

# So...

## You're coming to High School!

### A little about Byrne Creek ...

Principal:	Mr. D. Starr	
Vice-Principals:	Ms. A. Sortome	(A – L)
	Mr. N. Christofides	(M – Z)
Counsellors:	Ms. L. Clair	(A – Ge)
	Ms. P. Bromley	(Gf – O)
	Ms. J. Davy	(P – Z)

Byrne Creek Community School is a school of approximately 1,100 students with a teaching staff of around 70. There are lots of different programs in the school – a chance for you to try different things and find out what's best for you.

At Byrne Creek you will discover that we are dedicated to excellence in academic, athletic and artistic achievement.

The staff and administration at Byrne Creek believe in providing students with experiences that are relevant, challenging, inspiring, and personalized. Our vision is to help students become confident, flexible individuals able to meet the challenges of the future. We offer students a wide range of learning opportunities in a supportive and secure environment. The school is committed to learner-focused instruction, and strives to give students the support they need to achieve academically and to explore their own personal development.



At Byrne Creek Community School we have HEART!

**H**onesty

**E**mpathy

**A**chievement

**R**espect

**T**eamwork



## Where do I go on the first day of school?

On the first day of school, Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 all grade 8 students report to the gym where you will be grouped into your homeroom classes. Homeroom classes are grouped alphabetically by last name. From there you will go with your homeroom teacher to your homeroom class. You will be given your scheduled timetable of classes, your locker and information about lockers, locks, school fees, etc. You will also have an opportunity to go to each of your classes and meet your teachers. Your first full day of classes will be on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. An information letter will be mailed to Grade 8 students' families explaining what to expect during the first week of September.



## What is my Homeroom?

A homeroom is not a subject class that you take. It is a classroom to which you are assigned for the purpose of relaying information. You will attend a homeroom class every morning for the first week of school, but after that you will only be asked to go to your homeroom when particular information needs to be distributed to students. For example, when you receive your school photographs and report cards you may go to your homeroom.

## Where do I keep my things?



You will be assigned a locker in your homeroom class. You will also need an extra lock for a gym locker. **ALWAYS** lock up your things and **NEVER** leave your valuables in your locker. The school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. Keep your combination a secret and your valuables at home. Lockers are school property and teachers or administrators can check your locker at any time.

## What courses will I take next year?

All students are required to take 8 courses each year:

1. English 8
2. Social Studies 8
3. Mathematics 8
4. Science 8
5. Physical Education 8
6. French 8
7. Home Economics 8/Electronics/Robotics 8 (alternate days for one semester)
8. Art 8, Drama 8, Dance 8, Choir 8 or Band 8 (Choir is outside the timetable. Band alternates days with Physical Education throughout the year)

## **Support for students**

Some students entering Grade 8 are still working on mastering some of the concepts taught in Grade 7. In consultation with the elementary schools, classes are designed for these students. (Listed later in program) It is intended, if possible, to prepare students for regular programming.

## **What is Applied Skills: Home Economics 8/Electronics/Robotics 8**

This is a course that introduces you to the applied skills electives offered at Byrne Creek. Your class will receive instruction in Foods/Nutrition, Clothing/Textiles, Electronics and Robotics. These 2 classes alternate days: you will go to one on one day and the other the next day for one semester.

## **What is Fine Arts?**

Grade 8 students choose one elective from the following:

### **Art 8**

An introductory course in which students explore a variety of materials in two-dimensional and three-dimensional image making, develop basic drawing skills, and consider the work of selected artists.

### **Drama 8**

An introductory course which encourages students to trust themselves and others, reflect on thoughts, feelings and beliefs; take risks within a dramatic context, and actively express themselves in body and voice.

### **Dance 8**

In this introductory course, students explore elements of movement, creation and composition, as well as dance in society. Dance 8 encourages students to trust themselves and others, reflect on thoughts and experience and express themselves through movement.

## **Band 8**

This course is an introductory course by which students are introduced to the maintenance, technique and rudiments of a selected band instrument.



## **Choir 8**

This course offers an introduction to singing. Students will expand on physical concepts of singing that empower them to sing in pitch, with support and in tune.

