



Carson Graham Secondary



IB World School

Website: www.carsongraham.ca

Grade 8 Newsletter

August 2014

To our Grade 8 students and parents:

I do hope everyone has had a fantastic summer whether it was enjoying the great local weather or traveling abroad and is recharged for the upcoming school year. We are truly excited to have your child attend Carson Graham Secondary School. Within this newsletter, we have outlined key information for our Grade 8 students and parents to assist with the transition from elementary school. We are all hoping that classes can resume on Tuesday, September 2, but please monitor our website for any updates with the ongoing BCTF strike. As updates become available, we will make any necessary changes and be sure to communicate to our parent community.

As a staff, we take pride in being an International Baccalaureate school and our Middle Years Programme encourages our students to become creative, critical and reflective thinkers. At Carson Graham, we strive for excellence in all endeavours and aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. At our Grade 8 Parent/Student Night on September 11, we will take the time to share more information on our programme and provide an opportunity to meet your child's teachers.

In terms of our local school calendar and in collaboration with the Parent Advisory Council and staff, we will continue with our late start schedule. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with our unique late start schedule outlined in the subsequent pages.

Over the summer, we unfortunately have had a number of changes to our teaching staff as a result of district layoffs and transfers. Faculty that have transferred include Teresa Anton-Marlowe, Dave Heskin, Jon Erickson, Tami Lyon, Tom Larisch and Jeff Hasenauer. We wish them all the best in their new positions abroad.

Given our increasing student population, I am thrilled to announce the following new teaching appointments to Carson Graham:

John Macmillan - Physical Education, Social Studies
Ryan Kerluck - Athletic Coordinator, Physical Education
Chad Gamache - Social Studies
Nikki Thomson (returning) – Math, Physical Education
Shannon Van Baalen (returning) - Information Technology, Planning, Yearbook
Mike Langille - Science and Mathematics
John Grant - Economics, Marketing and Work Experience
Julianne Hoyak - Art, Drama

The Carson Graham administration team includes Pam Craven who will oversee Grades 8 and 10, Suzette Dohm (Grades 9 and 11) and myself overseeing the Grade 12's.

There are a few more teaching vacancies to finalize over the next few days and I will provide updates shortly.

This newsletter has been put together to best orient you and your grade 8 child to the secondary setting. A general newsletter for all Carson Graham students has also been posted on the school website at www.carsongraham.ca.

On behalf of the entire staff, welcome to the Carson Graham community and we look forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Karim Hachlaf

The First Week of School

On the first day of school, Tuesday, September 2, 2014, all grade 8 students are to report to their homeroom class at 11:30 am. Homeroom lists will be posted on the main doors of the school on Friday, August 29 and will be organized by grade and last name. Student photos for the yearbook and Go Cards will be taken in the gym following homeroom.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the first week back to school, students will be attending class from 8:35 am - 3:00 pm. On Friday, the day will end with a whole school photograph and a Parent Advisory Committee sponsored BBQ.

Tuesday, September 2

Homeroom & Individual Photos

Grade 12	10:00
Grade 11	10:30
Grade 10	11:00
Grade 9	11:30
Grade 8	12:00
Staff Development	1:00

Wednesday, September 3 – Regular Timetable

Period 2	8:35
Break	9:55
Period 3	10:10
Period 1	11:35
Lunch	12:55
Period 4	1:40

Thursday, September 4 – Regular Timetable

Period 6	8:35
Break	9:55
Period 7	10:10
Period 5	11:35
Lunch	12:55
Period 8	1:40

Friday, September 5 – Early Dismissal Timetable

Period 3	8:35
Period 1	9:45
Period 2	10:55
Break	12:00
Period 4	12:15
T-shirt/Whole School Photo	1:15
PAC BBQ	1:30

Grade 8 Parent Night: Thursday, September 11

Carson Graham will be hosting a Grade 8 Parent Night on Thursday, September 11. The evening will start at 7:00 pm in the gym. Parents are asked to pick up a copy of their child's schedule/timetable at the reception desk prior to entering the gym.

