



Brooks' Briefs

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Welcome Back Everyone!

We can't tell you how wonderful it is to have our students back in school! They are the heart and soul of our building and bring an energy and enthusiasm that is unparalleled. The 2016-2017 school year is shaping up to be very exciting. The province has re-designed our curriculum to better meet the needs of our students. This year, all students from Kindergarten through Grade 9 will transition to the new curriculum. Next year will see the implementation for students in Grades 10 -12. Click [here](#) for a link to a letter composed by Mr. Mike Bernier, BC's Minister of Education. The letter is intended for all parents and guardians of students in BC's public education system regarding these exciting changes to our curriculum.

Throughout the year we will be working hard to communicate, collaborate with and inform our school community on how we will be working to implement these changes. Here is a great source of information to stay connected: www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca

New Schedule at Brooks

As you are aware, after a lot of dialogue, discussion and collaboration we have made some changes to our daily timetable to better meet the needs of our students. Click [here](#) for a link to our weekly schedule. Parents and guardians will be hearing terms such as TAGs, Centres, X-Blocks, Student Planners, STEM, Humanities and more throughout the start of the year. We thought it may be helpful to provide a quick reference for parents:

- **TAGs (Teacher Advisory Groups)**
All students will be assigned to a TAG class by Grade. TAGs will meet first thing on Monday through Thursday. The purpose of TAG is for students to plan their day, their week, or their month with a teacher who has a vested interest in them. TAG teachers will also be a very good contact person for parents to connect with regarding their child. Parents and guardians should find out from your child who is their TAG teacher so you can communicate with them throughout the year.
- **Student Planners**
Student Planners replace our traditional agendas this year and will be an essential tool for students at Brooks. They are much larger and should be easier for students and teachers to monitor homework, tasks, and to ultimately plan their day. In addition, there are several places where parents can provide a signature to show TAG teachers that they are aware of their child's daily plans.

- **Centres**

Centres will be a part of our students in Grades 10 -12 daily routines. Essentially a centre is a different way of organizing a class. Subject-specific teachers will be on hand to teach students in each centre and further support their class activities. They will provide our students with the opportunity for more flexibility and choice in the course or area that they feel is needed throughout the term. Students in Grades 10 -12 will have a number of Open Centre blocks in their weekly schedules. In conjunction with their class teacher and their TAG teacher they will make a plan to attend the following: Humanities Centre, S.T.E.M. Centre, Library/Social Studies Centre, Independent Online Centre, Digital Media Centre, Art Centre, Woodworking Centre, Metalworking Centre and Business Centre.

- **S.T.E.M.**

STEM is an acronym for Science Technology Engineering & Math. Our students in Grades 8 & 9 will be enrolled in STEM classes with one teacher. In their STEM class they will earn credits for Science and Math. Our STEM Centre is available for students in Grades 10 – 12 who are working on Science or Math courses.

- **Humanities**

Our Grade 8 & 9 students will also be enrolled in Humanities this year. They will earn credits for Social Studies and English in this class. Our Humanities Centre is available for students in Grades 10-12 who are working on Social Studies courses or English courses.

- **X-Blocks**

X-Blocks will occur on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the school year. The idea for this block came from the notion that students and teachers working together in areas of shared interest could be a powerful learning experience. X-Blocks will last one term in length, so we will have four registrations throughout the year. We have created ‘high interest’ electives to offer students in these “mini” courses. Some examples this year will include: Dastardly Dictators, C25K: Couch to 5km, Scholarship Planning 101, Forensics, Quilting and Beekeeping. Click [here](#) to see what will be offered in Term #1. Students will be able to suggest their own ideas to teachers in the coming months to foster greater collaboration during an X-Block. Currently the X-Blocks are available to Grades 9 through 12 students, while Gr.8 students will be enrolled in a Study Skills and Career Education module.

Student Timetable Issues

During the first few days of a school year, for a variety of reasons, students often find errors in their timetable. Our Counselling Department has a clearly defined process on how these will be handled. Students who do not have a timetable or who have missing blocks in their timetable are a priority. Next, they will be working with students who are missing courses for graduation requirements. Some requests cannot be accommodated. Changes will only be made for educational purposes and if there is room in the class. Some students will have their timetable changed as we work through class size issues. We thank you for your patience and understanding while we work through the timetables and classes.

Transportation & Bussing

We would like to clarify some information regarding the distribution of bus applications. As stated last year Bus applications for the next year are due May 1st of each year. Applications received after that point will be processed as soon as possible, however, may not be available on the first day of school. As of right now if you applied prior to Aug 1st your student should receive their pass during the first week of school. As our office is closed for the first weeks of August we are currently working on those applications received after Aug 1st. Once the applications have been processed, passes will be given to your school to be handed to students.

Students will not be refused entry on a bus as long as they have submitted their applications.

- If you have not yet submitted a bus application please do so at <https://forms.sd47.bc.ca>
- If you have any questions regarding available routes please visit <http://www.sd47.bc.ca/about/Pages/bussing.aspx>
- If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the transportation department at transportation@sd47.bc.ca.

School Website

In an effort to improve communication between our wider school community (students, parents/guardians, community members, etc.) our school website has undergone further changes over the summer. Please click [here](#) to access it. We encourage you to check the site often for any school-related information you may be looking for. It will be going through constant updates as we move along through the school year.

We are always looking for ways that we can better communicate with our students, parents and our community. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact Mr. Burt.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday	Sept. 14th	10:21am	X-Block replaced with TAG class
Friday	Sept. 16th	12:30pm	Terry Fox / Jasper Mohan School Run
Tuesday	Sept. 20 th	7:00pm	P.A.C. Meeting
Wednesday	Sept. 21 st	10:21am	X-Blocks begin
Thursday	Sept. 22	7:00pm	David Boulding (FASD) presentation for parents / community members in MC Theatre
Friday	Sept. 23		Pro D Day
Thursday	Sept. 29	9:00 am	Individual Photo Day
Monday	Oct. 10		Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday	Oct. 13	9:00am	Interim Reports to the office
Monday	Oct. 17	3:00pm	Interim Reports mailed home
Tuesday	Oct. 18	7:00 pm	Brooks Music Open House
Thursday	Oct. 20	TBA	Great Can Shakeout (Earthquake Drill)
Friday	Oct. 21		Provincial Pro D Day Wednesday
Wednesday	Oct. 26	2:13 pm	Early Dismissal
		6:30 pm	Student-Parent-Teacher Interviews