

Thomas Haney Secondary School

Welcome Back!!

August 26th, 2024



Welcome Back

As we begin a new school year at Thomas Haney Secondary School, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all of you. Whether you're a returning student or joining us for the first time, we are excited to start the school year! To our newcomers, welcome aboard – we're excited to have you join us at Thomas Haney, a proudly self-directed learning (SDL) school since 1992. This [LINK](#) provides a brief overview of our SDL model and why we are so proud of our school, our students, our staff and our entire community.

This year, our theme is "Good Things Happen Here." At Thomas Haney, we believe that each day brings new opportunities for growth, learning, exciting experiences and connection. We are committed to fostering an environment where every student feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential.

One of the cornerstones of our approach is our self-directed teaching model, which allows students to take an active role in their education, setting goals, managing their time, and exploring their interests. Our dedicated and amazing teachers are here to guide and support students every step of the way, ensuring that each student's unique strengths are recognized and nurtured.

As we move forward with this year's theme in mind, I encourage all of our students to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them. Whether through academic pursuits, extracurricular activities, or community involvement, remember that good things happen here—when you take initiative, collaborate with others, and strive for excellence.

To our parents and guardians, we thank you for your continued support. Together, we will create a positive and enriching experience for our students, helping them to grow not only as learners but as individuals who are ready to make a difference in the world.

Here's to a fantastic school year filled with success, growth, and—of course—many good things!

With warmest regards,

Darren Rowell

Principal, Thomas Haney Secondary School

Opening Day & Week Information

NOTE - on the first day, not all students attend at the same time. Take a look at the schedule and determine by grade the time you need to arrive.

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024

All students will attend their Teacher Advisory (TA). Students will receive a copy of their class schedule, their planner and all the information required to get them ready for the first day of regular classes (Wednesday, September 4th).

ALL students/parents will receive an email with their TA # and room # during the week of August 28th.

- **Tuesday, September 3rd - Schedule**

- 9:30-11:15 am - **ALL** grade 8s & **ALL NEW** students in grades 9-12
- 10:30-11:15 am - **ALL** returning grade 9-12 students
- 11:15-12:00 pm - Welcome Back Assembly - **ALL** students (Gym)

Wednesday to Friday, September 4-6th

All students will move through ALL of their classes during these 3 days, following this schedule:

	TIME	Wednesday Sept 4	Thursday Sept 5	Friday Sept 6
TA	8:30-9:10			
Block A	9:15-9:45	A (Mon P1)	A (Tues P5)	A (Thurs P3)
Block B	9:50-10:20	B (Mon P3)	B (Wed P1)	B (Thurs P4)
Block C	10:25-10:55	C (Mon P4)	C (Wed P2)	C (Thurs P5)
Block D	11:00-11:30	D (Mon P5)	D (Wed P3)	D (Fri P1)
LUNCH	11:35-12:15	-	-	-
Block E	12:20-12:50	E (Tues P1)	E (Wed P4)	E (Fri P2)
Block F	12:55-1:25	F (Tues P2)	F (Wed P5)	F (Fri P3)
Block G	1:30-2:00	G (Tues P3)	G (Thurs P1)	G (Fri P4)
Block H	2:05-2:45	H (Tues P4)	H (Thurs P2)	H (Fri P5)

Student Schedules

All students will receive their class schedule in TA on Tuesday, September 3rd. Please note that student schedules will be made available via [MyClass](#) on Wednesday, August 28th. If students are having trouble getting onto MyClass they can follow the instructions [here](#), or email myclass@sd42.ca.

Course/Class Change Process

What do I do if I need to change one of my courses?

Students can pick up a change request form during TA and drop it off at the counselling office. Updated schedules will be returned to TA boxes and distributed during morning TA. Counsellors are unavailable to meet for individual schedule changes during the first week of school. **Friday, September 13th is the course change deadline.**

Cell Phone Use Changes

This year, there are some important updates to our school's cell phone policy, effective immediately. These changes are in alignment with the new regulations mandated by the Province of British Columbia. The growing concern around student mental health, particularly in relation to the extensive use of social media, has driven these necessary adjustments to ensure that the Thomas Haney Secondary learning environment supports the well-being and academic success of all students. This is a significant shift for our school as we rely heavily on TEAMS for classroom assignments, learning guides & communication. This big shift will take some time but it is a healthy move for the well-being of our students to strike a better balance with their use of technology during the school day.

The book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathon Haidt has created a lot of conversations amongst educators and parents about the detrimental effects of excessive technology use on youth in their most formative years of cognitive and social development. I encourage you to read it if you have the opportunity. If you are interested in this topic, there is an article called, *Lessons From “The Anxious Generation” For Educators and Parents* ([LINK to ARTICLE](#)) that may be of interest to you.

New Thomas Haney Secondary School Cell Phone Policy Overview:

In Scheduled Classes and Teacher Advisory:

Students will only be permitted to use their cell phones if directed by the teacher for learning purposes. This ensures that technology is used as a tool to enhance education rather than a distraction.

In Great Halls:

Students may only use their phones if the use is connected to learning activities. Unsupervised use of cell phones for non-academic purposes will no longer be allowed in these areas.

