



## SUTHERLAND SECONDARY CHEAKAMUS GRADE 8 RETREAT – OCTOBER 4, 5, and 6, 2023

August 22, 2023

Hello Parents/Guardians and Graduates of 2028:

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Sutherland this September and have organized a special start for our incoming Grade 8 students. As previously communicated, we are planning a retreat for all Grade 8 students on October 4, 5 and 6, 2023! Students will be placed in two groups with each group spending two days and one night at the Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale, BC, staying over either on the night of October 4 or October 5. More information about which group your child is in will follow shortly.

The goals for our 2023 Grade 8 Retreat include the following and align with NVSD's strategic priorities:

- Contribute to a strong sense of belonging to the school community through shared experiences with peers, student leaders, and Sutherland Staff
- Set the tone for a positive and inclusive start to students' secondary school journey
- Reconnect Grade 8 students with the Cheakamus Center and provide for missed 'milestone' learning experience
- Provide meaningful leadership opportunities for senior Sutherland students

The cost of the two-day retreat is \$180 per student and can be paid via the **School Cash Online** payment system. 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 are concerned about the cost due to financial hardship, please contact Principal Mark Barrett at [mbarrett@sd44.ca](mailto:mbarrett@sd44.ca).

This \$180 fee includes:

- Two days of activities and one night of accommodation at the Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale
- Highway Coach transportation to and from Sutherland and the Cheakamus Centre
- Meals and snacks at the Cheakamus Centre (2 lunches, 1 dinner, 1 breakfast, 2 snacks)
- Program facilitation support, supplies and materials

Our hope is that all Grade 8 students attend the retreat. Regular Grade 8 classes will not be running during the three days of the camp. Therefore, students will not be missing any classes during the 3 days of the Grade 8 retreat. We understand that due to family commitments or unforeseen health reasons, some students will not attend this retreat and alternate activities will be planned here at Sutherland. If your child is not attending the retreat, please let Paul Ruben know at [pruben@sd44.ca](mailto:pruben@sd44.ca).

As a Sutherland staff, we are excited about the prospect of starting the 2023-2024 school year with such an impactful learning experience for your students. Please reach out if you have any questions. Further Details will be emailed home in the opening week including forms handed out in homeroom on the first day of school.

Sincerely,

Paul Ruben Vice Principal, Sutherland Secondary

## **ITINERARY**

**Wednesday October 4, 2023**

### **Group A**

7:30 am	Students line up on the front lawn near Bus drop off zone at Sutherland
8:00 am	Busses depart from Sutherland Secondary
9:15 am	Arrive at Cheakamus Center, Welcome and Orientation
10:00 am – 12:00pm	Activity led by Cheakamus Staff
12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Activity led by Cheakamus Staff
2:00 pm	Activity led by Sutherland Students & Staff
3:30 pm	Snack
4:00 pm	Cabin Move Ins
4:30 pm	Cabin Group Activities
5:45 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Evening Programming led by Cheakamus Staff
8:00 pm	Evening Programming led by Sutherland Students & Staff
9:00 pm	Cabin Time
10:00 pm	Quiet Time and Lights out

**Thursday, October 5**

### **Crossover Day Group A**

7:00 am – 7:30 am	Group A Rise and Shine!
8:15 am	Group A Breakfast, move out of cabins, move luggage
9:30 am	Group A Community Building Activity
11:00 am	Group A Lunch
12:00 pm	Group A Closing Activity led by senior Sutherland Staff & Students
1:00 pm	Group A Load Buses
1:30 pm	Group A Departure from Cheakamus Center
2:30- 3:00 pm	Group A Arrive back at Sutherland Secondary School

## **Crossover Day Group B**

7:30 am	Group B students line up on the front lawn near Bus drop off zone at Sutherland
8:00 am	Group B Busses depart from Sutherland Secondary
9:15am	Group B Arrive at Cheakamus Center, Welcome and Orientation
10:00am – 12:00pm	Group B Activity 1, led by Cheakamus Staff
12:00 pm	Group B Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Group B Activity 2, led by Cheakamus Staff
2:00 pm	Group B Activity led by Sutherland Students & Staff
3:30 pm	Group B Snack
4:00 pm	Group B Cabin Move Ins
4:30 pm	Group B Cabin Group Activities
5:45 pm	Group B Dinner
7:00 pm	Group B Evening Programming led by Cheakamus Staff
8:00 pm	Group B Evening Programming led by Sutherland Students & Staff
9:00 pm	Group B Cabin Time
10:00 pm	Group B Quiet Time and Lights out

## **Friday, October 6**

7:00 am – 7:30 am	Group B Rise and Shine!
8:15 am	Group B Breakfast, move out of cabins, move luggage
9:30 am	Group B Community Building Activity
11:30 am	Group B Lunch
12:30 pm	Group B Closing Activity led by senior Sutherland Staff & Students
1:30 pm	Group B Departure from Cheakamus Center
2:30 - 3:00 pm	Group B Arrive back at Sutherland Secondary School

### **Please Note:**

- Number of Cabins/Activity Groups/Group Placements will be confirmed based on final student numbers
- Times and locations are subject to change
- Cabins are assigned based on gender at birth
- Programs run rain or shine; students should be prepared for all weather
- Cheakamus Policy is no cell phones used while on site

**All forms and fees for the Cheakamus Retreat are due to the main office and paid through school Cash Online by Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. A link to School Cash Online is below and on the front page of the Sutherland website.**

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

- Payment of \$180 is payable through **School Cash Online** ([SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome](http://SchoolCashOnline.com: Welcome)).
- [www.sd44.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.sd44.schoolcashionline.com)
- Watch for an email fee notification at the end of August/beginning of September

Please ensure your child brings the following forms to their first day of school homerooms:

- Medical form and dietary preferences
- Field Trip consent form: "Sutherland Grade 8 Retreat Informed Consent"
- Student Risk and Responsibility Form

Please indicate:

- No cabin preference
- Co-ed cabin preferred

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

- My child will NOT be attending the Grade 8 Retreat

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_