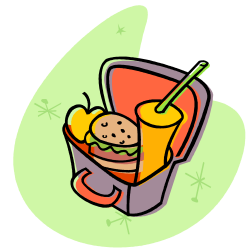
## **What do I have to wear for Physical Education?**



Physical Education strip is required for every class. You may wear any type of shorts (except cut-offs), t-shirt (a change of shirt is recommended), socks, and running shoes. Sweat/track suits may also be worn. You should be prepared to go outside – bring extra clothing when necessary. If you don't go to class with the correct gym strip you will not be allowed to participate and your mark will be affected.

## **Where do I eat lunch?**

The Atrium has lots of seating for you to take your lunch to eat there. If you choose to purchase your lunch, the cafeteria offers a variety of menu items. Food is available for purchase both at morning break and at lunch hour. Students also eat their lunches at their lockers and in the hallways.



## **What kind of school supplies do I need?**



You will need the basic supplies like pens, pencils and lined notepaper. Most students use 3-ring binders for notes and assignments. Each of your subject teachers will let you know if you need any additional supplies specific to their class.

## **Do I get a planner?**

A school planner will be issued to you in homeroom during the first week of September. In it you and your parents will find useful information and important dates and activities. Use your planner to keep track of assignments, dates that work is due, and dates tests are scheduled. Fundamental to success in a semestered high school is organization and time management – your planner should be an integral part of your life at Byrre Creek.

## How is secondary school different from elementary?

First of all Byrne Creek operates on a semester system. Second, each class is 75 minutes long. Third, most often you will have a different teacher for every course. Fourth, you will have to move to different classrooms for each subject. Lastly, you will be assigned a locker for you to keep your jacket, books, lunch and materials.

## What is a Semester System?

Schools on a semester system are divided into 2 parts. Students take half (4) of their courses from September to January, and the other half (4) from February to June. For example, if you are assigned to Science 8 in September, you will have Science every day until the end of January. Then you will not have Science again until Grade 9. The following is an example of a Grade 8 timetable:

### Semester 1 (Sept to Jan) Semester 2 (Feb to Jun)

Period	Period
1 Science 8	1 Math 8
2 PE 8	2 Art 8
3 French 8	3 Home Ec/Electronics/Robotics 8
4 Social Studies 8	4 English 8

You will not know what your schedule looks like until you arrive at school in September.

## What time does school start?

Bell Times	
08:48 – 10:08	Period 1
10:08 – 10:20	Break
10:20 – 11:40	Period 2
11:40 – 12:20	Lunch
12:25 – 13:45	Period 3
13:45 – 15:10	Period 4



Starting in October, a Tutorial time is added to our Wednesday timetable. All classes for that day will be shortened. It is a requirement that students attend tutorial time.

## When do I get report cards?

Report cards are issued quarterly. Interim reports are communicated in October and March. Final reports are issued in February and June at the end of the semesters. As well, you may receive classroom interim reports between formal reporting periods. Sometimes teachers issue an “I” report meaning that you are missing assignments or have work that is incomplete.

The “I” report gives you an opportunity to make up some or all of what is missing in order to pass the course. If you do not complete what is expected of you, the following report card will show an “F” which is a failing mark.



## How much homework should I be doing?

Since there is so much work covered in only a few months, you must regularly schedule time to complete homework, review notes, and study for tests. If you don't, you may quickly fall behind the rest of the class. Most students will have 5 foundation homework courses: English, Socials, Math, Science, and French. In Grade 8, we suggest you allow about 1 to 1-1/2 hours of time every weeknight to complete homework and to review.



## What if I don't know how to do my homework?



If you don't understand your homework, the first person to see is your teacher. In addition to this, **SUCCESS** offers extra help to students after school, Monday to Thursday from 3:15 to 4:00.

## Who can I turn to if I want some help?

- any of your subject teachers, coaches, or the administration;
- your counsellor is available to help you make decisions about school or coursework and to help cope with problems with school, friends, or family;
- the Success teacher is available to help with study skills, organization, time management, reading, writing and math skills;
- Youth Services Worker;
- Aboriginal Youth & Family Support Worker – supporting First Nations students and their families;
- R.C.M.P. Liaison Officer;
- Community Coordinator

## What do I wear to school?

You are reminded that school is a place of learning and work and therefore you should dress suitably and appropriately. You may be requested to change if clothing is offensive or inappropriate. You must not wear provocative clothing, inappropriate slogans or clothing that gives the impression that you are supporting a “gang”.

