

# V O O D O O N E W S



## RUTLAND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2018

**Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!**

Welcome back to all the students and parents of RSS. We hope that your summer holiday was fun, exciting, memorable and of course, relaxing in spite of all of the smoke. We are very excited about another school year beginning at Rutland Senior Secondary School, and meeting the families of our new students as well as renewing our relationships with our past community.

Rutland Senior Secondary has an excellent teaching staff who get involved in the many extra-curricular activities we offer. We encourage all our students to get involved as well, as it is the best way to become successful in any school setting. There is a lot of help available for all students, and many opportunities to participate on a team or join a club. Along with the extra-curricular activities, RSS has many academic and vocational opportunities. We encourage all students to take full advantage of these great opportunities.

Should you have questions or concerns about the upcoming year, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**Our phone number is: 250-870-5110.** You can leave a voice mail for any of our staff by calling 250-870-5000 and entering the mailbox number followed by the # key. A list of staff mailboxes can be found on our website at [www.rss.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.rss.sd23.bc.ca).

Looking forward to a great year!

Mr. Hugh Alexander, Principal  
Mr. Cliff Schwartz, Vice-Principal (A –H)  
Mr. Russ Bischoff, Vice-Principal (I-Q)  
Ms. Sarah Watson, Vice-Principal (R-Z)



### **Important Dates**

Sep. 4 ..... First Day of school  
..... Homeroom 9:00 am; Mini rotation Block ABCD  
..... Dismissal: 12:05 pm  
Sep. 5 ..... Regular classes begin—AB day  
Sep. 11 ..... Dual Credit Info. Night  
Sep. 12 ..... Outdoor Ed Parent Meeting  
Sep. 18 ..... PAC Meeting, 7:00  
Sep. 24 ..... Grad Retreat  
Sep. 25 ..... Voodoo Café opens  
Sep. 26 ..... Gr. 12 Parent Info Night  
..... UBC info night to follow  
Sep. 28 ..... Post Sec. Mini Fair—12:30-2:00

### **COMMUNICATION — CALENDAR, WEBSITE, E-MAIL:**

Once again this year, we will be communicating information to our school community through our website at [www.rss.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.rss.sd23.bc.ca). Our school calendar is online and is continuously updated, and hard copies are available at the office. This calendar is one of the most valuable resources, and contains the dates of all the significant school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, term and report card dates, and professional days.

Student Verification Information: Students will be receiving their verification sheets during homeroom on the first day of school. Please review this information, make any changes, sign the form and return to the office asap. It is very important that we have all current and up to date information on file.

Parent/Guardian e-mail address: Please keep the office up to date with your current email address. We will periodically send our newsletters and information about school events to everyone on this parent/guardian list. We hope that this will reduce the number of automated telephone messages you receive. Information in the subject line of the email will help you to determine if the information is relevant to you.

### **SCHOOL GOALS FOR 2018-2019:**

- Goal 1:** Better prepare our students for opportunities after high school by helping our students develop the attributes of a Learner: Learner, Thinker, Innovator, Collaborator and Contributor
- Goal 2:** Better support the engagement of students in classrooms
- Goal 3:** Improve Voodoo spirit, culture and wellness