Before School, Between Classes & Lunch:

Ideally students will manage their online time in an appropriate manner before and after school and between classes and lunch time. However during these times students will not be restricted from using their phones as long as it aligns with our school's code of conduct around appropriate use of technology.

Addressing Non-Adherence:

To help students manage their learning environment without the distraction of cell phones, we will implement a series of progressive steps if the policy is not followed. These steps will culminate in communication with parents/guardians and the

development of a plan to ensure that each student is able to stay focused on their education.

Staff Updates

New staff brings positive change and we welcome, not only our new, but returning staff for 2024-25.

Joining our staff are:

- Ms. Burns - Education Assistant (EA)
- Ms. Carter - English Teacher
- Ms. Gosling - Music Teacher
- Ms. Higginson - Education Assistant (EA)
- Ms. Jee - Languages Teacher
- Ms. Leo - Education Assistant (EA)
- Mr. McCartie - Humanities & Phys. Ed. Teacher
- Ms. Olson - Education Assistant (EA)
- Mr. Peter - Lunch Hour Supervisor
- Ms. Pretzer - CLC and Safe & Caring
- Ms. Salchert - Education Assistant (EA)
- Ms. Sarai - Math & Science Teacher
- Ms. Seaman - Education Assistant (EA)
- Mr. Staniland - Support Teacher
- Mr. Toews - English & Socials Teacher

Also returning to our staff are:

- Ms. Mah - Art and Careers
- Ms. Compton - Math & Science
- Ms. Hall - Math & Science

Teacher Advisory (TA)

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 and there is a space each week where a parent can initial to show that they have reviewed their child's plan. Our goal is that the planner is a useful tool for both students and parents. TA is a pillar of our school. Our staff values this time to build positive relationships with our students and to help guide and support them in their daily and weekly planning, but also in their development as a self-directed learner. There is a direct correlation and connection between the academic and social success of our students and TA attendance.

Reporting Student Absence

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:

- 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****
- Call the school directly at 604-463-2001
- Send a signed note with your student to the office prior to, or upon return from, an absence.
- 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

Fall Sports

Girls Volleyball will be hosting try outs for both Senior and Junior Girls Volleyball at the beginning of the 1st week to prepare for the upcoming 2024 girls volleyball season. Grade 8 volleyball tryouts will happen later so stay tuned. Please spread the word to anyone who would like to come and try out. If you have any questions about tryouts please email: Nicole_atkinson@sd42.ca

If we feel that a third tryout is needed we will assess afterwards. Please see tryout dates and times below. Please come prepared and on time for your tryout. Thanks!

- **Junior Girls:**
 - Tuesday September 3rd 1:00-2:00
 - Wednesday September 4th 3:00-4:00
- **Senior Girls:**
 - Tuesday September 3rd 2:00-3:00
 - Wednesday September 4th 3:00-4:00

Cafeteria Information

Cafeteria service is not available during the first week of school. We will look to sell some pizza or other food out of the rotunda!

School Supplies - Backpack & Supplies Donation Together, We Give Back-to-School campaign with Amazon

Thanks to deleezy, a delivery service partner for Amazon (and parents to THSS students), who are thrilled to be part of the Together, We Give Back-to-School campaign with Amazon. They are donating sets of 60 backpacks and corresponding school supplies to ensure that our collective efforts support many students in need during the start of the school year. The backpacks arrive at school Sept. 3rd. If your child would like to receive the backpack and corresponding school supplies, simply email Mr. Rowell (Darren_Rowell@sd42.ca) and I will arrange confidential delivery of the backpack and supplies.

THSS Website & Social Media

All school related information will be posted to our school website.

- THSS Website (<https://secondary.sd42.ca/thss/>)
- THSS Official Instagram (@thss_thunder)

Important Dates

- Monday, August 26th (6:00 pm) - **Grade 12** Summer Sunset BBQ & Lockers
- Tuesday, August 27th - **Grade 11** (12:00-2:00 pm) - Student Fees & Lockers
- Wednesday, August 28th - **Grade 10** (12:00-2:00 pm) - Student Fees & Lockers
- Thursday, August 29th - **Grade 9** (12:00-2:00 pm) - Student Fees & Lockers
- Friday, August 30th - **Grade 8** (12:00-2:00 pm) - Student Fees & Lockers
- Tuesday, September 3rd - **School Opens** (*please check opening day schedule on p. 2 for times*)
- Wednesday, September 4th - 1st FULL Day of Classes (8:30 am - 2:45 pm)
- Wednesday, September 11th - Photo Day
- Friday, September 13th - Grade 12 BBQ (Lunch)
- Wednesday, September 18th - Post Secondary Info (PSI) - 9:00-12:00pm
- Wednesday, September 25th - Evening Open House - Details TBA

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
 - Mr. Kater (Vice Principal - Gr. 8 &10s)
 - Steve_Kater@sd42.ca
 - Ms. Kania (Vice Principal - Gr. 9 &11s)
 - Lisa_Kania@sd42.ca
- **Counsellors**
 - Mr. Grill (Counsellor - Gr. 8, 10 & 12s M-Z)
 - Dan_Grill@sd42.ca
 - Ms. McPhedran (Counsellor - Gr. 9, 11 & 12s A-L)
 - Kaley_McPhedran@sd42.ca

I am very excited about the start of the school year and the opportunities that await our students. 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