

Welcome to Abbotsford Traditional School! We are so excited to welcome our new students and welcome back our returning students for a new year. Please review the following information carefully to help prepare you for September.

## **Laptops**

Please remember that ATS is a 1-1 laptop school, and the expectation is for each student to have a chromebook this coming school year. Grade 6 students have a gradual use policy for the laptops.

## **WEB for Grade 6 students**

New students in Grade 6 will have a special welcoming activity for them in late August. Groups of Grade 8 students will host the Grade 6's for a fun day at ATS! Stay tuned for information about the summer WEB day in future communications.

## **Abbotsford Traditional School - ATSS and ATMS have merged into ATS**

As of July 1, 2022, ATS is the official name of our combined school. We are now a Traditional school enrolling students in Grades 6-12. We are still a small school. Combined we would be the largest middle school in the district by a hundred or so students, or the smallest secondary school at a little over half the size of the largest secondary schools. ATS will continue to set the standard in learning in the district with the highest percent of students accepted into post-secondary institutions. Our Ten Tenets of Traditional were revised recently and several other documents related to dress code and behaviour code will be revised soon. A big thanks to our district Traditional Advisory Council for their leadership in this area. As well, the Traditional Steering Committee has started important work around the name change and will be working on the new school crest, a revised dress code, and a school mascot this year. We are excited with the changes and the on-going district support for the Traditional model here in Abbotsford. You have made a great choice in choosing and staying with Traditional!!

## **Parent Advisory Council**

The ATS PAC is ready to move forward next year supporting students in Grades 6-12. The PAC plays a huge role in enhancing our students' experiences at school through their on-going support of teachers and various school activities such as Gr 12 Grad and our Gr. 8 Celebration. The PAC plays a key role in organizing and distributing lunch options for our students. If you are interested in donating to PAC, or volunteering time, especially at lunch time, there will be an opportunity in Sept. to connect with PAC and partner up with ATS.

## **Seismic Renovations**

It is an exciting time at ATS!! We are undergoing a seismic renovation and the result will be a safer school in case of an earthquake. Additionally, we will be getting some new / refreshed learning spaces - an expanded library learning commons, several new classrooms, a new weight room and changing area, a new administration area, a new staffroom, a new band room, a new cafeteria, an expanded LSS area, more student work space outside of classrooms, a new entrance beside the administration area, a new student lounge area by the entrance, a refreshed stage in the middle gym, and a new hallway link joining the gyms, art, and cooking areas to the school. The courtyard walkway will be no more, and an expanded courtyard will have spaces for sitting, eating, and physical activities. The project is to be completed as early as Jan 2023, but may continue a bit longer. Everyone is looking forward to these new spaces.

## **Student Parking and Drop-off**

ATS has three parking areas - the large lot at the administration entrance, a small lot at the front of main student entrance, and several spots in the back parking lot. Next year there will be no parking passes. Staff and students will park on a first-come first-served basis. There are a lot of parking areas on Windsor Street for overflow. For drop off and pick-up, we recommend that you consider options that are less stressful, rather than choosing to pull into the big loop or the small loop. Options include parking on Windsor St., parking on Wheel Ave, and parking on Martens St. at the back of the field. These options will get your car out of the area the fastest with the least challenge of navigating other cars.

Most importantly, we ask you not to have your child enter your vehicle from the middle of the road - please park beside a curb or in a parking lot. Orange cones are set up to help with safety, so please take note of where the cones are and be extra cautious in these areas. Please don't stop in the loops unless you are in a parking stall or against a curb. All schools are very busy at drop of and pick-up times, so please be patient. Thanks, and let's keep these times safe and fast-moving!!

## **Dress Code / Uniform**

There will be a new dress code / uniform for ATS, but not yet. Nothing changes for September. Gr. 9-12 have their dress code and Gr. 6-8 have their dress code. Please go to Able Cresting for you dress code needs. Even when the new crest is added to the uniform moving forward, there would understandably be a period of months and years when we would "grandfather" existing uniform clothes. As clothes eventually wore out or your child grows out of them, new clothes with the correct crest would be the expectation when clothes are replaced.

## **House Team Colours / Spirit Day Fridays / Spirit Points**

House Team colour PE shirts (green, blue, red) will be available to start ordering through SchoolCashOnline in late August and ready for school start up. Students are expected to have a PE shirt in their house colour. The order will go through quickly in September so we can get the shirts as soon as possible. Coloured crewnecks can also be ordered at the same time - forest green, navy blue, and burgundy, also through SchoolCashOnline. To find out your House Team colour, check the class lists on the school doors on the weekend before school starts.

All Fridays will be school spirit wear for house colours, sports team jerseys or shirts, team hoodies, club shirts etc. Points will be tabulated and will contribute to our House Points Challenge and the winning house will be presented the 6-foot trophy at the end of the year.

### **Class Lists**

Class lists will be posted on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 pm on the main doors of the student entrance. Note: Grade 6 students will be placed in classes alphabetically for the first few days. Typically by Thursday of the first week, Grade 6 will have rotated among the four grade 6 teachers and class lists will be created.

### **Late Start on all Fridays for Gr. 9-12 and some Fridays for Gr. 6-8**

For several years, Gr. 9-12 has had a late start every other week. This coming year for Gr. 9-12, all Fridays will be a late start with the first class of the day beginning at 9:30 am. Teachers will be engaged in learning and collaboration for most of these days, but some of the late start Fridays will actually be an extra instructional block called RTI that starts at 8:10, the usual start time. Students who are expected to attend these blocks will be notified in advance.

**This coming year, Grades 6-8 will also see some Friday late start, but typically only every other week**

Bus students and students who need to be dropped off early (parents on way to work, carpooling etc.) can arrive early. There will be a few places for the students to go in the school. There will be areas to play outside as well. Middle school students will be expected to exit the building and join their friends outside for the morning class line ups. An exact schedule will be shared out in August.

Enjoy your summer and we can't wait to see you in September!

**Mr. Reg Gabriel**

Principal, Abbotsford Traditional School