



THOMAS HANEY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Member of the Canadian Coalition of Self-Directed Learning

PRINCIPAL: MR. GRANT FREND

VICE PRINCIPALS: MS. LISA KANIA/MR. TOM LEVESQUE

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August 25, 2021

Welcome back! We hope you are enjoying the fantastic weather we have had this summer. As we inch closer to September 7th, we wanted to share some information that will make the school start-up process clear. There will be additional communication regarding communicable disease prevention guidelines from K-12 schools from our superintendent, Mr. Harry Dhillon, in the near future. This letter focuses specifically on what you can expect as we return to full-time in-person learning at THSS.

Thankfully, we are back for full-time in-person learning. Our students in grades 9-12 have had a very unique experience over the past 18 months and are not used to our 'normal' THSS senior grades model. Our school day will run from 8:30 am to 2:45 pm and students are expected to be in attendance all day. Students in grades 11 and 12 with previous demonstrated excellence in both attendance and work habits can apply to administration for permission to work at home either one full day per week or two half days per week, provided that their set block classes allow for this. During last year's Covid model of schooling, most students worked at home outside of set classes, but we are now back to our regular operations in terms of set classes and great halls. Students, when not in set classes, are to be working in great halls and / or elective work areas with their peers and subject area teachers. Many of last year's grade 10/11 students were able to work at part-time jobs during the school day, but with our return to full-time in-person learning, students should be ensuring that their job availability is set up outside of our 8:30-2:45 schedule. All SD42 secondary schools are operating on the semester system this year with students taking 3-5 courses in each of two semesters, dependent on student course requests and timetable scheduling.

If you are looking for more flexible options to learn at home, please email me and I can connect you with resources/links for exploring online options throughout the province. THSS (and our other SD42 secondary schools) do not offer school-based remote or online learning options. Our local online school, Connected Learning Community, is able to provide opportunities for students in grades 10-12.

Please note that student schedules will be made available via MyClass at 3 pm on Friday, September 3rd. Our admin/counseling team will continue to balance classes through September. The course change request process will be communicated to students during the first week of school.

Also, please note that we have a brand new vice-principal team! Mr. Levesque joins us from Garibaldi and Ms. Kania joins us from Harry Hooge. We wish Mr. Chow good luck at Garibaldi and offer our best wishes to Mrs. Girbav who is now at Westview.

Administrative/Counseling Assignments

If you need to contact an administrator regarding a student issue, please see below for the appropriate person:

Mr. Frend - Grade 12

Mr. Levesque - Grade 9/11

Ms. Kania - Grade 8/10

Counseling

Mrs. McBride - Grades 8 and 10 (all students) Grade 12 A-L

Mr. Grill - Grades 9 and 11 (all students) and Grade 12 M-Z

Student Fees/Locker Distribution

We encourage you to pay student fees (\$28.00) on the parent portal as soon as possible.

We will have an early locker distribution opportunity for students on Thursday, September 2nd, 2021. Students who come in on this day will get first choice on lockers within the bank assigned to their TA. Please note senior students will receive top lockers. To receive a locker, students must have paid student fees for the current year (paying via the portal will mean the process goes faster)

Please note that yearbooks (\$55.00) will go on sale via the Parent Portal later in September. We have sold out the past 3 years, so we encourage you to purchase your book early in the fall.

Grade 12 Senior Sunset: on Wednesday, September 1st at 6:30 pm we will host our Senior Sunset. All grade 12's who have paid student fees are invited to come to the school to select a locker. Students will come to the back of the school and will be brought into the school in small groups to select lockers near their TA. Students will be required to sign in, acknowledge they have completed their daily health check, and sanitize their hands. Students should bring a lawn chair as they will have the opportunity for physically distanced mingling with their peers. Please ensure students bring a mask as well.

