



Ecole Chief Dan George Middle School  
32877 Old Riverside Road, Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 8K2  
604•852•9616  
chiefdan.sd34.bc.ca

## Welcome

Hello...Bonjour Parents and Students of Chief Dan George Middle School!

We hope you are having an enjoyable and fulfilling summer. We are looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>!

We are proud of the fact that we provide a number of programs for students including Early and Late French Immersion, English Track and a Resource Room. Students come from over twenty K to 5 schools to attend Chief Dan George Middle School!

This will be the sixteenth year Chief Dan George has operated as a middle school. CDGMS has developed a strong reputation in a number of areas including band, extra-curricular options, explorations and academic rigor. As the principal of CDGMS, I am looking forward to continuing the process of building an excellent school. It is my goal to continually be looking for ways to improve our school.

## Principal's Message

I am Jasbir Singh, the principal at CDGMS. I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. I have a prior connection with this amazing school and staff, as all three of my daughters attended the French Immersion Program. During this time, I was able to volunteer as a parent coach for basketball and many other extra-curricular activities and field trips that my daughters were involved in. There were so many positive memories of CDGMS for myself and my daughters. Now I have the privilege of working with these teachers to make for an enjoyable year for our incoming students.

In terms of my education career, I have had a varied career. Prior to working with the Abbotsford School District, I taught grades eight to twelve at Princess Margaret Secondary in Surrey for three years. My first position with the Abbotsford School District was at Clayburn Middle School, which was my first experience with the dynamics of middle school education. I have been a middle school educator ever since. While at

Clayburn Middle School, I taught all core subjects for grades six, seven, and eight. After four years at Clayburn Middle School, I was promoted to vice-principal at Colleen and Gordie Howe Middle School. I worked hard to promote family connections with the school during my three years at Howe Middle. During my time at Howe Middle, I was also the vice-principal and principal of the district summer school program over three summers. To be the best at my job, I am a continuous learner myself participating in conferences or reading articles to improve my practice. As I am entering my third year as principal at CDGMS, I am looking forward to working with the students and their families.

Mrs. Whitman is returning to CDGMS for her fifth year as vice-principal. Mrs. Whitman started her teaching career in California. She then moved back to her hometown in 1992, where she taught at Sandy Hill Elementary School until moving to Clayburn Middle for its opening year. She eventually left Clayburn Middle to work in learning support services at Robert Bateman Secondary. She is a veteran teacher and a caring, compassionate administrator.

Together, we look forward to the upcoming year at CDGMS.

## Opening School Information

### Tentative Class Lists

The tentative class lists will be posted on the windows in front of the school on Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 pm. The grade level, room number, teacher's name and division will be at the top. Some classes have a waiting list for vacant seats. Please note that class changes may take place during the first two weeks of school due to changes in enrolment numbers.

***If your family has decided to have your child/children attend a school other than Chief Dan this September, 2017 please call our office immediately and leave a message at 604 852 9616.***



### **Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – for Incoming Grade 6 students**

In order to start your first year at middle school on a positive note, our Grade 8 Web Leaders will be planning some wonderful activities to welcome you to Chief Dan George. Hopefully these activities will help you to get oriented to your new school and make friends. Please note you will need to be at school from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> (8:20-10:30 am)**

The first day will be a partial one for students to meet their teachers, peers, and to see parts of the school. We will start at 8:20 am and dismiss at 10:30 am. Students do NOT bring their supplies on this day. They only need to bring a pencil and paper or notepad.

**Grade 6 students** will proceed directly to the **gym**.

**Grade 7 and 8 students** will proceed directly to their **classes**. Student helpers as well as Learning Services staff will be available to help new students find their classroom.

### **Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> (FULL DAY)**

Classes will run the full day from 8:20 a.m. until 2:22 p.m. daily. Teachers begin team building activities with their students.

**Grade 7 and 8 students** will proceed directly to their **classes**.

**Grade 6 students** will proceed to the **gym**.

### **Transportation**

#### **Buses**

The **user-pay** school bus and the Special Education school buses will be in operation the first day of school. If you are unsure which bus your child should take, please call the transportation department at 604 855 5278.

#### **Traffic Flow, Safety and Student Drop Off**

Please only park in the marked areas of the parking lot. Please note parents are allowed to park in the parking lot at the corner of Gladwin and Old Riverside Road. Please only drop off students in the lane closest to the school. If you are parking in the street, please do so in

the designated areas only. Also, please have your children use the crosswalk when crossing the street.

Please follow all traffic signs in the school parking lot. The busiest times are 10-15 minutes before and after school. Please try to avoid these busy times by encouraging your child to walk or carpool.

### **General Information**

#### **School Calendar 2017-2018**

To help with the planning of your child's forthcoming academic year, please find enclosed the 2017-2018 calendar.

#### **Supply List**

It is included in this package. Please do NOT bring all supplies to school the first day. Teachers will be giving additional instructions regarding lockers starting the second day.

#### **Gym Strip Available**

The cost for both the grey t-shirt and black shorts is \$25 (\$10 for shirt/\$15 for shorts). We have a supply of the shorts and shirts available in the office for your convenience. If you are interested in purchasing a set for your child, please pop into the office (in the mornings only please).

#### **Remaining 2016-2017 Items**

All lost and found items from last year were donated to charity in the first week of July. We are still missing lots of library books and textbooks from the end of school last year. Please return these to the library or make arrangements with Mrs. Hollanti to pay for any lost books.