The evening will start with a brief introduction after which parents will move through their child's schedule. Each class will last 7 minutes! During the classes teachers will give an overview of their course. We look forward to meeting all our new parents at this event.

Supplies

All grade 8s should have the following with them on Wednesday, September 3 when the first full-day of classes begin:

- 3-ring binder
- 3-hole lined paper
- Pen, pencil and eraser
- Gym strip and lock

Other specialty items (such as calculators and dictionaries) should not be bought until students meet with their subject teachers.

Club and Team Fair

On Friday, September 12, there will be a fair to showcase all of the athletic and club opportunities that exist at Carson. Students will see that we have great Athletics, opportunities for enhancing leadership skills through the Students' Council, as well as active clubs like the Green Team and Blood, Sweat and Cheers. It is up to the students to take advantage of what the school has to offer. Many of the memories students will have of high school will be the connections with peers and staff that were made outside of the classroom.

Student Agenda Book

An Agenda Book will be distributed to students during the first week of September. In it is useful information and important dates and activities. Grade 8's are encouraged to use this book to keep track of assignments, tests and due dates. Fundamental to success in high school is organization and time management.

Lockers

All students will be assigned a locker in their Homeroom class during the first week of school. It is imperative that students not share their lock combinations with anyone and that personal belongings are always locked up.

Loss Prevention

Students should refrain from bringing personal belongings of value to school. **Parents should adequately insure items brought to school for loss or damage.** Additionally, grade 8s are strongly encouraged to bring a combination lock from home to use on lockers in the PE change rooms.

The North Vancouver School District is unable to insure any and all personal property owned by students such as musical instruments, iPods, cell phones, calculators, and computers. The School District will therefore not accept any liability for loss or damage of personal property under any circumstances.

Carson Graham Calendar and Late Starts

For the 2014-15 school year, North Vancouver schools will continue to have staff collaboration time incorporated within our calendar. At our secondary schools, this is accommodated through late starts at 9:55am. The staff collaboration dates are on the following Wednesdays:

September 24, 2014
October 29, 2014
November 26, 2014
January 28, 2015
February 25, 2015
April 29, 2015
May 27, 2015

As an International Baccalaureate school, there are additional requirements that need to be fulfilled for our Middle Years and Diploma Programmes. One of those requirements is the need to provide adequate collaboration time for assessment and planning for teaching and learning. This year we have implemented, with the approval of both our staff and Parent Advisory Council, six (6) shorter late starts for 9:55am. Consequently, we are able to decrease the loss of instructional time from the previous year and have a consistent late start schedule that aligns with our staff collaboration schedule. The IB planning late starts fall on the following Wednesdays:

October 22, 2014

November 19, 2014
January 21, 2015
February 18, 2015
April 22, 2015
May 20, 2015

With both staff development and our IB planning late starts, updates will be provided to our parent community regarding the instructional work that is taking place and the impact to the learning environment.

Finally, with the continued approval and support of our Parent Advisory Council, we are excited to maintain our IB Personal Project / Extended Essay late starts. These will take place once a month where the entire staff work with assigned groups and provide guidance and assistance to our students throughout the year on their personal project or extended essay. The results are amazing and can be seen at the end of the year at our Personal Project and Extended Essay community exhibitions. These late starts will also fall on Wednesdays but classes will begin at 9:30am. The dates are:

September 10, 2014
October 8, 2014
November 12, 2014
December 10, 2014
January 14, 2015
February 11, 2015
March 4, 2015
April 8, 2015
May 13, 2015
June 10, 2015

Again, a full calendar is available at www.carsongraham.ca

Questions?

At any time, please feel free to contact the grade 8 counsellor, Mrs. Gayle Weyell, to discuss any academic or personal concerns about your child that you may have. She can be reached through email at gweyell@sd44.ca or by calling the school directly.

Specific classroom concerns can be addressed directly to your child's subject teacher.

Carson Graham's website is a great place to get specific information on our school and its programs: www.carsongraham.ca. The website is continually updated.

Please be sure to read the general August newsletter for all Carson Graham students posted on the school website.