

Welcome to the 2025/26 School Year!

We're excited to welcome back all of our returning students and warmly greet the new students and staff joining our school community this year!

Each year, our core theme remains focused on **"Learning"** — a journey that includes both students and staff. This shared commitment continues to guide everything we do.

For the 2025/26 school year, we will continue to build on our **three interconnected School Learning Priorities:**

- **Celebrating Cultural Diversity** while promoting **Equity** and fostering an **Inclusive** environment for all students.
- Advancing our efforts in **Truth and Reconciliation**, with a continued emphasis on learning from **Indigenous perspectives and worldviews.**
- **Connecting Assessment and Reporting** more meaningfully to the **Core Competencies**, ensuring that student learning is relevant, personalized, and reflective.

In alignment with the provincial guidelines instituted during the Fall of 2024, by the **Ministry of Education and Child Care**, our school and district will continue to implement the updated policies regarding the use of **cell phones and personal digital devices**. In short: 📵 **Cell phones are not to be used or powered on during instructional time**, unless directed by a teacher for learning purposes. Please see attachment in this newsletter.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone on **Tuesday, September 2nd at 9:00 AM** for the first day of school. Students will meet all of their **First Semester teachers** during a shortened schedule. Please note: **this will be a half-day, with dismissal at 12:00 PM.**

Here's to a great start to the 2025/26 school year! RSS Admin



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Tues. Sept. 2: 9:00-12:00 pm
Mini Rotation Blocks A/B/C/D
Students will go directly to their A block class at 9:00 am

Schedules are posted in student MYEd Portal and Family Portal. Login information is posted on our website.—Students—
[MYEd Portal](#) ; [Family Portal Link](#)

Students should be prepared with their own school supplies on the first week of school.

Basic supplies required:

- Binders
- Loose leaf paper
- Pens/Pencils
- Basic scientific calculator
- Gym Strip will be required for PE Classes.
- Shorts or track pants / T-shirt/indoor runners

Teachers will let students know if any other items are required for their class.

Important Dates

Sept. 2	.....First Day of school
.....	..... Homeroom 9:00 am; Mini rotation Block ABCD
.....	..... Dismissal: 12:00 pm
Sept. 3	..... Regular classes begin—A:B day
Sept. 9	..... PAC Meeting 7:00 pm
Sept. 10	.....Course Change Deadline 4:00 pm
Sept. 11	..... Photo Day
Sept. 25	..... Gr. 12 Parent/Student Info Night 5:00 pm
Sept. 30	..... Truth and Reconciliation Day—No School
Oct. 6-10	..... Interim Week
Oct. 10	.....Implementation Day—No classes
Oct. 13	..... Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Oct. 15	..... Retake Photo Day
Oct. 16	..... Early Dismissal 1:15 pm
Oct. 16	.....Parent/Teacher Conferences 5-7:00 pm

COMMUNICATION — CALENDAR, WEBSITE, E-MAIL:

We will be communicating information to our school community through our website at www.rss.sd23.bc.ca. Our school calendar is online and is continuously updated. A printable version is located under the "About US" tab. and 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. Please note the printed version is not continuously updated, therefore the online calendar will be more current.

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: IMPORTANT: Please keep the office **up to date** with your current email address. We will send our newsletters, messages and information about school events to everyone on this parent/guardian list. Information in the subject line of the email will help you to determine if the information is relevant to you.

Some of the Strategies and Structures to improve RSS include:

- ★ Staff meetings are learning meetings
- ★ Curricular Leaders help lead learning
- ★ 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
- ★ Increase job shadows, spotlight sessions, field studies
- ★ 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
- ★ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our school community
- ★ 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
- ★ Work with our feeder schools to improve Grade 8 to 9 transition
- ★ 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)



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. School Café will open on Wednesday, October 1!

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

- Attendance: The single most damaging factor that results in students not graduating is absenteeism. A student absence is a missed learning opportunity.
- Lateness: We expect students to be punctual as students who are late are disruptive, not only to their learning but to others as well.
- Effort and Attitude: Students who make a significant effort and display a positive attitude are successful in school ... IT REALLY IS THAT SIMPLE!!

ATTENDANCE REPORTING: Due to the increased student population we are encouraging families to use the **SchoolMessenger App** or **SchoolMessenger Parent Portal** to report your student’s absence. If you choose to phone the school number, press “1” to reach the attendance line, or your call will be transferred to this line. **All attendance calls will be redirected to the attendance line.** For more information - [RSS website—Parents Tab](#).

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:

- Ms. Jodie Everett last names A - F
- Ms. Rani Gandham last names G - N
- Ms. Michelle Johnston last names O – 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. Reynolds). All transcripts and course credits will be handled using the following breakdown:

- Ms. Dana Patterson last names A - F
- Ms. Deb Holmes last names G - N
- Ms. Lindsay Reynolds last names O - 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 8:55 a.m., the first break begins at 10:15 a.m. and lunch is from 11:45 a.m. to 12:29 p.m.

RSS Schedule:

- 9:00 - 10:15 am**Morning Class** (75 min)
- 10:15 - 10:24 amNutrition Break
- 10:24 - 11:45 am**Morning Class** (81 min)
- 11:45 - 12:29 pmLunch
- 12:29 - 1:45 pm**Afternoon Class** (76 min)
- 1:45 - 1:55 pmNutrition Break
- 1:55 - 3:16 pm**Afternoon Class** (81 min)



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. Students will be charged for replacement cost of lost or missing textbooks.

