

Westview Secondary School

JUNE NEWSLETTER #8

June. 27th, 2024

Message from the Principal

Hello Westview Community,

On behalf of the staff at Westview Secondary School I want to extend my appreciation to our students, families, caregivers and community partners as the 2023/2024 school year comes to an end. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and support! The staff at Westview know that we walk alongside you to encourage and help our students - we could not do this without you. Westview is a community of inclusion, care and compassion and this is reflected in the way staff and students come together to take care of our school and each other. To the Westview Class of 2024 we wish you well as you move forward into the next stage of our journey.

We are saying goodbye to the following staff members as they embark on new adventures and opportunities: Carri Arnold, Karen Leo, Jennifer Salchert, Kate Easby, Parm Cruikshank, Alex Ristea, Carol Redden, Megan Muehlbauer, Mark Giles, Paula Cyr and Louise Morris, Rae-Ann Swire and Erin Stainsby. On behalf of the Westview community thank you for all you gave to our school and we wish you well!

Have a wonderful, well deserved summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back on September 3, 2024!

Important messages from the office

Grade 8 Orientation - Open House

On Tuesday, August 27 from 10:00am – 12:00pm we are hosting the Grade 8 Orientation Day Open House. We are so excited to be welcoming our new cohort of Grade 8s to Westview!

Grade 8s are welcome to drop by during this time to get a treat and have a look around the school to familiarize themselves before Sept 3. We will have student leaders on hand to give tours & answer questions. Parents & caregivers are welcome as well.

First week of School for Grade 8s

The first day of classes for ALL students is September 3. On September 6, after our Grades 8s have had a chance to settle into their new school, we will be holding a Grade 8 Orientation to High School day as part of the regular schedule and lunch will be provided. Parents & guardians/carers do not attend this day.

Grade 8 Parent Night

And don't forget to "Save the Date!" Grade 8 Parent Night @ WSS September 19 – more details to follow in Sept. Parents, Caregivers and Students are welcome! Hope to see you there!

New student Orientation - Open House

The Westview Counselors will be holding a **New Student Orientation on August 29th from 1:00pm - 2:30pm**. This is open to all students who are new to our catchment area. Please note this is not for incoming catchment grade 7s or new International students as they have their own separate events taking place. We will provide a school tour and a run down of how our timetable works while welcoming you to our great school!

Advisories and Timetables

All Advisory's will be posted inside the main foyer on Friday, Sept 1. Students are welcome to come by and see where they will need to go on Sept 3. Timetables will be handed out during Advisory on Sept 3. You should also be able to view this on your MyClass account by August 30th.

Parent Portal messages - First week of school

We will be sending out more information regarding the first week of school in August when we return, so please watch for this information.

Personal Digital Devices

The following Personal Digital Devices (including cell phones, tablets) expectations will be implemented into the Westview Secondary School Code of Conduct effective September 1, 2024:

At Westview Secondary students are not permitted to use personal digital devices during instructional time. There may be situations when the school will permit a student to use a personal digital device for the purposes of inclusion and accessibility. Examples of those are digital literacy, communication, medical and health needs and as defined with an individual education plan.

Consequences for not following the expectations noted above are:

- 1st Breach – Phone will be held in the office until end of the day
- 2nd Breach – Parent/caregiver contact made, and phone dropped off in office at start of the day and picked up at the end of the day or for a predetermined amount of time
- 3rd Breach- Parent/caregiver contacted and student is expected to keep phone at home

We are sending this information to you now so you can take time to review this with your child(ren) ahead of September. In August, as we approach the new school year, we will send out further details including how to contact your child in case of an emergency during the school day. Please reach out to Cathryn Blanco at cathryn_blanco@sd42.ca with any questions.

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Although it may seem far off, volleyball season is the next major gym sport season. Students interested in joining a volleyball team should expect a meeting during the first week of classes to determine interest with tryouts and practices beginning the following week. StudentS should listen to the announcements for any information and can follow [@wss_wildcats_athletics](https://www.instagram.com/wss_wildcats_athletics) on instagram to keep up to date.

Volleyball

"Volleyball season will start the first week back with an after-school meeting Wednesday, September 4th and tryouts beginning after school on Thursday, September 5th. We hope to have both girls and boys teams at most levels, but that is dependent on student-athletes ensuring they listen for announcements and attend all meetings/tryouts/practices as the season has a very quick start up. No previous playing experience is necessary, just the right attitude!"

