



David Thompson Secondary School

Welcome to Grade 8!



Dear Grade 7 Students and Parents,

Our goal is to welcome you and our child to David Thompson Secondary School the best we can given the current circumstance. DTSS has met with staff from all of the elementary school to review the learning needs of all incoming students.

We are working with each school (EES, WES, MMES, JA, Laird) to coordinate small group tour of DTSS. If you would like to set up an individual tour for your child to become more acquainted with our building, please reach out to our Youth Care workers Caitln Copland and Candace Scheffer: Caitlin.copland@sd6.bc.ca or Candace.scheffer@sd6.bc.ca. In addition, a virtual tour of the school will be made available to you next week.

As we navigate through the next few months, our planning for the fall Grade 8 Orientation will be guided by the Ministry of Education, The BC Centre for Disease Control and our School District's restart plan. Your understanding, patience and flexibility is very much appreciated. We remain excited to welcome the incoming grade 8's to our school community and committed to supporting their successful transition to DTSS. Below you will find

information related to Enhanced French and Band programs, and student schedules.

Grade 8 Courses and Schedules

DTSS is in the process of placing your child into their grade 8 classes. Students will be enrolled in English, Math, Social Studies, Science, Physical and Health Education, French, and Career Education. Various Applied Design and Arts Education options will complete their schedules.

Our Applied Design Exploration courses include Woodwork, Metalwork, Textiles, Foods, Media Arts, Information Technology, and Computers & Communication Devices. Our Arts Education electives are Band, Drama, Drawing & Painting, and Sculpting. Students are expected to take at least one course in each category. The goal is for students in grades 8 and 9 sample a variety of these courses. Grade 9 students select their exploration courses, and then grade 8 students are placed in the remaining spots.

Enhanced French

Enhanced French programming continues in grade 8. We are assuming that if your child has been



enrolled in the Intensive French program at JA Laird they will be continuing at DTSS in Enhanced French 8. Please contact Lisa Tenta at lisa.tenta@sd6.bc.ca, if this is not the case for your child.

Band

Students may choose to take Band 8, which runs throughout the school year. No prior musical experience is necessary. Most families choose to rent an instrument through St. John's Music in mid-September, though options exist to rent a school instrument for a nominal fee. If this fee is restrictive to your child participating in the band program, please contact us.

If your child is wanting to be enrolled in Band, please email: lisa.tenta@sd6.bc.ca

Your child's schedule will look similar to one of the two options below:

Option 1: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical/Health Ed., French, Career Ed.,

1 or 2 Applied Design electives,
1 or 2 Art Education electives.

Option 2: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical/Health Ed., French, Career Ed.,

Band,
1 Applied Design elective

*Adjustments may be made to student schedules for those requiring learning services support.

(Please contact Heather English at heather.english@sd6.bc.ca)

Next week, you can expect the following communication from DTSS:

- Link to a virtual tour of the school
- Meet the Staff - Staff photo composite
- Grade 8: Q & A (Frequently asked questions and answers)

Course descriptions can be found online at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/> or <http://www.sd6.bc.ca/school/dtss/students/course/Documents/Junior%20Courses%2019-20.pdf>.

If you have questions about courses or the transition to grade 8, please contact Glen Sage (glen.sage@sd6.bc.ca), Lisa Tenta (lisa.tenta@sd6.bc.ca) or Darren Danyluk (darren.danyluk@sd6.bc.ca)