



CARSON GRAHAM
SECONDARY

August 31st, 2023

Dear Carson Graham Families,

Tl'iknumut, Bienvenue, and Welcome! I hope everyone was able to find some time to connect with nature, and each other, while enjoying our beautiful BC summer. As summer winds down, we are excited to welcome students back for the 2023/24 school year! Our custodial team has done an exceptional job shining up our learning spaces, and our office and counselling teams are welcoming new families this week and finalizing the details for the new school year.

As a large, vibrant school community with almost 1400 students and 125 staff, communication is key! I encourage you to keep informed with the most up to date information by visiting our school website: <http://www.sd44.ca/school/carson> and find time to review all school communications. At this time, we are pleased to provide the following updates to help students, and their families, transition into the back-to-school routine and ask you please take a few moments to review the following important information.

Our returning families may notice a number of staff changes as a result of new hires and staff returning from leaves. This year, we are excited to welcome Ms. Christine Bernier (Learning Services), Ms. Tracy Day (Education Assistant), Ms. Nicola Jones (Athletic Coordinator and Learning Services), Ms. Icel Lee (Spanish), Ms. Lu Li (Science/Math), Ms. Meghan Parker (Art), Ms. Heidi Postl (Science), Mr. Paul Santolin (English), Ms. Marci Smith (Education Assistant) and Ms. Kathleen Zhao (Math). Also new to Carson Graham is Mr. Tuzar Irani who will be our Vice Principal overseeing Grades 10 and 11. We are still in the process of filling staff vacancies and will be updating our website as we fill these positions.

As an extension of last year's school theme ***Connections***, this year's school theme will focus on ***Relationships and Culture***. We will dig deeper into our relationships with ourselves, others and the world around us. With intentionality, we will explore how these relationships contribute to the culture of the entire Carson Graham school community.

Based on student, staff and community feedback during last school year, the 2023-24 timetable at Carson Graham continues to be on a Day 1/Day 2 linear schedule. Our *Tutorial Time* and *Advisory Block* features have also been retained. I encourage all of our students to make the most of this time by connecting with their teachers, and between 8:31am and 9:10am each morning for Tutorial Time.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back in to the building on September 5th for their opening grade assemblies, facilitated by their grade counselor and administrator, followed by a school photo. Students will also receive important information, including their course schedule. We expect each grade group to be in attendance for approximately one hour.



Students are asked to use the south side entrance to report to the large gym for their scheduled assembly commencing at the time noted below.

Please note the following schedule:

- **Grade 8** - Tuesday September 5th at 9:45am
- **Grade 9** - Tuesday September 5th at 10:30am
- **Grade 10** - Tuesday September 5th at 11:15am
- **Grade 11** - Tuesday September 5th at 12:00 pm
- **Grade 12** - Tuesday September 5th at 1:00pm

On Wednesday Sept 6th, Thursday Sept 7th and Friday Sept 8th we are asking students to report to their **Period 2** class at 8:55am for a ten-minute Advisory block. Following Advisory, students will report to their scheduled class, commencing at 9:10am. **If students have incomplete timetables, they will report to the Counselling Offices for more information on process. Counsellors are prioritizing incomplete timetables first, and course changes will not be considered until Friday Sept 8th.**

Carson Graham staff are looking forward to having our grade 8 students embark on building new **relationships** at our *Grade 8 Retreat*, happening September 26th. Incoming grade 8 families should already have information regarding this event, but in case they do not, please contact grade 8 administrator, Mr. Dave Cadman (dcadman@sd44.ca). Additional information will also be forthcoming shortly to all families with children in grade 8, including information on our **Grade 8 Parent Night** scheduled for Tuesday September 12th.

I would like to extend a special acknowledgement to our grade 12 students; the Class of 2024. I am extremely excited to be working with our graduating class as the grade administrator. I'd ask that families please keep an eye on your inbox as I will be sending out some important information in the coming month with respect to Graduation 2024. ***All school-sanctioned event information will be sent from Carson Graham through school messenger.***

Finally, I would like to thank outgoing principal Ms. Suzette Dohm for her leadership at Carson over many years as well as her support as I transitioned into the role over the summer. I know we all wish Ms. Dohm well in her new role as District Principal - Safe and Healthy Schools. It is a privilege to join the Carson family and I am extremely excited for the school year ahead. I wish everyone a wonderful start to the school year and look forward to meeting all the members of our school community!

Sincerely,



Ms. Rupri Samra-Gynane, Principal
Carson Graham Secondary

