

Westview Secondary School

WELCOME BACK

Aug. 23rd, 2023

Message from the Principal

Hello to our Westview Learning Community,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to welcome our students back to school on September 5 for an exciting year of learning and growth at Westview. I am looking forward to working alongside our two new Vice Principals, Mr. Denis Drapeau and Mrs. Robyn Sheridan.

Our staff prides itself on inspiring and encouraging students to strive for excellence in a learning environment that respects and adapts to the strengths and stretches of individual students. We look forward to continuing to work alongside our students, their families and staff to continue the great work done at Westview to encourage an inclusive learning community.

I want to express my gratitude to our custodial and district maintenance teams for their commitment and hard work to getting Westview into beautiful condition over the summer break. In this letter I will share with you some information about school start-up with our doors opening on September 5.

Firstly, please welcome the newest Westview staff members and say goodbye to a long time staff member:

- **Shannon Campbell** - English/Foods Teacher
- **Chris Perger** - English Teacher
- **Alex Ristea** - Science Teacher
- **Dan Procyk** - Math Teacher
- **Megan Muehlbauer** - Career Life Education Teacher
- **Crystal Davies** - Education Assistant
- **Robyn Sheridan** - Vice Principal
- **Denis Drapeau** - Vice Principal
- **Cathy Elliott** - Cathy has been an EA with us for over 20 years, and announced her retirement during the summer. Cathy has been a dedicated, kind and compassionate member of our staff who has positively impacted many of our students during her time at Westview. We all wish Cathy the best!

Important messages from the office

First Week Overview

On **Tuesday, September 5**, we will welcome students back to school for a short session, about 30 - 45 minutes, to visit their Advisory classes, to collect their timetables, get lockers, review the daily schedule and general expectations. During the remainder of the week students will attend their Advisory class after the first period to review the Code of Conduct and Emergency Procedures such as fire drills.

Please note that attendance is important on this first day of school and we request that if your child is unable to attend please submit their absence on the Parent Portal. Advisory classes for all grades will be posted in the front lobby of the school after 12 pm on Wednesday, August 30. Students may view this list from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm.

The scheduled start time for each grade level on **September 5** is as follows:

- **Grade 9s, 10s 11s and 12s:** Please be here for **10:00 am** and go directly to your Advisory Class.
- **Grade 8s:** Please be here for **11:00 am** and go to the MPR (multipurpose room).

Our regular daily schedule will start on **Wednesday September 6**, as follows:

8:25 am.....	Warning Bell
8:30 am - 9:40 am.....	First Block (Block C)
9:45 am - 10:25 am	ADVISORY
10:30 am - 11:40 am	Second Block (Block D)
11:40 am - 12:15 pm	LUNCH
12:20 pm - 1:30 pm.....	Third Block (Block A)
1:35 pm - 2:45 pm	Fourth Block (Block B)
2:45 pm.....	Dismissal

****Please see the [WSS App](#) or the [website](#) for further information on daily block orders.**

Drop off/pick up reminders

Please make sure you are not blocking any residential parking spaces & not parking in staff parking spots while waiting to pick up your child. School Zone is 30 kms.

Cafeteria Services

We will be working to get our Cafeteria and Food Services up and running as quickly as possible. Please plan on students bringing their own lunch for the first week of school. A gentle reminder, that if your child is ordering from a food delivery service they need to arrange for these deliveries to arrive during the lunch period (11:40 am - 12:15 pm) and must meet the delivery driver outside the school building. Our office staff is unable to collect these food deliveries.

Administration, Counsellors & Office Staff

Our Administration team works alongside our amazing office staff and counsellors to ensure that the needs of our students and their families are met through the school year.

- **Cathryn Blanco**, Principal: Grade 12s
- **Denis Drapeau**, Vice Principal: Grade 9s and 11s
- **Robyn Sheridan**, Vice Principal: Grade 8s and 10s
- **Shannon Sharpe**, Counsellor: Grade 9s, 11s and International Students
- **Lauren O'Leary**, Counsellor: Grade 8s, 10s, 12s and International Students
- **Alisha Baxmann** - Aboriginal Support Worker
- **Shannon Moody** - Youth Care Worker
- **Stacey Gloude**, Administrative Coordinator
- **Lorri Mclean**, Records Clerk
- **Cindy Szabo**, Accounts Clerk
- **Nicole Connolly**, General Clerk

Linear Timetable

We are following a linear timetable for the 2023/2024 academic year and this is new for our students. Our current Grade 12s did the first part of their Grade 8 year on a Linear Timetable and then shifted off this to accommodate Covid-19 health protocols. Our students will be taking eight courses for the entire school year rather than four each semester. We recognize that this will be a shift for our Grade 9 -12 students and we want to assure you that our staff is here to support this transition.