## May I bring a cell phone to school?



Cell phones are disruptive within a school setting. You may only use the cell phone as long as it is not in class and does not disrupt learning.

## What if I'm late or absent?

If you are late for class or between classes, you may be required by your subject teacher to make up the missed time. As well, if you are late repeatedly, your subject teacher will phone your home.

If you are absent from school, your parent/guardian contacts the school in the morning to notify the school of your absence. When you return to school, you are required to bring a note from your parent and show it to each of your teachers and then hand it into the office.

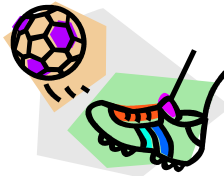
If your absence extends for longer than 3 or 4 days, your parent/guardian can request in the morning phone call that teachers, if possible, provide homework to the office for pick up by friends/family at the end of the school day.

## So, what else is offered at Byrne Creek?

### Athletics:

#### Fall Season

- Girls Volleyball (8-12)
- Boys Volleyball (10-12)
- Girls Field Hockey
- Cross Country Running
- Senior Boys Soccer
- Rugby (8)
- Swimming



#### Winter Season

- Basketball





## Spring Season

- Tennis
- Girls Soccer
- Track and Field
- Badminton



## Clubs and Organizations:

Art Council  
Chess Club  
Hiking Club  
Grade 11 Council  
Running Club  
Grad Council  
Fine Arts Council

Student Government  
Leo Club

Sports Officials  
- timers  
- scorers  
- referees  
- referees  
Media Club

## How do I join?

Listen to the daily student bulletin regarding when to sign up for these teams and clubs. The daily bulletin is posted outside the office.

The Student Government at Byrne Creek is very active and organizes lots of fun activities: dances, pep rallies, noon hour activities and special activities at Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. You will have the opportunity to run for Grade 8 representative in January.

***GET INVOLVED AND YOU WILL GET MORE OUT OF YOUR  
SCHOOL EXPERIENCE!***





## PARENT INFORMATION

Most students entering secondary school enroll in the regular academic program. There is flexibility, however, to adjust or enrich work, depending on the needs of the student.

1. Students who have difficulty with the academic curriculum receive support in a variety of ways.
  - a. **Junior Flex:** This class is for behavioural Ministry designated students on a regular graduation path. It provides social/ emotional support. Placement is via school based Resource team. Students enrolled in Junior Flex usually do not take French 8, and/or their elective)
  - b. **Course Support:** This class is for non-behavioural designated students on a regular graduation path. Students require and/ or request additional support with their coursework. Students enrolled in Course Support will have to give up one or two courses in their Grade 8 schedule (usually French 8, and/or their elective)
  - c. **PEP and ACCESS:** Programs provide safe and caring learning environments for students who need modified academic programming. The focus is on functional literacy/ numeracy, career and life skills development. Students participate in school/ community based Work Experience. ACCESS students receive a higher level of support for success at school. Placement is via school based Resource team with parent/guardian consent. Students from these programs receive an Evergreen Certificate.
  
2. **ELL Program:** Provides various levels of English Language Learning instruction to meet the developing needs of English language learners. Students are supported in a variety of ELL classes to help increase reading, speaking and writing skills. ELL students take regular classes in Math, Physical Education and Fine Arts elective.

## **Questions?**

At any time, please feel free to contact your child's counsellor to discuss any concerns you may have. Phone the school directly at (604) 296-6885 and they will put you in contact with your child's counsellor.

Specific classroom concerns can be addressed directly to your child's subject teacher. Phone the main office and the office staff will notify the teacher with who you wish to consult. The teacher will contact you when they are able.

Byrne Creek's website is a great place to get specific information on our school and its programs: <http://byrnecreek.sd41.bc.ca>. Our school calendar is easily found on the website.

## **Get Involved!**

Like your child, you will get more out of the "high school experience" if you are involved. You are now a member of Byrne Creek's Community Council and are encouraged to attend monthly meetings. Check your child's planner or our website for meeting dates and times as well as dates of parent/teacher meeting opportunities in each semester.

