to meet their new teachers. 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 10:53am; however, bus students may want to make alternate transportation arrangements so they can enjoy our Welcome BBQ longer.

First Day of School Schedule	
Time	Activity
8:25am	<b>Warning Bell</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Find name (by last name) on class lists (by grade level) in Grand Hall</li> </ul>
8:30am – 9:15am 45 min	<b>Period 1 - Lockers, Timetables, and Welcome Message</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Meet Teacher and learn a little about the class</li> <li>➤ Get locker assignments</li> <li>➤ Timetable &amp; Schedule Distribution &amp; Explanation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bell Schedule explanation</li> <li>○ Semester &amp; Linear class explanation</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Review of Today's Schedule (help students know where to go)</li> <li>➤ <b>Play Welcome Message Video (8 minutes)</b></li> </ul>
9:15am – 9:20am 5 min	<b>Change Periods – Head to Next Period Class</b>
9:20am – 9:40am 20 min	<b>Period 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Meet Teacher and learn a little about the class</li> <li>➤ For Linear Courses, students will go to their Day 2 location when announced on PA (approximately 9:30am)</li> </ul>
9:40am – 9:45am 5 min	<b>Change Periods – Head to Next Period Class</b>
9:45am – 10:05am 20 min	<b>Period 3</b> Meet Teacher and learn a little about the class
10:05am – 10:10am 5 min	<b>Change Periods – Head to Next Period Class</b>
10:10am – 10:30am 20 min	<b>Period 4</b> Meet Teacher and learn a little about the class
10:30am – 12:15pm 105 min	<b>Free BBQ for Staff and Students</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Bus Students Picked Up at 10:53am</b> - Grab food quickly before leaving!</li> </ul>

## 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 then Last Name 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; they 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 - F</b>	Ms. Stephanie Linau	email: <a href="mailto:stephanie_linau@sd33.bc.ca">stephanie_linau@sd33.bc.ca</a>
<b>G - M</b>	Mrs. Sarah Lee	email: <a href="mailto:sarah_lee@sd33.bc.ca">sarah_lee@sd33.bc.ca</a>
<b>N - Z</b>	Mr. Michael Cameron	email: <a href="mailto:michael_cameron@sd33.bc.ca">michael_cameron@sd33.bc.ca</a>

### Access & International Program Students

Ms. Jillian Whitley	email: <a href="mailto:jillian_whitley@sd33.bc.ca">jillian_whitley@sd33.bc.ca</a>
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## PHOTO DAY- WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD

All students should come prepared to have their picture taken for their Student ID Card and the Yearbook. Students will be called down to the photo area from their classes throughout the day.

Photo Purchase (Optional): Families may choose to purchase school photos. Ordering instructions will be sent out separately.

Retake Day: Retakes will be held on **Wednesday, October 1st**.

## STORM BLOCK:

Storm Block is a 55 minute block of time every Wednesday after Period 1. Students will sign up for a Storm Block each semester (previous selections have changed and students will need to select Storm Block again by September 17<sup>th</sup>). Students will choose from a variety of class options designed to help students understand their learning preferences, gain organizational skills, and advocate for their self-interests. Some students will choose to dive deeper into specific passion areas offered. No matter what students select, they will still have time to get support and extra time for their school work.

All students are expected to attend Storm Block as it is mandatory instruction time. Attendance for Storm Block will be taken, and attendance will be communicated with families. Storm Block Selections will be done by the end of the third week in September and the first Storm Block occurs on Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## ATTENDANCE:

Success in school is directly linked to attendance! Students who are chronically absent (miss 10% of classes or 2 days per month) fall significantly behind academically and have a higher risk of dropping out. All of us, staff, parents, and students, need to work together to ensure our students attend every class, every day. 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 your child is repeatedly telling you that the dialer is calling in error please contact the classroom teacher right away to find out why.
- The daily phone dialer will let you know by mid-morning if your student has not come to school and will also provide a summary of class absences at the end of the day.
- Vice-Principals will be meeting with students showing attendance concern to learn what barriers are present for the student and actively engage in a support plan.
- 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.

Our goal is to help your child graduate and prepare for their next steps; being at school and in class participating is the key to students success.

## REPORTING ATTENDANCE:

To report an excused absence or late, we exclusively use the SafeArrival program. Click this link for more information on SafeArrival: <https://css.sd33.bc.ca/report-absence>.

With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device.
  - Download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (links below). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.



2. Use the SafeArrival website,
  - The first time you use the website, select Sign Up (link below) to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.



