



CARSON GRAHAM
SECONDARY

Grade 8 Newsletter

August 2017

Dear Grade 8 Parents and Students:

I hope everyone has enjoyed a fantastic summer and is recharged for the upcoming school year. We are truly excited to have your child attend Carson Graham Secondary School and are pleased you have made the decision to enroll with us. Like your children, I am new to Carson Graham and I look forward to working with you all. Within this newsletter we have outlined customized information for our Grade 8 students and parents to assist with the transition from elementary school. You will also find that our website at www.carsongraham.ca offers user friendly access to comprehensive information ranging from daily announcements and staff contact information to course outlines and online fee payment.

As a staff, we take pride in being an International Baccalaureate school as we strive for excellence in all endeavours, encourage personal and social responsibility, respect diversity and work to develop a life long commitment to learning. Our aim is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, confident and caring students who create a better world through intercultural understanding and respect. At our Grade 8 Parent/Student Night on September 14 at 7pm, we will take the time to share more information on our Middle Years Programme (MYP) and provide an opportunity to meet your child's teachers.

In terms of our local school calendar, we have several late starts each month unique to Carson Graham Secondary. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with our late start schedule outlined in the subsequent pages. A convenient one pager has also been included for easy reference throughout the school year. We also have a *Carson Graham App* that will keep you informed via your mobile device. Search for "Carson Graham Secondary School" in the App Store.

Should any questions arise prior to the start of the school year, feel free to contact Vice-Principal, Tim Ireland (tireland@sd44.ca) who will serve as the grade administrator or Gayle Weyell (gweyell@sd44.ca) and Kat Robb (krobb@sd44.ca) who are the Grade 8 counsellors.

Once again, we are committed to your child's successful transition to high school. As part of our transition process, Grade 8 students will be joining their Grade 9 buddies on Tuesday, September 5.

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

Sincerely,

Ian Kennedy
Principal



The First Week of School

On the first day of school, Tuesday, September 5, 2017, all grade 8 students are to report to their homeroom class at 12:00 pm. Homeroom lists will be posted on the main doors of the school on Friday, September 1 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.

Tuesday, September 5

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 6 – 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 7 – 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 8 – Regular Timetable

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

Grade 8 Parent/Student Night: Thursday, September 14, 2017

Carson Graham will be hosting a Grade 8 Parent/Student Night on Thursday, September 14. 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 7 when the first full-day of classes begins:

- 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 the second week of September, there will be a fair to showcase all of the athletic and club opportunities that exist at Carson Secondary. Students will see that we have a great athletics program, opportunities for enhancing leadership skills through Student Council, and many active clubs ranging from the Green Team to Robotics. 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 homeroom. In it is useful information and important dates and activities. Grade 8s 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

For the 2017-18 year, North Vancouver schools will continue to have staff collaboration time incorporated within our calendar. At our secondary schools, this is accommodated through modifying our school calendar. As an International Baccalaureate school, Carson Graham Secondary also has additional late starts to fulfill our program requirements for both our Middle Years Programme (Gr. 8-10) and our Diploma Programme (Gr.11-12).

District Staff Collaboration

All secondary schools will have (5) Wednesday late starts throughout the year – please see attached schedule. **The instructional day will begin 9:55am and end at 3pm.**

EPIC Wednesdays (Extended Essay, Personal Project, Inquiry, CAS – Creativity, Action, Service)

At Carson Graham, we have customized our instructional time to align with our school goals and IB programmes. Students are working on Inquiry based learning and will have (8) Wednesdays throughout the year to work in smaller groups with a teacher.

Students will be divided into teams and our teachers will focus on developing students' *Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills*. These skills include thinking, social, communication, self-management and research. For example, lessons will

focus on building skills for academic success, becoming familiar with our IB reporting practices, learning about the Carson school community and its diverse programs, building community connections, and mindfulness and self-regulation practices.

IB Staff Collaboration

Beyond our District Staff Collaboration late starts, Carson Graham has (9) Wednesdays throughout the year that enables further staff collaboration. During this time, staff are collaboratively developing, reflecting and refining their units of instruction both within their subject area and across disciplines. Ultimately, this targeted time is intended to continually improve our teaching practices. **The instructional day will begin at 9:55am and end at 3pm.**

Questions?

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

At any time, please feel free to contact the grade 8 counsellors, Mrs. Gayle Weyell (gweyell@sd44.ca) or Ms. Kat Robb (krobb@sd44.ca) to discuss any academic or personal concerns about your child that you may have. They can be reached through email 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.