### **Some of the Strategies and Structures to improve RSS include:**

- ★ Grade 10 Career Exploration program
- ★ Focus on OECD 7 Principles of Learning
- ★ Planning 10, WEX 12, Transitions 12 program review
- ★ Career focus in academic programs - Integration of academic units and practical/applied career exploration (eg. Math 11 and Electrical)
- ★ Increase job shadows, spotlight sessions, field trips
- ★ Provide students exploration of Okanagan College programs and exposure to trades
- ★ Each course/department has lessons that focus on subject related careers through practical examples. Creation of "real world" connection to what is being taught in classes
- ★ Expand parent information sessions about dual credit programs
- ★ Promotion of Attributes through Planning 11, Career Transitions and in classrooms
- ★ Promote the vocabulary of the core competencies with staff, students and parents
- ★ Expand Peer Support, Peer Tutoring and Peer Mentorship programs
- ★ Student Support Team will inform staff, students and parents by documentation and face to face conversations about student strengths, areas for growth, as well as providing, supporting and modeling personalized instructional strategies and following up in a timely fashion; then, more students will be engaged in classes because of improved learning experiences for all students
- ★ The student support team will focus on screening, monitoring and targeting interventions using a Response to Intervention model
- ★ Focus on three staff identified areas: Relevance and Engagement, Connections and Gr. 9 Transition
- ★ Work with our feeder schools to improve Grade 8 to 9 transition
- ★ Focus on supporting Grade 10 core subjects
- ★ Utilize academic interventions supported by student support services
- ★ Help classroom teachers focus on personalized instruction versus removal of struggling students to a lower course or self-paced program
- ★ Promote School Spirit activities, focus on activities that raise school pride, Wellness program, Grad Council, Athletic Council,
- ★ Connections (support structure for students with high anxiety)

### **THREE YEAR RULE for CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 23:**

A reminder to parents that once students enter their grade 10 year, they have three years to complete their educational program at their neighborhood high school. After three years, students who have not completed their regular graduation requirements must attend Central Programs and Services in Kelowna. Students may complete an "Application for Exemption of The Three Year Rule" form; this application must be accepted in order for them to attend their home school.

The only students who are not affected by the three year policy are those individuals who are registered in one of our trade or technology specialty programs (such as B.C.I.T., Okanagan College, or Secondary School Apprenticeship). Should you have questions about the three year rule, please contact your vice-principal:

Mr. Schwartz (last names A-H); Mr. Bischoff (last names I-Q); Ms. Watson (last names R-Z)

### **VOODOO CAFÉ and CORNER STORE:**

RSS has a commercial kitchen on site, as well as a school store. Inexpensive, high quality food service is available through either outlet, once the school year is underway.

### **HOW TO SUCCEED AT RUTLAND SENIOR - A FEW SIMPLE THINGS...**

1. **Attendance:**

The single most damaging factor that results in students not graduating is absenteeism. A student absence is a missed learning opportunity.

2. **Lateness:**

We expect students to be punctual as students who are late are disruptive, not only to their learning but to others as well. ***It is expected that students who arrive to their morning class after 10:30 a.m. or for their afternoon class after 2:10 p.m. must report to the office and obtain a late slip, before they can enter their class.***

3. **Effort and Attitude:**

Students who make a significant effort and display a positive attitude are successful in school ... IT REALLY IS THAT SIMPLE!!

### **RSS STAFF:**

#### ***Administrative Assignments:***

Mr. Hugh Alexander is the principal of the school and is responsible for the overall operation of RSS and its various campuses and programs. The vice-principals are primarily responsible for the following students:

Mr. Cliff Schwartz .....	last names A - H
Mr. Russ Bischoff.....	last names I - Q
Mrs. Sarah Watson.....	last names R - Z

#### ***Counsellor Assignments:***

Each of the counsellors will deal with all grade levels, but parents and students are asked to request the counsellor assigned to their student. Students are organized by the **first letter** of your **last name**. (example: John Smith – “S for Smith” would be Ms. Voykin). All transcripts and course credits will be handled using the following breakdown:

Ms. Dana Patterson .....	last names A - H
Ms. Deb Holmes .....	last names I - Q
Ms. Hope Voykin .....	last names R - Z

Of course, students are free to see the counsellor they are most comfortable with.

### **RSS DAILY SCHEDULE:**

Students have their classes on a semester schedule which means they will have a minimum of 4 courses per semester; 2 classes per day. Each school day begins at 9:00 a.m.! The morning welcome bell signals at 8:57 a.m., the first break begins at 10:15 a.m. and lunch is from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

#### **Regular RSS schedule:**

9:00	-	10:15 am .....	<b>Period 1a (75 min)</b>
10:15	-	10:25 am .....	Nutrition Break (10 min)
10:25	-	11:45 am .....	<b>Period 1b (80 min)</b>
11:45	-	12:30 am .....	Lunch (45 min)
12:30	-	1:45 pm .....	<b>Period 2a (75 min)</b>
1:45	-	1:55 pm .....	Nutrition Break (10 min)
1:55	-	3:16 pm .....	<b>Period 2b (81 min)</b>

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

Textbooks will be issued in individual classes during the first few weeks of school. It is important to note that textbooks are assigned to individual students and that students are responsible to look after and return the **same** textbook, in good condition, at the end of their course.

**SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Our school code of conduct was developed in consultation with parents, staff and students several years ago. The code of conduct for RSS and the school district allows us to work with common expectations. If you have any concerns or questions regarding our code of conduct, please visit our website or contact one of the school administrators.

**YEARBOOKS:**

High school memories are something that can never be replaced, so be sure to buy your yearbook during the "sales blitz" in September. Yearbooks can be purchased at \$40.00 each for a limited time. Some extra books may be available once they arrive in June. As always, these extra books sell out, so buy yours in September to avoid being disappointed.

**MEDICAL ALERT CONDITIONS:**

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to inform the school of their child's medical alert condition. It is a joint partnership between team members: students, parents/guardians, school, physician, and Public Health nurse to ensure the safety of your child in the school. If your child has a special medical condition, please come to the school to complete the appropriate paper work. If your child requires medication during school hours, the proper medical forms must be filled out by your child's physician before the school can be authorized to dispense medication. Please come to the office to request those forms.

**SCHOOL FEES:**

**Payment for school fees can now be made by cheque or online using debit or Mastercard/Visa at: <https://centralokanagan.schoolcashionline.com/>** Signing up with School Cash Online gives parents the opportunity to reprint their receipts as many times as needed, receive emails when new fee/fieldtrips are added, have automatic withdrawals for payment installments (where available) and receive reminder emails for outstanding fees. If you are having any problems using the system, please do not hesitate to contact the office. As has always been the case in the Central Okanagan School District, if there are problems with paying fees due to hardship, parents should contact the administration of RSS.

**Activity and Cultural Fee:** The Board of Trustees has approved a fee schedule (Activity and Cultural Fee) for Goods, Services, Deposits and Rentals for Middle and Secondary Schools in the Central Okanagan. The Activity and Cultural fee is a yearly fee of \$30 for all grades. This fee will include items such as calendars, school wide assemblies (example: MADD Canada) and items that will benefit the student population.

**Refundable Deposits:** Teachers will send home letters if a deposit is required in their class (ie: tool deposits for Automotive, Introduction to Auto, BCIT). A receipt will be issued to the student once payment has been made. Once the course is complete refunds will be made.

**Field Trip Expenses:** Field trips that are over and above what is provided in regular curriculum may be charged a fee. Information on cost will be provided on the permission slips.

**Course fees:** Students in applied skills and fine arts courses may choose to do different projects or use different material; they will be required to pay for these items before they begin the project. Physical Education fees will include travel and entry for field trips.

**BUS STUDENTS:**

Students must be registered in order to ride the school bus. Please go to [www.sd23.bc.ca/programsServices/transportation](http://www.sd23.bc.ca/programsServices/transportation) for more information. A link to the Transportation website can be found on our school website. Should you have further questions, please contact the Transportation Department at 250-870-5151. Traveling on a school bus is a privilege which may be suspended or revoked for a student not observing school District regulation 475R, the RSS Code of Conduct, and other procedures established by the Board of Education.

(Please visit <http://www.sd23.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Section%204%20%20Students/475R.pdf> to read the regulations)

**INTERNET AGREEMENT:**

With students spending time in the digital world using the internet we would like to remind students to fill out a digital Internet Use Agreement form. In most cases students have already signed a form in previous years or when they registered at Rutland Senior. If you are uncertain please check with the library staff. If you or your child has not read and signed one of these forms, please contact the school.

