



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE
HANDSWORTH
SECONDARY SCHOOL



August 31, 2026

Dear Grade 8 Parents, Guardians and Students,

On behalf of the administration and staff, I would like to welcome you, officially, to the Handsworth School Community. As the summer winds down and the first day of school approaches, we know this comes with anticipation for a new school year and for a different school experience for our newest Handsworth Royals.

We look forward to officially welcoming our grade 8 students on **Tuesday, September 8th, 2026**, for an orientation day, ahead of the first day of regular classes on Wednesday.

Shape of the Day for Tuesday September 8th:

8:45am – 8:55am	Grade 8s arrive and meet Student Leaders in the in the Grand Commons
9:00am	Grade 8 Assembly in Theatre
9:30am	Grade 8 Homeroom (Student Schedules, Locks/Locker Information, Blank Timetable, Demographic Verifications, Grade 8 Retreat Forms etc.)
10:00am	School Photos in Gym (No hats or face coverings permitted)

Students should be done by 10:30am. Please note that students will be given schedules and demographic verification information during homeroom. They will also be signing their Risk and Responsibility Agreement for the Grade 8 Retreat, so will need a pen or pencil and a bag to ensure documents get home safe. Please confirm demographic information and return forms to main office ASAP (prior to Sept 16th).

Wednesday, September 9th is the first full day of classes. Classes start at 9:10am and the block rotation for Wednesday is 5, 6, 7, 8. Student leaders will review schedules with our grade 8s on Tuesday, but it will be good to go over this at home to ensure your grade 8 is aware of where to be on Wednesday morning for their first official class (please find Handsworth timetable attached to this correspondence). Teachers will provide detailed information about the school supplies necessary for each class.

Parents and Guardians, please mark your calendars as you (no students for this one) are invited to join us for a **Grade 8 Parent Evening on Thursday, September 10th, 2026 at 6:00pm**. We will meet in the Theatre for a brief presentation to start promptly at 6:00pm and then give the opportunity for parents/guardians to tour the school and see the classrooms your grade 8s will be learning in this fall. The presentation will include an introduction to the admin team, information on what to expect this year, as well as important information about the upcoming Grade 8 Retreat – and the opportunity to answer any lingering questions you may have about the school year.



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An integral part of our student transition to Handsworth is the Grade 8 Retreat. The theme of the 2026 retreat is "Connections & Community". A reminder that this year's Grade 8 Retreat will be a two-day event on September 22nd and 23rd, 2026. Students will be participating in a full day at the Cheakamus Centre and a full day of activities at Handsworth. Due to the large size of our incoming class of Grade 8s, students will be pre-assigned to one of two groups. These groups will alternate between being at the Cheakamus Centre and being at Handsworth Secondary. Students will participate in activities to foster a sense of connection with each other and with the space we share. Our hope is that all Grade 8 students attend the retreat. There are no regular Grade 8 classes running this day.

The Grade 8 Retreat Permission forms are attached to this correspondence and will also be distributed in homerooms on opening day. Please complete the Cheakamus Centre Informed Consent, the Grade 8 Retreat Informed Consent and Medical/Dietary forms and return them to the Main Office by Friday September 11th. If your grade 8 is not able to attend on September 22/23, please email me (jawyong@sd44.ca) ASAP.

Student accounts have been attached to our Cash Online now. At your earliest convenience, **please follow the link to [School Cash Online](#) to pay the \$135 fee for the Retreat, guest speaker and Handsworth t-shirt. The deadline for payments is Friday, September 11th, 2026.** Thank you in advance for ensuring forms and fees are in on time. It really helps with the organizational process of this important – and big – event!

To keep up to date with events and information, be sure to check out our [Handsworth School Website](#), as we are always updating and posting what's going on for students and families at Handsworth.

If you have any questions, please reach out to our grade 8 counsellor, Ms. Renwick (renwick@sd44.ca) or reach out to me via email.

Grade 8 is an exciting year, and I truly look forward to working with this group of students, to seeing them grow and find their passions, and to supporting them along the way.

Kindly,

Jeffrey Aw-Yong

Vice-Principal
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