



A few highlights from September

September was filled with a variety of activities:



- We started the year with an awesome opening assembly with Thor welcoming all staff and students back into the building. In the picture above, Thor officially starts the school year by ringing the gong!
- Our Fall sports are underway with grade 8, Jr. & Sr. girls Volleyball and the addition of a Sr. Boys Volleyball team that was student initiated! We also have Cross-Country and Boys' grade 8/9 and Senior Soccer. In the picture above, our Sr. Girls hosted a PINK OUT for their opening games and the crowd responses were fantastic with lots of parents and students in pink cheering our girls on.
- Our Student Council hosted a Club Info Day to showcase our over 30 clubs for students to be involved with this year. There is a club or team for everybody. Being involved in the school benefits students in so many ways!!
- We have had many opportunities for students to explore and learn - above is a picture of our Outdoor Education students doing a hike at Golden Ears; they also Ziplined at Grouse Mountain last week.
- Our Equestrian Academy worked on horse anatomy with a super cute miniature horse that visited the school; as seen in the above picture.
- Our entire school participated in the annual Terry Fox Run/Walk on a beautiful sunny Friday and raised over \$1,500 for Cancer research - Well done & thanks for your contributions.

- This past sunny Friday, we had a BBQ for our Grade 12s to conclude the first month of school!
- This year also marks the return to a linear model for all schools - this means students have ALL of their courses from September to June.

New This Year - Standards-Based Grading for Gr. 8 & 9

One of the changes this coming year is that Learning Updates will be used to communicate progress and replace the previously known “Report Cards.” A number of changes will be implemented this year, and moving forward.

For Grade 8/9 students, all classes will move to the Proficiency Scale, a continuation from their elementary school. This will be done throughout SD42 and the province, and there will still be 3 updates throughout the school year. Descriptive feedback will focus on strength-based, written comments that are aligned with the learning standards and describe student learning, as well as identifying specific areas for future growth. Comments will also address attendance and the learning habits of the student in class. Below is a brief description of the Proficiency scale.

Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Emerging means your child is beginning to understand something in an area of learning. They are still learning but may need more support to move ahead. Emerging doesn't mean your child is unsuccessful in this area.	Developing means your child understands some things in an area of learning but still has other areas to work on. Like Emerging, it doesn't mean your child is unsuccessful in this area.	Proficient is the goal for your child. It's also the goal for all students. When your child is Proficient, it means they fully understand the required learning. But it doesn't mean their learning stops.	Extending is when students show a deeper understanding. It's when your child is able to apply their learning in new and different ways. Extending is not the goal for all students in every area of learning.

Important October Dates

- Wednesday, October 4 - **Grade 11/12 Parent Information Night** - 7:00pm - Rotunda.
 - Dan Grill, one of our school counsellors, will lead this session which will run about 60-75 minutes
 - Focus is on post-secondary options & scholarships & bursaries
- Monday, October 9 - **Thanksgiving Holiday**
 - No school for students & staff
- Tuesday, October 10 - **Grade 9/10 Awards Ceremony** - Rotunda
 - Grade 9 during period 2 (9:51-10:51am)
 - Grade 10 during period 3 (10:54-11:54am)
- Wednesday, October 11 - **Photo Retake Day**
- Wednesday, October 11 - **Grade 11/12 Awards Ceremony** - Rotunda
 - Grade 11 during period 2 (9:51-10:51am)
 - Grade 12 during period 3 (10:54-11:54am)
- Thursday, October 12 - **PAC Meeting** 7:00pm in room 2032.
 - All parents are welcome to attend!
- Monday, October 16 - Collaboration Block for staff 8:30-9:30am. **Late Start for Students** 9:30am
- Friday, October 20 - **Non-Instructional Day** (no school for students)
- October 30 - November 3 - **Literacy 10 Assessments**
 - Students' schedules posted on the whiteboard at the front entrance of the school.