The Internet is an excellent educational resource and, when used properly, very beneficial to everyone. However, when it is used inappropriately it can be very damaging. Use of email services and web sites in a manner which promotes negative feelings and malice towards others is unacceptable. This form of "hate" mail becomes public when displayed on a website, and in some cases emotions and tension follow here at school, which can affect the performance of students and staff. As parents and guardians, it is our responsibility to monitor the actions of our children. Please discuss this with your child. We appreciate your support in this area.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION and PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIPOP):**

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation came into effect for schools in the fall of 1994. To ensure that we are complying with the legislation, we ask that you please read the following information carefully:

*There are occasions when our school would like to have contact with parents to consult them directly about school issues or meetings, or to plan school-related activities. The school will normally make your name, home address and phone number as well as the child's name and grade, available to School District personnel, Parent Advisory Councils or others responsible for organizing these types of activities. Your personal information will not be disclosed to anyone for business or commercial purposes.*

*It is a tradition in our School District to allow staff members and the media to photograph individual students and groups of students to commemorate events and to promote various educational, sports and cultural events taking place in the district. While photographs add to the community life of our school, they are not required for education purposes. Students' names, photographs and comments may be published in the school yearbook or newsletter, and on occasion, in the School District calendar, annual report or in the news media.*

If you do not wish your contact information to be released or you do not wish your child to be involved in the above mentioned coverage, please come to the school office and sign a form to this effect.

**CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT'S APPEAL PROCESS**

Policy 460 – Appeals states that, "a student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in School District 23 may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student". For a complete description of the Appeals Policy along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 – Appeals, that can be accessed from the 'Policies' link under the Board of Education heading on the School District homepage ([www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)).

**THE CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL HARDSHIP CLAUSE**

Within School District Regulation 425R – Student fees (see [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)), the Board of Education has indicated "that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship". This clause in the Regulations provides for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families, while preserving the dignity of families who may be unable to pay. Please contact the school Principal if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

**PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETINGS:**

The Parent Advisory Council normally meets in the library at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

September 21	October 16	November 20	January 15
February 19	March 12	April 16	May 21

**STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE:**

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for **student** injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance from KIDS PLUS accident insurance. For complete plan details and application forms, please visit [kidsplus.ca](http://kidsplus.ca).



# RUTLAND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2018-2019

Days in Session	191 (3 summer Pro-Days Aug. 28-30)
Number of days of instruction	183
Number of non-instructional days	8
Schools Open	Tuesday, September 4
Administrative Implementation Day	Friday, October 5
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 8
Teacher Professional Day	Friday, October 19
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 12
Non-Instructional Day (revised curriculum)	Tuesday, November 13
Schools close for Winter Vacation	Friday, December 21
Winter vacation period	December 24 – January 4
Schools reopen after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 7
B.C. Family Day	Monday, February 18
Teacher Professional Day	Friday, February 22
Schools close for Spring Vacation	Friday, March 15
Spring Vacation period	March 18 – March 29
Schools reopen after Spring Vacation	Monday, April 1
Good Friday	Friday, April 19
Easter Monday	Monday, April 22
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20
Report cards Issued	Thursday, June 27
Schools close	Friday, June 28

## NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

Administrative Implementation Day	Friday, October 5
Teacher Professional Day	Friday, October 19
Non-Instructional Day (revised curriculum)	Tuesday, November 13
Teacher Professional Day / Support Staff In-Service	Friday, February 22

## EARLY DISMISSALS

Early Dismissal – 12:05 pm – First day of school	Tuesday, September 4
Early Dismissal at 1:15 pm – Conferences 5:00 – 7:00 pm	Wednesday, October 10
Early Dismissal at 1:15 pm – Conferences 5:00 – 7:00 pm	Wednesday, March 13
Early Dismissal at 10:30 am – Report Cards Issued	Thursday, June 27

## BELL SCHEDULE

Period 1A	9:00 – 10:15	Lunch	11:45 – 12:30	Period 2B	1:55 – 3:16
Break	10:15 – 10:25	Period 2A	12:30 – 1:45	Dismissal	3:16
Period 1B	10:25 – 11:45	Break	1:45 – 1:55		