



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE
HANDSWORTH
SECONDARY SCHOOL



June 2023

Hello Parents/Guardians and Graduates of 2028:

We are looking forward to officially welcoming you to Handsworth this September and are excited to share more detailed information about our Grade 8 Retreat for all of our new grade 8s on September 21st, 2023! 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 \$125 and can be paid late August/early Sept. via the Handsworth School Cash Online payment system available through the link provided on the school website - [School Cash Online](#). The NVSD has subsidized the cost of the retreat and transportation to ensure that the cost is as low as possible for families. If you encounter financial constraints, please contact Vice-Principal, Meghan Downie: mdownie@sd44.ca.

This \$125 fee includes:

- Activities at the Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale
- Return Highway Coach transportation to and from Handsworth to the Cheakamus Centre
- Meals and snacks at the Cheakamus Centre (lunch on site and snacks)
- Program facilitator support
- Student leaders, supplies, and materials
- Welcome swag, snacks for Grade 8s

Our hope is that all Grade 8 students attend the retreat. Regular Grade 8 classes will not be running during the day of Sept 21st; therefore, students will not be missing any classes during the Grade 8 retreat day. We understand that due to family or community commitments or unforeseen health reasons, some students will not attend this retreat and alternate activities and learnings will be planned here at Handsworth. If your child is not attending the retreat, please email me (Meghan Downie) ASAP.

As a Handsworth staff, we are excited about the prospect of starting the 2023-2024 school year with such an impactful and memorable experience for our students.

Attached are the Field Trip Forms, including the Informed Consent. **Please returned signed forms to Grade 7 teachers by Monday, June 26th if your child attends a Handsworth FOS school. If you are coming from out of catchment, please returned signed forms to the Handsworth Main Office by Tuesday, June 27th. Again, we will be collecting fees once students officially transfer to Handsworth in late August – please use [School Cash Online](#) to pay prior to September 8th.**

Sincerely,

Meghan Downie

Vice-Principal



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Thursday, September 21st

7:30am	Students arrive at Handsworth Grand Commons
7:45-8:00am	Busses depart from Handsworth Secondary
9:15-9:30am	Arrive at Cheakamus Center – Welcome & Orientation
10:00am–1:45pm	Cheakamus Challenge
11:30am-1:00pm	30-minute staggered lunch breaks
1:45pm-2:45pm	Handsworth Led Activity
2:45pm	Snack and load busses
3:00pm	Departure from Cheakamus Center
4:00-4:15pm	Arrive back at Handsworth Secondary School

Please Note:

- Number of Groups/Cohorts will be confirmed based on final student numbers
- Times and locations are subject to change
- Programs run rain or shine; students should be prepared for all weather

**All forms for the Cheakamus Retreat are due to
grade 7 teacher by June 26th, 2023**

Fees are due through HSS School Cash online by

Friday, September 9th, 2023

We cannot accept late registrations due to planning logistics of our bus transportation, meals, and activity planning.

Next Steps

- Payment of \$125 is payable through School Cash Online as of late August/early Sept.

Please ensure your child brings the following attached forms to their grade 7 teacher by June 26th or to Handsworth Main Office by June 27th.



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- Medical & Dietary Preferences Form
- Cheakamus Informed Consent
- HSS One Day Field Trip Informed Consent: "Handsworth Grade 8 Retreat Informed Consent"

*The *Student Risk and Responsibility Form* will be filled out during Homeroom on the first day of school with Handsworth Staff. Administration will outline the responsibilities of the students during our assembly on Sept 5th.

If your child is NOT attending the Grade 8 Retreat, please indicate so here and hand in this form only to your Grade 7 Teacher. This is to allow us to accurately plan for transportation and food.

- My child will NOT be attending the Grade 8 Retreat

Name of Student: _____

Parent Signature: _____

What to bring!

Personal Items

- Day Pack – pen/pencil
- Water Bottle
- Sunscreen
- Your Grade 8 T-Shirt

Please do NOT bring electronic devices, money, knives, or flashlights.
The Cheakamus Center assumes no responsibility for loss or damage of any personal items.

The Cheakamus Center is a nut restricted facility.
Please do NOT bring food items unless previously arranged with Cheakamus Staff. All food items brought to site that are not previously arranged will be confiscated as they are attractants for wildlife.



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Remember to ask yourself: Will I be warm and dry?

* **Appropriate clothing** is very important for your enjoyment, comfort, and safety. A primary consideration is the material from which the item is made. Materials can be divided into three general categories:

1. **Cotton:** a good fiber for hot, sunny weather but loses all insulating value when wet.
2. **Wool:** provides excellent insulation in cold, wet weather. Retains insulating value when wet.
3. **Synthetics:** provide excellent insulation in cold wet weather, retains insulating value when wet.

Weather at Cheakamus Centre is often colder and wetter than North Vancouver. Even on warm days, the weather may turn cold and wet in a matter of hours. Rain may persist through an entire ODS program.

We strongly recommend wearing wool or synthetic clothing and waterproof gear.