



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE  
**HANDSWORTH**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



July 2025

Hello Parents/Guardians and Graduates of 2030,

We are looking forward to officially welcoming you into the Handsworth community this September and are excited to share some general information about our Grade 8 Retreat for all our new grade 8s.

This year's Grade 8 Retreat will be a 2-day event on **September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025!** Students will be participating in a variety of team building, experiential learning and other activities to support student connections and belonging. This two-day event involves a full day at the Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale and a full day of activities at Handsworth. Due to the large size of our incoming class of Grade 8's, students will be pre-assigned to one of two groups in September. These groups will alternate between being at the Cheakamus Centre near Brackendale and being at Handsworth Secondary. Our goals for this year's retreat include:

- Contribute to a strong sense of belonging to the school community through shared experiences with peers, student leaders, and Handsworth Staff.
- Build connections with peers and our student leaders to support the transition to high school.
- Set the tone for a positive and inclusive start to students' secondary school journey.
- Connect Grade 8 students with experiential and land-based learning at Cheakamus.

The cost of the retreat is \$130 and can be paid late August/early September via the Handsworth School Cash Online payment system available through the link provided on the school website - [School Cash Online](#).

If you encounter financial constraints, please contact Vice-Principal, Dave Cadman: [dcadman@sd44.ca](mailto:dcadman@sd44.ca).

This fee includes:

- 1 day of activities at the Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale
- Highway Coach transportation to and from the Cheakamus Centre
- Lunch and snacks at the Cheakamus Centre
- Supplies and materials needed for a variety of retreat activities
- 1 day of activities at Handsworth/in the local community
- Barbeque lunch at Handsworth.



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Our hope is that all Grade 8 students attend the retreat. Regular Grade 8 classes will not be running during the days of September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>; therefore, students will not be missing any classes during the two days of the Grade 8 retreat.

At this time no action is required, field trip forms, and further details including when to make payment will be emailed out in late August. As a Handsworth staff, we are excited about the prospect of starting the 2025-2026 school year with such an impactful and memorable experience for our students.

Sincerely,

Dave Cadman  
Vice Principal