Key Contacts

The following list of Counsellors and Administrators and their grades are listed below:

- **Administration**

- Mr. Rowell (Principal - Grade 12s)
 - Darren_Rowell@sd42.ca
- Ms. Kania (Vice Principal - Gr. 8 &10s)
 - Lisa_Kania@sd42.ca
- Mr. Kater (Vice Principal - Gr. 9 &11s)
 - Steve_Kater@sd42.ca

- **Counsellors**

- Mr. Grill (Counsellor - Gr. 9, 11 & 12s M-Z)
 - Dan_Grill@sd42.ca
- Ms. McPhedran (Counsellor - Gr. 8, 10 & 12s A-L)
 - Kaley_McPhedran@sd42.ca

Please do not hesitate to email Darren_Rowell@sd42.ca if you need further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Darren Rowell
Principal, Thomas Harey Secondary School



Information for Parents and Caregivers

K-12 Student Reporting

When you were in school, were you asked to memorize information and repeat it on a test, only to forget it soon after? We now know learning is not just memorizing – it's being able to use what we know and apply it in real-world settings. Universities, colleges, and employers today care more about how students think than how many facts they can repeat.

BC's Curriculum

The learning students do today is more complex than ever. British Columbia redesigned the provincial curriculum to respond to the needs of today's learners. The curriculum continues to give your child a strong foundation in reading, writing, and math. But it also teaches your child how to think critically, communicate, solve problems, and use their knowledge in ways that both matter in school and will matter in a rapidly changing future.

The new curriculum has been in place in all grades since 2019, but report cards and the way student learning is communicated haven't really changed for decades. Report cards are now changing to align with the curriculum and to help ensure that every student in the province is set up for success in their learning.



Classroom assessment

You may remember getting a letter grade or percentage at the end of a chapter in your textbook or after a test, signaling to you that learning had come to an end. Today we know that learning doesn't stop when students hand in an assignment or complete a test.

We also know that:

- student learning can be communicated in ways other than letter grades
- teacher feedback on student learning can help students continue to learn
- students are more engaged when they have a say in how they show their learning



That's why students will receive marks on a four-point scale from Kindergarten to Grade 9. Students in Grades 10-12 will still receive a letter grade and percentage to support their entry into post-secondary education. And reporting for all students will now include self-reflection and goal setting.

Report Cards

These changes mean that report cards might not look the same as when you were in school. But the information you will now receive will provide a complete picture of what your child can do, where they need to improve, and how you can support their learning. Reporting in this way will ensure that students focus on learning instead of competing for marks.



What is consistent?

5 reporting events (3 written and 2 informal reports, such as parent/caregiver-teacher conferences)

Letter grades and percentages at grades 10-12

Written feedback grades K-9

Student self-assessment of Core Competencies grades K-9

What is evolving?

Inclusion of the graduation status update at grades 10-12 on the end of year report card

The consistent use of the Provincial Proficiency Scale by all districts at grades K-9

Written feedback at grades K-12

Student self-assessment of Core Competencies and goal-setting grades K-12



The Provincial Proficiency Scale

If your child is in Grades K-9, you won't see letter grades on their report card. Instead, you will see information on where your child is on the Provincial Proficiency Scale. The scale uses the terms "Emerging," "Developing," "Proficient," and "Extending" to describe student learning. The scale maintains high standards for student learning.

Emerging

Emerging means your child is beginning to understand something in an area of learning. They are still learning but may need more support to move ahead. Emerging doesn't mean your child is unsuccessful in this area.

Developing

Developing means your child understands some things in an area of learning but still has other areas to work on. Like Emerging, it doesn't mean your child is unsuccessful in this area.

Proficient

Proficient is the goal for your child. It's also the goal for all students. When your child is Proficient, it means they fully understand the required learning. But it doesn't mean their learning stops.

Extending

Extending is when students show a deeper understanding. It's when your child is able to apply their learning in new and different ways. Extending is not the goal for all students in every area of learning.

For more information:



Email
student.reporting@gov.bc.ca



Website
<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>