#### **Attendance & Late Arrivals**

A reliable indicator of student success is consistency of attendance at school. Students who attend all of their classes all of the time experience greater academic success in school and personal success later. We will do whatever we can as a teaching community to ensure that your children are engaged in interesting and



demanding learning experiences designed to arouse their curiosity and prepare them for academic and personal success after they leave CDGMS.

We take the tracking of students' attendance very seriously. The reasons for this include: (1) our concern for the whereabouts and safety of our students, (2) maintaining accurate records as required by law, and (3) tracking students' academic progress to ensure that they are keeping up with their studies. We ask for your help and cooperation in the following ways:

- Ensure that your children arrive on time to school - students who are late create disruption to the learning environment for others and often find it uncomfortable arriving to a class when it has already begun.
- Ensure that the office is notified of absences and/or lates with a phone call, note or email to donna\_hollanti@sd34.bc.ca from a parent or guardian.
- Remind your child to sign-in at the office if they come late to school.
- If your child needs to leave school early for any reason please send them with a note for their teacher. As well you must come into the office to sign them out.
- If someone other than the parent/guardian (i.e., a friend or another child's parent) is picking up your child, we need a note or call from you authorizing it.

### **Closed Campus**

During the school year we have a closed campus for the safety and security of our students. This means that students are expected to stay on campus at all times (including lunch time) unless previous arrangements are made with the school by the parents or guardians. All visitors (including parents) to the campus are expected to check in at the office upon entering the building. Please do not proceed directly to your child's classroom, but drop off items (lunches, books, etc.) at the office and we will notify your child.

### **Parent Involvement**

We welcome your involvement and participation in the life of CDGMS. We have a developing tradition of parental volunteerism at our school. This is a tradition we want to continue. The first Parent Advisory Committee meeting has been set for September 26th, 7:00 p.m. A big thank you to the parents on the PAC executive: Donna Thomas (Chair), Carla Welsh (Vice-Chair), Nicole Torbet (Treasurer) and Lori Jensen (Secretary). We welcome your help and participation on the PAC. Come to meet other parents and find out how we can support our children during these important and formative years. In the meantime, please contact Mr. Singh, Principal at the school if you have an interest in visiting the school during the instructional day and observing our learning community in action.

### **The Pit School Canteen**

The Pit has been run by Mrs. Kerri-Lynn Chartier for over 12 years. She strives to have a diverse selection of items to purchase for students at nutrition break and lunch.

### **Student Fees**

In accordance with District Policy 9.230, middle schools in the Abbotsford District will charge the amount of \$30.00 to each student. This is to cover cost of a student agenda, guest speakers, student cards, school events, student recognition, student leadership, lock and locker rental.

### **Band Students**

Students involved in band are asked to pay a deposit of \$15.00 for the Essential Elements Book. Books, in good condition, returned at the end of the school year will result in the \$15.00 deposit being returned.

Collection of fees will begin the first week of school. An **envelope** will be sent home the first full day of school. Parents/guardians are asked to enclose cash, money order or cheque (made payable to CDGMS) into the envelope, seal it and return it to the school office during the weeks of September 5<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. In addition to online payments (see below for information), payments by cash/cheque will only be accepted in a **payment**



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**envelope.** This assists us in ensuring our records are accurate. If you misplace the envelope issued to you, more are available at the school office.

### **Pay School Trips/Fees Online**

Our district has made it possible for parents to pay for items such as fees and field trips online. Please note – once you register you do not have to re-register each year until your child graduates.

<https://abbotsford.schoolcashionline.com>

### **Student Athletes**

Students involved in sports will be charged accordingly for each separate sport they are involved in. This fee will be collected by the coach.

### **Other Fees**

The following are miscellaneous replacement charges:  
Lock \$5.00 Student Agenda \$5.00

\*Students are responsible for all textbooks assigned to them at the beginning of the school year. At the end of the school year, texts must be returned in good condition or parents/guardians will be asked to pay for the cost of replacing the text.

### **Yearbooks**

Ms. Trudeau does an outstanding job working with our students in creating terrific yearbooks. The cost of purchasing a yearbook is only \$30 and pre-ordering will begin later this Fall. If you would like to see a sample year book, please come to office or contact Ms. Trudeau directly at [melanie\\_trudeau@sd34.bc.ca](mailto:melanie_trudeau@sd34.bc.ca).

### **Newsletters**

During the school year our newsletters are sent home via email every Monday and are also available on our school website [chiefdan.sd34.bc.ca](http://chiefdan.sd34.bc.ca). If you would like a paper copy please come in to the office and we will print you one.

To get our database ready for September please send your email address along with your child's name to: [donna\\_hollanti@sd34.bc.ca](mailto:donna_hollanti@sd34.bc.ca). Please note that even if

you were on the email list last year you must re-register for this year.

Finally, we hope you're looking forward to the new school year ... we certainly are. The office will reopen with summer hours on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> (7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.) Normal office hours of 7:30 am to 3:00 pm will start September 5th. Should you have any questions please visit our website at [chiefdan.sd34.bc.ca](http://chiefdan.sd34.bc.ca) or contact the office at (604) 852 9616.

Proudly,

Mr. J. Singh and Mrs. L. Whitman  
Administrative Team  
Chief Dan George Middle



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