All other early locker distribution will happen according to the following schedule (**students should arrive to locker distribution day with a print-out or screen shot of their payment receipt to speed up this process**). We will only be doing early distribution on Thursday, September 2nd. Students will line up at the front doors in front of the sign with their TA number at their assigned time. Students will be required to sign in and acknowledge they have completed their daily health check as well as sanitize their hands. Students can **only** attend during their designated TA time, however siblings are placed in the same TA, so one student could register multiple lockers if their siblings are unable to attend. Students who arrive late or who are unable to make their time below can come in on Friday, September 3rd between 8:30 am and 9:30 am to get their locker.

Students should bring their own combination lock when claiming a locker. **Anxiety Hack: Students should take a photo of their locker number and lock combination when claiming their locker.**

Thursday, September 2nd

TA 1-3	8:30-8:50
TA 4-6	8:50-9:10
TA 7-9	9:10-9:30
TA 10-12	9:30-9:50
TA 12-14	9:50-10:10
TA 15-17	10:10-10:30
TA 18-20	10:30-10:50
TA 21-23	10:50-11:10
TA 24-26	11:10-11:30
TA 27-29	11:30-11:50
TA 30-32	12:15-12:35
TA 33-35	12:35-12:55
TA 36-38	12:55-1:15
TA 39-41	1:15-1:35
TA 42-45	1:35-1:55
TA 46-49	1:55-2:20

Opening Week Schedule

Our goal for opening week is to have students spend meaningful time relationship-building with Teacher Advisors as well as getting accustomed to our building again. Students have been disconnected from our 'normal' school experience for about 18 months. TA is the bedrock upon which we will re-build our school culture and is a valued school-wide strategy to student well-being. Our staff have been busy planning TA activities and honing our vision for what TA should be. It is important that students are in TA daily at 8:30 am. **Timetables will be distributed to students during TA on the first morning of school. More information is provided on TA later in this newsletter.**

Opening Week

Our opening day this year is Tuesday, September 7th, and our schedule is as follows:

12:30 pm	New THSS students (grades 8 – 12) will go to their Teacher Advisory (TA). TA assignments/room numbers will be emailed home, as well as posted on our front windows
1:30 pm	Returning THSS students join new THSS students in TA
1:45 pm	New THSS students dismissed from TA to home
2:45 pm	Returning THSS students dismissed from TA to home

Wednesday, September 8th – Friday, September 10th are regular school days: 8:30 am – 2:45 pm

Teacher Advisory

Please note that unless a student has an administration approved work at home form, attendance during TA is required. TA starts at 8:30 and it is our expectation that students arrive on time. All students are required to maintain a daily plan using our paper planner. Students who consistently miss TA may be required to make up time by administration.

All student absences must be excused by a parent or legal guardian or they will be recorded as “unexcused,” and parents will be contacted by the autodialer. Absences reported to teachers may not be excused in our system, so be sure to contact the office in one of the following ways:

- 1) Log into the parent portal and click the “Report Absence” tab. Select your child’s name from the drop-down menu. Enter the date of the absence, or the date that the student will be arriving late or leaving early, as well as any other relevant details. ****This is the preferred method to report an absence****
- 2) Call the school directly at 604-463-2001
- 3) Send a signed note with your student to the office prior to, or upon return from, an absence.
- 4) Visit the office in person

Work At Home

Work at home applications will be available from the office for students in grades 11 and 12 during the first week of school. These applications are to be filled out and returned to administration for consideration. Only students that have demonstrated consistent work habits and achievement across all report cards last year will be considered.

Parent Advisory Council

Our first PAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at THSS. There is NO fundraising involved. We hope you can join us!

I look forward to the return of our clubs, teams, field trips and other activities that add so much to the high school experience. You can expect additional communication from the district and from our school regarding the new provincial guidelines regulating our capacity to host these typical school experiences. We will work diligently to follow the health and safety protocols provided to us.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email grant_frend@sd42.ca or phone (604-463-2001).

Sincerely,

Grant Frend