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

June Band Concert

The Final Concert in May was a huge success with a few highlights being Star Trek: Into Darkness with the concert band, Paranoid Android by the jazz band and the grade 12 combo performing Remember Me. With the funds raised we will be purchasing temple blocks for the percussion section.



LIBRARY

Please make sure all books and resources are returned to WSS first thing in September. Students will be able to take out new resources once their overdue items are returned.

CAREERS

WSS post-secondary day for grade 11 and 12's is on September 16 at flex. All grade 11 and 12 students and parents are invited to PMSS post-secondary evening on Thursday, September 19. More information to follow in September.

Ways to Stay Connected!

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

This website features District & 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>

This website features District & School announcements; Consent & Policy forms; Field trip forms; Pay School Fees; Pay Yearbook Fees; Grad Fees (cost to be advised), other fees that may come up throughout the year.

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

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

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

This app is an important communication tool that parents & students can access easily on their phones. This technology provides daily updates to the calendar and schedule, your timetable, homework notifications, etc.

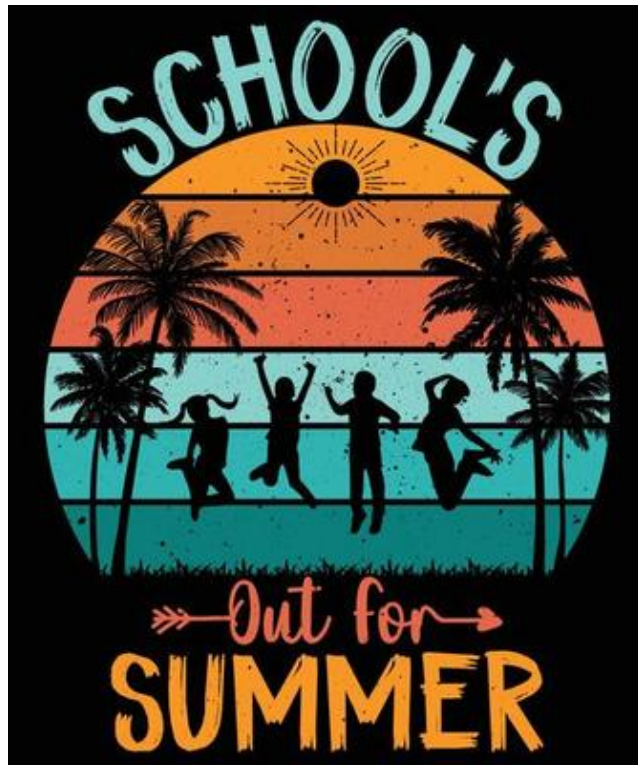
5) **Foundry (App)** – <https://foundrybc.ca/virtual/>

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**

- **Instagram** - @wsswildcats
- **Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/WSSWildcats>
- **Youtube** - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzs3zTuPs5h_xd1mF2eUa2A

Wildcat Wisdom - Summer Break is here! Enjoy, Relax & Stay Cool!



Important Dates

- **Tuesday, August 27** - Grade 8 Orientation Open House (10am-12pm)
- **Thursday, August 29** - New Student Orientation Open House (1pm-2:30pm)
- **Tuesday, Sept 3** - School opens - first day back for ALL students
 - 10:30am - 11:30am for Grades 9-12 pm - go to Advisory
 - 10am - 10:30am for Grade 8 - meet in the MPR and then go to Advisory
- **Thursday, Sept 5** - Photo Day
- **Friday, Sept 6** - Grade 8 Welcome Day
- **Wednesday, Sept 11** - Education Planner BC at Flex (**Grade 12s**) in Library
- **Monday, Sept 16** - Postsecondary Day at Flex in the MPR
- **Thursday, Sept 19** - Grade 8 Parent Night (7pm) in the MPR
- **Tuesday, Sept 24** - Dry Grad Parent meeting (7pm) in the Library
- **Monday, Sept 23** - First PAC meeting (7pm in the Library)
- **Thursday, Sept 26** - Photo Retakes

Key Contacts

The following list of Counsellors and Administrators and their grades are listed below. Welcoming our new Vice Principals!

- **Ms. O’Leary (Counsellor - Gr. 9, 11 & 12s A-L)**
 - Lauren_Oleary@sd42.ca
- **Ms. Sharpe (Counsellor - Gr. 8, 10 & 12s M-Z)**
 - Shannon_Sharpe@sd42.ca
- **Mr. Drapeau (Vice Principal - Gr. 8 & 10s)**
 - Denis_Drapeau@sd42.ca
- **Mrs. Robyn Sheridan (Vice Principal - Gr. 9 & 11s)**
 - Robyn_Sheridan@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!

