



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE
HANDSWORTH
SECONDARY SCHOOL



July 2026

Hello Parents/Guardians and Graduates of 2031,

We are looking forward to officially welcoming you into the Handsworth community this September and are excited to share some general information about our Grade 8 Retreat for all our new grade 8s.

This year's Grade 8 Retreat will be a 2-day event on **September 22nd and 23rd, 2026!** Students will be participating in a variety of team building, experiential learning and mindfulness activities to support student connections and belonging. This two-day event involves a full day at the Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale and a full day of activities at Handsworth. Due to the large size of our incoming class of Grade 8's, students will be pre-assigned to one of two groups in September. These groups will alternate between being at the Cheakamus Centre and being at Handsworth Secondary. Our goals for this year's retreat include:

- Contribute to a strong sense of belonging to the school community through shared experiences with peers, student leaders, and Handsworth Staff.
- Build connections with peers and our student leaders to support the transition to high school.
- Set the tone for a positive and inclusive start to students' secondary school journey.
- Connect Grade 8 students with experiential and land-based learning at Cheakamus.

The cost of the retreat is \$135 and can be paid late August/early Sept. via the Handsworth School Cash Online payment system available through the link provided on the school website - [School Cash Online](#). If you encounter financial constraints, please contact Vice-Principal, Jeffrey Aw-Yong: jawyong@sd44.ca.

This fee includes: • 1 day of activities at the Cheakamus Centre in Brackendale • Highway Coach transportation to and from the Cheakamus Centre • Lunch and snacks at the Cheakamus Centre • Supplies and materials needed for a variety of retreat activities • 1 day of activities and guest presenters at Handsworth Secondary • A Grade 8 retreat T-Shirt • Barbeque lunch at Handsworth.

Our hope is that all Grade 8 students attend the retreat. Regular Grade 8 classes will not be running during the days of September 22nd and 23rd; therefore, students will not be missing any classes during the two days of the Grade 8 retreat.

At this time no action is required, field trip forms, and further details including when to make payment will be emailed out in late August. As a Handsworth staff, we are excited about the prospect of starting the 2026-2027 school year with such an impactful and memorable experience for our students.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Aw-Yong
Vice Principal