



August 28th, 2026

Dear Grade 8 Parents,

On behalf of the École Windsor Secondary community, **I want to welcome you to the Windsor family!** Our staff are excited for the year ahead and look forward to welcoming our newest students to Windsor. We know that the transition to secondary school brings a mixture of excitement, anticipation, and perhaps a few nerves for students and parents alike. This letter provides some important information to help make that transition as smooth and successful as possible.

Opening Day: Tuesday September 8th, 2026

On Opening Day, our newest students will have the opportunity to meet new students and staff, orient themselves to the building, and visit classrooms before their first full day of classes on Wednesday. Our Student Ambassadors and Leadership Students will be in attendance to help their peers navigate their new experience on this opening day of secondary school.

All incoming Grade 8 students are asked to **meet in the large gym at 10 a.m.** for a welcome assembly. Students will then be led by leadership students to their homeroom. Our Grade 8 homerooms are organized by alpha of last name. For your reference, the organization of homerooms is below. Students do not need to know their homeroom or room number in advance as our student leaders will help everyone get where they need to go.

Grade	Last Name Begins	Homeroom	Room	Teacher
8	A - Ca	H08-01	E408	Bauck, N / Lum
	Ce - G	H08-02	E205	Myers, S / Superstein
	H - Le	H08-03	E506	Minn, E / Farrell
	Li - O	H08-04	E403	Pershick, K / Thomas
	P - S	H08-05	A314	Baigent, G / Van Samang
	T - Z	H08-06	E411	D'Aurora / Palaz

During Grade 8 homeroom from 10:20 to 11:00 a.m., students will receive their computer class timetable and will copy it onto an easy-to-read schedule. They will also receive their locker combo, agenda book and other information. Staff and student leaders will explain how to find their locker and open their locks. From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., all Grade 8 students will complete a walk-through of their classes, spending approximately 10 minutes with each of their teachers.



Grade 8 Parent Night & Cheakamus Retreat Meeting

On **Tuesday, September 15th at 7 p.m.**, Windsor is hosting a Grade 8 Parent Night in the Multi-Purpose Room. The school team will outline school goals, processes, and student expectations, so that we can work with families to support student success. Discussion of student expectations and information will mirror the presentation made to Grade 8 students at their Grade Assembly. Students are welcome to attend alongside their parents/guardians, but attendance is not required for students. Important information regarding the upcoming day trip to the Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale, BC will be provided including permission forms. This is a great opportunity to ask questions and connect with other Windsor families.

Grade 8 Cheakamus Retreat: Tuesday, September 29th, 2026

Grade 8 students and staff will be attending a **full day retreat on Tuesday, September 29th at NVSD's Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale**. This is an important and exciting part of our Grade 8 transition program and an opportunity for students to build connections with classmates and staff outside the regular classroom environment. Bus transportation will be provided to and from the Centre from Windsor Secondary School. Further information on the retreat and registration packages will be available on September 15th.

Staying Connected

Communication between home and school remains very important at the secondary level, although the role of parents and guardians naturally changes as students develop greater independence and responsibility for their learning. We encourage families to remain connected to the school and engaged in their child's progress throughout Grade 8.

Please consider bookmarking the Windsor Homepage. All pertinent start-up and school information will be posted there. To stay up to date throughout the school year, visit the school website and read the newsletters posted there, which are also emailed home. Find the [Windsor calendar on our school website](#), and consider subscribing to it. This will provide up-to-date information about the daily rotation of classes, school events and holidays.

If you have any questions or concerns about how your child is doing, what may be going on in the classrooms, or any questions about your child's progress, please direct them to classroom teachers. Email is usually the quickest mode of communication. Contact information can be found on [our school website](#).



Mr. Chris Barnes (chrisbarnes@sd44.ca), our Grade 8 Counsellor, is another important point of contact for families. A key part of his role is helping students make a successful transition to secondary school. He is an excellent starting point for general questions or concerns about your child's transition, well-being, or school experience. He can also help with course programming.

Who should I contact:

- Questions about a course or learning progress → **Classroom teacher**
- General Grade 8 transition, social/emotional , or student concerns → **Grade 8 Counsellor**
- Broader school questions, concerns, or disciplinary issues → **Grade 8 Vice-Principal**
- Attendance or Demographic information → **Main Office (windsor@sd44.ca)**

School Supplies:

Students do not need to bring school supplies on Opening Day; a pen and water bottle are sufficient. For Wednesday, students should bring a pen, some paper, a binder, their agenda, class schedule, and locker information. Teachers will let students know during the first week if any additional supplies are required for their classes.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child to Windsor and to working in partnership with your family throughout the year. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and our goal is for every Grade 8 student to quickly feel that they know where to go, who to ask for help, and, most importantly, that they **belong at Windsor**.

Please encourage your child to **reach out to their teachers, counsellor, or another trusted adult whenever they have questions or need support**. Our doors are always open.

If you have any questions, please also feel free to contact me, Greg Hockley, at ghockley@sd44.ca.

Sincerely,

Greg Hockley

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