3. Call the toll-free number 1-833-698-6567 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

## BELL SCHEDULE: [VIEW ONLINE HERE](#)

<b>Bell Schedule</b>	
<b>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday &amp; Friday</b>	
<b>TIME</b>	<b>PERIOD</b>
<b>8:30 – 9:51</b>	<b>Period 1 - (81)</b>
<b>9:51 – 9:56</b>	<b>Transition time (5)</b>
<b>9:56 – 11:16</b>	<b>Period 2 (80)</b>
<b>11:16 – 12:01</b>	<b>Lunch – (45)</b>
<b>12:01 – 12:06</b>	<b>Transition time (5)</b>
<b>12:06 – 1:27</b>	<b>Period 3 (81)</b>
<b>1:27 – 1:32</b>	<b>Transition time (5)</b>
<b>1:32 – 2:53</b>	<b>Period 4 (81)</b>
<b>Storm Block Bell Schedule</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	
<b>TIME</b>	<b>PERIOD</b>
<b>8:30 – 9:37</b>	<b>Period 1 (67)</b>
<b>9:37 – 10:32</b>	<b>Storm Block (55)</b>
<b>10:32- 10:37</b>	<b>Transition Time (5)</b>
<b>10:37 – 11:44</b>	<b>Period 2 (67)</b>
<b>11:44 – 12:29</b>	<b>Lunch – (45)</b>
<b>12:29 – 12:34</b>	<b>Transition Time (5)</b>
<b>12:24 – 1:41</b>	<b>Period 3 (67)</b>
<b>1:41 – 1:46</b>	<b>Transition time (5)</b>
<b>1:46 – 2:53</b>	<b>Period 4 (67)</b>

## LINKS, FORMS AND PERMISSION CLICK:

You will receive 4 separate emails from Permission Click asking you to read information and provide consent and digital signature on the following:

1. Acceptable Use Agreement – this is our district computer use policy (August 25<sup>TH</sup>)
2. Walking Field Trip Form – this allows students to go on walking field trips with their classes (August 28<sup>TH</sup>)
3. Media Release Form – this gives options regarding your child's name and/or image being used in various digital platforms (August 28<sup>TH</sup>)
4. Indigenous Education Enhanced Services Verification (August 25<sup>th</sup>)

There are additional links you might be interested in:

[Career Education](#)

[Indigenous Education](#)

[Chilliwack Secondary School Instagram Page](#)

## MyEDUCATION BC

Please ensure you log into MyEducation BC to review your schedule and demographic information for the 2025-26 school year. Please email [css-officestaff@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:css-officestaff@sd33.bc.ca) with any changes to your demographics. You can find instructions on how to access MyEducation BC from [this link on our website](#) if you require assistance.

## CALENDAR:

The CSS calendar of school events is located [here 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 our Code of Conduct and review this information with your student. You can find the link [here on our school website](#). Our aim is to create a safe and inclusive learning environment for all.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Each classroom teacher at CSS has an electronic device policy for their learning space. They will be sharing the expectations with their classes at the start of school. The general expectation is that there is no cell phone usage without direct teacher permission. Most teachers will ask for devices to be put away or turned in until they are to be used for educational purposes. Although devices can be a valuable resource in the classroom (when used appropriately) they can also be a distraction and potentially harmful. 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 child 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. To use school devices, parents must sign our Acceptable Use Agreement (see forms section).

## STUDENT PARKING:

Students who are driving to school must register their vehicle online <https://css.sd33.bc.ca/form/parking-registration> once registered the office will provide a parking pass to be displayed on the front bottom driver side of the vehicle. Students are not to loiter in their vehicle or the parking lot at any time before, during, or after the school day. This includes the designated lunch break.

## 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. All students should come to school with paper, pen & pencils to start.

## FEES & FIELD TRIPS:

CSS is pleased to offer families the convenience to complete field trip forms and make payments online using our [Fee Management system RYCOR](#). On this site you can complete field trip forms, view your payment history, print/view receipts and pay any school fees. STORM BUCKS can also be purchased and added to your student's account. These gift cards are sold in increments and can be used at the school cafeteria.

## 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. [Family Accident Reimbursement Insurance program](#), is one of several options in the province.

## YEARBOOKS:

Remember to buy your yearbook early. They are automatically added to your student pay accounts and removed after the fee deadline if they are not purchased. Yearbooks are \$45.00 when purchased prior to December 31, 2025. Books purchased January 1- February 28, 2026 will be increased to \$55.00. [Books must be paid in full prior to February 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

## FRIDAYS "STORM WATCH" NEWSLETTERS:

Every Friday we will send our Parent/Student Storm Watch Newsletters. Please make sure you are looking over these emails for important dates, deadlines, links & events. If you do not receive them, please contact the office staff to make sure we have the correct email on file. They can also land in your junk mail folder!

## SCHOOL WEBSITE: [Chilliwack Secondary School](#)

The school website serves as a central hub for a wealth of information that can greatly benefit you and your child. We encourage you to take some time to explore our school website. Familiarizing yourself with its features will empower you to stay connected and actively participate in your child's education. Should you have any difficulties navigating the site or need assistance, please contact us.

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)