Code of Conduct

Please take some time with your child(ren) to review the Westview [Code of Conduct](#) which includes information regarding general expectations, attendance, bullying & harassment, vaping & smoking, cell phone/electronics misuse and discipline. Teachers will be reviewing this document with students during the first week of classes and will revisit it periodically throughout the school year.

School Supplies

We do not publish a school supply list for students. Here are some suggestions for what your child may need:

- Pens, pencils, pencil crayons
- A binder or two with subject dividers
- Two Locks (one for their primary locker and one for the PE locker)
- PE Strip - teacher will provide more information
- Elective supplies - teacher will provide more information

Please note each teacher your child has may ask for specific supplies for their class. This will be communicated to students directly by their teacher. If you have questions about the supplies being requested please contact the office.

Bring Your Own Device

We often get questions about whether or not students should bring their own laptops/tablets to school. If a student does have a laptop it can be a valuable tool at school. Students should talk to their teachers if they feel a computer will support the learning. Please be advised that students are responsible for storing and securing their own devices.

Timetables

[MyClass](#) will open for student access by the end of the day on Tuesday, August 29 and students will be able to view their timetables. Please note, our counselling and Admin team are making adjustments to timetables to accommodate class size and composition requirements so timetables may change.

If you are unable to access MyClass, you will receive a hard copy of your timetable on Tuesday, September 5. The only thing you really need to know for Tuesday morning is your Advisory class, which will be posted in the front lobby of the school after 12:00 pm on Wednesday, August 30. Students may view this list from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Parent [MyClass](#) accounts will be reactivated after Sept 18.

Course Changes

At Westview our student population is growing! As such, our classes are very full which makes adjusting timetables difficult. However, we will be providing information in the first few days of school about how to request a course change. The focus will be on ensuring all students have required courses and classes needed for Graduation requirements.

School Fees & Locks

School Fees support a multitude of student activities in our school that support a warm, caring and inclusive environment for our Westview community. You will receive a message regarding payment of these fees in the next couple of days. This year school fees are \$35. Locks will not be sold at the school. If you require one, please be prepared to provide your own. School Fees are to be paid on [SD42 Parent Portal](#) from August 28. Please contact the school office if you are unable to pay the fees on the portal.

Yearbooks

We are finalizing details for our 2023/2024 Yearbook and details, including ordering procedures will be sent out through the parent portal in the coming weeks.

Staff Collaboration - Late Start Fridays for Students

On six Friday mornings during the school year our staff meets to collaborate on topics that enhance the learning and culture at Westview. Broad topic areas include but are not limited to, assessment practices, Indigenous Pedagogy, Inclusive Education, Equity and Anti-Racism and trauma informed classrooms and schools.

On collaboration days our students are welcome to be in the school working on projects, assignments, etc., but formal classes will not start until **9:55 am**. Our collaboration days for 2023/2024 are:

- **October 13**
- **November 17**
- **January 19**
- **February 9**
- **April 12**
- **May 10**

Advisory

The purpose of Advisory is to provide a low-stakes connection time for community building at Westview. It is intended to be a stress free block of time once a week (Mondays) to give space for staff to check in and connect with students. During our first week of school students will attend their Advisory block (after first block) daily and we will use this time to get to know each other and review school wide safety procedures and expectations that support fostering a safe and caring learning community.

Flex Time

Flex time is a 45 minute session everyday between our 1st and 2nd blocks. This is instructional time and the purpose of this block is to give students time in their day to study, review, and collaborate with peers on group projects, connect with teachers for extra help and catch up on assignments, tests and quizzes. Here are a few reminders about Flex Time:

- FLEX TIME is INSTRUCTIONAL TIME so students are expected to be in classrooms working on school activities and assignments
- Students MUST be in a classroom with a current teacher
- Our Grade 10 - 12 students may study in the Learning Commons
- Students are expected to arrive on time and stay in the classroom for the entire period
- Use your time wisely and come prepared
- Students may be assigned Flex Time by a teacher if they fall behind in coursework
- Westview Park is out of bounds for all students during instructional time or between classes. This includes any student who may have a study block (CLC blk). Grade 8 and 9 students are not to be in the park before, during school or after school hours.

We will provide more information about FLEX expectations over the first couple of weeks of the school year.

Wildcat Wear Wednesday

Wednesdays will continue to be **Wildcat Wear Day!** We are transitioning our Wildcat Wear development, design, marketing and sales to our Marketing classes. They will need some time to get organized so stay tuned for announcements about sales of Wildcat Wear!

SD42 and Westview Calendars

The [Westview Calendar](#) provides an overview of activities and events for the 2023/2024 school year. The [2023/2024 SD42 Calendar](#) outlines dates and breaks that are common to the entire district.

WSS PAC

We have a change in PAC members for this year. You can contact our PAC at westviewpac1@gmail.com.

