

OSOYOOS SECONDARY

SEPTEMBER START UP 2025

5800 115TH ST.
OSOYOOS BC V0H1V4

PRINCIPAL: MR. D. FOSTER: DFOSTER@SD53.BC.CA
VICE PRINCIPAL: MRS. S. BROWNING: SBROWNING@SD53.BC.CA

PHONE (250) 485-4433
SCHOOL WEBSITE: [HTTP://OSS.SD53.BC.CA](http://OSS.SD53.BC.CA)

Message from the Principal

Rattler Families and Friends:

Welcome back, Rattlers! I am excited for the school year and look forward to working with our dedicated staff, students and families. Together we will continue to build a supportive and inspiring community where every student can succeed. I hope that Rattler families have had a fun and restful summer because September will be a busy month at OSS with a variety of different learning opportunities, field trips, sports, activities and events - Buddy Day, Terry Fox Run, and Truth and Reconciliation.

This newsletter contains a few dates to remember, information regarding SD 53 AI Guiding Principles along with a Parent Permission Form for students aged 13 and older, Guidelines for Positive Communication, Why Student Attendance Matters, sports, concession, attendance, and all things OSS. If you have questions or need support, our office is open from 8:00am-3:30pm, Monday to Friday. You can also visit our school website or our Facebook page.

Sincerely,
Dave Foster

SD53 Student Transportation

Registration is available on the school district website.
If you did not register with the school district for transportation last year, you will need to go to:

Bus Registration

The School District will provide you with route information and times of pick up



Terry Fox Run - Thursday, September 25th
We will be collecting toonies for Terry!

Dates to Remember :

Sept. 2nd	First Day of school
Sept. 9th	PAC Meeting 3:00pm
Sept. 24th	School Photos
	Early Dismissal 12:05pm
	Grad 2026 student/parent meeting Theatre 6:30pm
Sept. 25th	Terry Fox Run
	Orange Shirt Day & assembly
Sept. 30th	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation No School

Student Fee's

Please bring student fees to the office and return signed green Parent Package.

School Supplies



Students should have a large binder, pens, Pencils, Dividers, Highlighters, and lined paper

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 5



SCHOOL SPORTS

We will be kicking off September
with Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	2 - Gr 8 Girls VB tryouts 3-4:30 - Jr Girls VB tryouts 3-4:30 - Sr Girls VB tryouts 4:30-6:00 - Boys Soccer tryouts 3-4:30	3 - Gr 8 Girls VB tryouts 3-4:30 - Jr Girls VB tryouts 3-4:30 - Sr Girls VB tryouts 4:30-6:00 - Boys Soccer tryouts 3-4:30	4	
7	8	9	10 - Jr Girls VB 3- 4:30 - Sr Girls VB 4:30- 6:00 - Boys Soccer 3- 4:30	11 - Sr Girls VB 3:00- 4:30 - Gr 8 Girls VB 4:30-6:00 - Boys Soccer 3- 4:30	12 - Gr 8 Girls VB 3- 4:30 - Sr Girls VB 4:30- 6:00	13
14	15	16	17 - Jr Girls VB 3- 4:30 - Sr Girls VB 4:30- 6:00 - Boys Soccer 3- 4:30	18 - Jr Girls VB 3- 4:30 - Gr 8 Girls VB 4:30-6:00 - Boys Soccer 3- 4:30	19 - Gr 8 Girls VB 3- 4:30 - Sr Girls VB 4:30- 6:00 - SR BOYS SOCCER @ KALAMALKA	20 - JR GIRLS VBALL HOME TOURNEY - SR GIRLS VB @ TRU
21	22	23	24 - Jr Girls VB 3- 4:30 - Sr Girls VB 4:30- 6:00 - Boys Soccer 3- 4:30	25 EARLY DISMISS - Gr 8 Girls VB 12:00-1:00 - Sr Girls VB 12:00-1:00 - Boys Soccer 12:00-1	26 - Gr 8 Girls VB 3- 4:30 - SR GIRLS VBALL @ VIU - JR GIRLS VB @ MT. SENTINEL - SR GIRLS VBALL @ VIU	27 - SR BOYS SOCCER HOME TOURNAMENT - JR GIRLS VB @ MT. SENTINEL - SR GIRLS VBALL @ VIU
28 - SR GIRLS VBALL @ VIU	29 - Jr Girls VB 3- 4:30 - Sr Girls VB 4:30- 6:00 - Boys Soccer 3- 4:30	30 NO SCHOOL				

GOLF ACADEMY

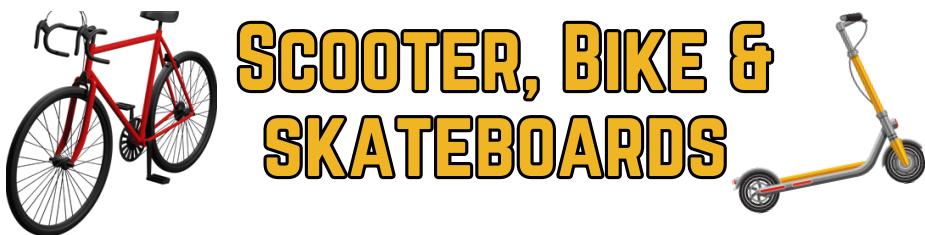
\$500 Cost Recovery
Use of Osoyoos Golf Course facilities
and golf pro

\$800 Cost Recovery
Use of Osoyoos Golf Course facilities and
golf pro, and Osoyoos Golf Course
student membership

ATHLETIC FEE'S

B-Ball	V-Ball	Golf Team	Ultimate
Grade 8 \$200	Grade 8 \$150	\$330	To Be Determined
Junior \$300	Junior \$200	<u>Soccer</u>	<u>Track & Field</u>
Senior \$350	Senior \$250	\$200	To Be Determined

Uniform Fees- (athletics only) \$15 is included in fees above to replace
uniforms once they are no longer in good condition



SCOOTER, BIKE & SKATEBOARDS

Students are not allowed to ride these items on school property (this includes the parking lot)

All students who travel to the school on these items are expected to wear a helmet.