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. The Code of Conduct can be located on our website under the “About US” tab. [Code of Conduct](#)

YEARBOOKS:

High school memories are something that can never be replaced, so be sure to buy your yearbook during the “sales blitz” in September. Early bird pricing: **\$50.00** until November 30, after this date there will be a price increase. To Purchase: [School Cash Online](#).

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. **These forms must be reviewed, updated and signed on a yearly basis.**

SCHOOL FEES:

Payment for school fees can be made 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 to use the [online help support](#). 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. We can only accept cash or cheques for payment in the school.

Field Study Expenses: Field studies 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.

Academy Fees: Academy fees are listed in the school course outlines. These fees are charged to cover all related costs such as: instructional/transportation and venues.

BUS STUDENTS:

Students must be registered in order to ride the school bus. Please visit the school Transportation website for more information, a link 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/ProgramsServices/transportation/policies/Pages/default.aspx#/=">http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/policies/Pages/default.aspx#/=" to read the regulations\)](http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/policies/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS' APPEAL PROCESS

Policy 460 – Appeals states that, "a student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in the Central Okanagan Public Schools 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 Central Okanagan Public School homepage (www.sd23.bc.ca).

THE CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS' FINANCIAL HARDSHIP CLAUSE

Within School District Regulation 425R – Student fees (see 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*". Clause 8.5 in the Regulations states: "*Principals are directed to establish a procedure in each school which will allow for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families. Such procedures will preserve 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.

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.

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. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students was discontinued in 2019. The IA Financial Group now offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement plan or to find out more, visit: [Family Accident Reimbursement Plan - Group insurance \(ia.ca\)](#)

CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT’S SANCTUARY SCHOOLS POLICY

Board Policy 421-Sanctuary Schools (see www.sd23.bc.ca) upholds the Board’s commitment to providing educational opportunities for all students who are ordinarily residents in the Central Okanagan, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status. Student registrations that pertain to Policy 421—Sanctuary Schools will be processed through the Welcome Centre. Links: [Policy 421-Sanctuary Schools](#) [International Education & Welcome Centre](#)

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETINGS (2025-26)

PAC Executive:

President: Tamara Ebl; Vice President: Vacant; Treasurer: Daniel Favell

Secretary: Vacant, COPAC: Vacant

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

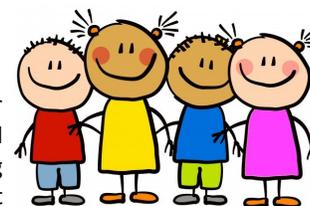
September 9	October 21	November 18	December 20
January 20	February 17	April 21	May 19

RSS SCHOOL CLOTHING—Hoodies and T-shirts

School clothing will be available to purchase online soon! Further details and information to come!

RSS Playschool spots available for 25-26!

Do you have a child aged 3-5 years who is looking for an opportunity to play, learn and develop their skills? RSS Playschool is a licensed childcare facility through Interior Health, located within Rutland Senior. Sessions are two hours, twice per week. Secondary students work in the playschool as big buddies to the children to gain experience in early childhood education. Contact mallory.wightman@sd23.bc.ca for more information.



REMINDER:

We are a
scent free
building!



THANK YOU to the Gary Bennett Family Fund for their continued generosity supporting RSS students through their Breakfast Program!





RUTLAND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL YEARLY CALENDAR 2025 - 2026

Days in Session	190 (3 summer Pro Days August 25,26,27)
Number of days of instruction	183
Number of non-instructional days	7
Schools Open	Tuesday, September 2
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (schools closed)	Tuesday, September 30
Administrative Implementation Day	Friday, October 10
Thanksgiving Day (schools closed)	Monday, October 13
Teacher Professional Day	Friday, October 24
Remembrance Day (schools closed)	Tuesday, November 11
Winter vacation period (schools closed)	Monday, December 22 – Friday, January 2
Statutory Holiday -New Year's Day (schools closed)	Thursday, January 1
Schools reopen after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 5
Teacher Professional Day (Support Staff In-Service Day)	Friday, February 13
Family Day (schools closed)	Monday, February 16
Spring Vacation period (schools closed)	Monday, March 16 – Friday, March 27
Schools reopen after Spring Vacation	Monday, March 30
Good Friday (schools closed)	Friday, April 3
Easter Monday (schools closed)	Monday, April 6
Victoria Day (schools closed)	Monday, May 18
Administrative Day (students do not attend)	Friday, June 26

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

Administrative Implementation Day	Friday, October 10
Teacher Professional Day	Friday, October 24
Teacher Professional Day / Support Staff In-Service	Friday, February 13

EARLY DISMISSALS

Early Dismissal – 12:00 pm – First day of school	Tuesday, September 2
Early Dismissal at 1:15 pm – Parent/Teacher Conferences	Thursday, October 16
Early Dismissal at 1:15 pm – Parent/Teacher Conferences	Thursday, March 5
Early Dismissal at 10:30 am – Report Cards Issued	Thursday, June 25

BELL SCHEDULE

Period 1A	9:00 – 10:15	Lunch	11:45 – 12:29	Period 2B	1:55 – 3:16
Break	10:15 – 10:24	Period 2A	12:29 – 1:45	Dismissal	3:16
Period 1B	10:24 – 11:45	Break	1:45 – 1:55		
313 instructional minutes per day					