Chair - Claudia Bevacqua

Co-Chair - Amber Little

Co-Vice Chair - Giovanna Pierano Campblee

Secretary - Carol Martin

Treasurer - Jacquie Perler

Ways to Stay Connected!

We will communicate all that is going on at Westview through a variety of channels so that our community is aware of all the amazing things happening at our school. The best ways for you to keep track of Westview events are:

1) **Website** – <https://secondary.sd42.ca/wss/>

This website features District and School announcements, upcoming events, a yearly school calendar of events, Clubs & Activities, Staff Contacts, Grad info and so much more!

2) **Parent Portal** – <https://parents.sd42.ca/Parents/ParentLoginPage.aspx>

All notices, important updates, field trip notices, team and club information specific to your child will be communicated via the [SD42 Parent Portal](https://parents.sd42.ca/Parents/ParentLoginPage.aspx). Additionally, parents and guardians use the parent portal for registrations, transfer requests, student withdrawals and attendance reporting. Click this [link](#) for detailed information about the portal's features and functionalities. If you are not linked to the portal please email stacey_gloude@sd42.ca and a linking code will be set to you via email.

3) **MyClass** – <https://myedbc.sd42.ca/MyClass>

Student Attendance / Report Card Information / Classroom resources and communication with your students' Teachers.

4) **My School Day (WSS App)** – <https://myschoolday.app/download>

Students, parents and school staff have access to the full year calendar of activities and events on our App. Simply download the app for free from your App Store by searching, **MySchoolDay**. Once downloaded, select **Province>School District 42>School**. This app serves as an agenda for students. It is simple to use and allows students to personalize their settings. We will push out information about upcoming events and last minute notifications using this app.

5) **Foundry (App)** – <https://foundrybc.ca/virtual/>

This is a Province wide initiative supported by the Government of BC and powered by BC Children's Hospital. Young people aged 12-24 and their caregivers can use this app to drop-in or schedule a virtual counseling appointment, find peer support, join a youth group or caregiver group, or browse their library of tools and resources.

6) **Social Media Apps**

- **X (formerly Twitter)** - @WSSsd42
- **Instagram** - @wsswildcats
- **Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/WSSWildcats>
- **Youtube** - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzs3zTuPs5h_xd1mF2eUa2A

Upcoming Dates

- **Monday, August 28** - Office Opens for 2023/2024 school year
- **Tuesday, August 29** - Grade 8 Orientation Open House
- **Wednesday, August 30** - Advisory classes posted in front lobby after 12pm
- **Monday, September 4** - Labour Day (School Closed)
- **Tuesday, September 5** - First day of school for students (see above for detailed information)
- **Tuesday, September 5** - International Student Orientation
- **Wednesday, September 6** - First day of regularly scheduled classes
- **Monday, September 18** - Postsecondary Mini Fair at Westview
- **Tuesday, September 19** - School Photo Day
- **Friday, September 22** - Terry Fox Run
- **Thursday, September 21** - Grade 8 Parent Information Evening
- **Monday, September 25** - PAC Meeting at 7:00 pm in the Library
- **Tuesday, September 26** - 2024 Grad Parent Meeting (Grad & Dry Grad) at 7:00 pm
- **Friday, September 29** - Orange Shirt Day at Westview
- **Saturday, September 30** - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- **Monday, October 2** - School Closed in Recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- **Tuesday, October 3** - School Growth Planning Day (Non-Instructional, no classes)
- **Wednesday, October 4** - 2022/23 Awards Presentation at 9:40 am in the Library Grade 9s and 10s
- **Thursday, October 5** - 2022/23 Awards Presentation at 9:40 am in the Library for Grade 11s and 12s
- **Monday, October 9** - Thanksgiving (School Closed)
- **Friday, October 13** - Staff Collaboration Day (School starts for students at 9:55 am)
- **Tuesday October 17** - School Photo Retake Day
- **Friday October 20** - Non Instructional Day (No Classes for Students)
- **Monday October 30** - PAC Meeting at 7:00 pm

Key Contacts

The following is a list of our Counsellors and Administrators:

- Mrs. O'Leary (Counsellor - Gr. 8, 10 & 12s A-L)
 - Lauren_Oleary@sd42.ca
- Mrs. Sharpe (Counsellor - Gr. 9, 11 & 12s M-Z)
 - Shannon_Sharpe@sd42.ca
- Mrs. Sheridan (Vice Principal - Gr. 8 & 10s)
 - Robyn_Sheridan@sd42.ca
- Mr. Drapeau (Vice Principal - Gr. 9 & 11s)
 - Denis_Drapeau@sd42.ca
- Mrs. Blanco (Principal - Grade 12s)
 - Cathryn_Blanco@sd42.ca

Please do not hesitate to email the Principal if you have any questions or concerns.
Sincerely,

Cathryn Blanco

Principal, Westview Secondary School

-Inspiring & encouraging students to strive for excellence!