Storage:

- Scooters are to be stored outside between the gym and theatre
- Bikes are to be parked in the bike stand at the back of the rear parking lot
- Skateboards in the IE building foyer.

It is the student's responsibility to lock bikes and scooters. Skateboard storage is monitored with security cameras.

Grad 2026 Meeting

Students, Parents and Guardians of the Grad Class of 2026 are encouraged to join us on:

Wednesday, September 24th at 6:30 in the theatre

This meeting is for information regarding:

- Graduation ceremony in June
- Graduation requirements
- Scholarships & bursaries
- Grad trip and fundraising

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND CALL OUT SYSTEM

OSS has an automated call out system. If your child is away or needs to leave early, please call or email.

(250)485-4433
or email oss@sd53.bc.ca

Students unexcused will be contacted by our automated system at the end of the day

PAC MEETING

OUR FIRST PAC MEETING IS ON

TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9TH
3PM IN THE
LIBRARY.

WE WOULD LIKE TO
INVITE PARENTS AND
GUARDIANS
INTERESTED IN
JOINING PAC!
SEE YOU THERE

SD53 PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICE POLICY

Students will not be allowed to use personal digital devices during instructional hours unless explicitly permitted by a teacher for educational purposes.

Personal digital devices must be turned off and stored in backpacks, lockers, or at home.

Personal digital device are not permitted in hallways or washrooms during class time.

Exceptions will be made for students with accessibility or medical needs.

Families can contact the school office to leave important messages.

CONCESSION INFORMATION & STUDENT QUICKPAY

The Concession will be up and running
Monday, September 8th

During the school year, students will be able to purchase snacks and Hot Lunch - provided daily by local restaurants. Below is the menu for both September and October

BREAK IS 10:40AM

LUNCH AT 11:50AM

Purchases can be made either by cash or by tab that is created using the Student Quick Pay

To set up a tab for your student you must create an account on:

LINK

STUDENT QUICK PAY

Student Quick Pay is an online payment system used at OSS. This system enables you to pay for events and happenings at OSS such as fees, athletics, field trips, fundraisers as well as concession. It is a handy way to make purchases; without sending cash or cheque to the school.

Payment is only done by credit card.

If you choose to put money on a concession account, the school keeps track of what their purchases and deducts them from their account.

Admin will reach out to you when they are low on funds with regards to the concession.

If you need any help setting up an account,
please call (250) 485-4433

Concession Calendar September 2025



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
EXCEPT THURSDAY - BRING CASH for Pizza. \$2.50 per slice Grade 8's and 12's are included with Buddy Day				
8 Tim Hortons Veggie Cilantro Bowl with Muffin	9 Subway Pepperoni with White Cheddar Sub	10 Mami's Pizza	11 Smitty's Chicken Caesar Wrap	12 Tim Hortons Chili, Bun & Muffin
15 Tim Hortons Chicken Cilantro Bowl with Muffin	16 Subway Ham & White Cheddar Sub	17 Mami's Pizza	18 Smitty's Chicken Nuggets & Chunky Potatoes	19 Tim Hortons Turkey Bacon Club on Bun with Muffin
22 Tim Hortons Veggie Habanero Bowl with Muffin	23 Subway Turkey with White Cheddar 6'Sub	24 No Lunch Early Dismissal	25 Smitty's Burgers & Chunky Potatoes	26 Tim Hortons Chili, Bun & Muffin
29 Tim Hortons Veggie Cilantro Bowl with Muffin	30 No School National Truth and Reconciliation Day	1 Mami's Pizza	2 Smitty's Macaroni & Cheese	3 Tim Hortons Grilled Cheese with Chicken Noodle Soup

Concession Calendar October 2025



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
29 Tim Hortons Veggie Cilantro Bowl with Muffin	30 No School National Truth and Reconciliation Day	1 Mami's Pizza	2 Smitty's Macaroni & Cheese	3 Tim Hortons Grilled Cheese with Chicken Noodle Soup
Thanksgiving No School				
6 Tim Hortons Chicken Cilantro Bowl with Muffin	7 Subway Cold Cut with White Cheddar 6'Sub	8 Mami's Pizza	9 Smitty's Turkey Dinner	10 Tim Hortons Chili with Bun and Muffin
13	14 Subway Pepperoni & White Cheddar 6'Sub	15 Mami's Pizza	16 Smitty's French Toast Sticks with Chunky Potatoes	17 Tim Hortons Turkey Bacon Sandwich with Muffin
20 Tim Hortons Veggie Habanero Bowl with Muffin	21 Subway Ham & White Cheddar 6'Sub	22 No Lunch Early Dismissal	23 No Lunch Early Dismissal	24 No School Non Instructional Day
27 Tim Hortons Veggie Cilantro Bowl with Muffin	28 Subway Turkey & White Cheddar 6'Sub	29 No Lunch Early Dismissal	30 Smitty's Chicken Nuggets & Chunky Potatoes	31 Tim Hortons Chili, Bun & Muffin



Guidelines for Positive Communication

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In the Okanagan Similkameen School District, we want schools to be safe, supportive, and welcoming places for students to learn and for staff to work. A key part of creating this environment is how we communicate and work together as a community.

We deeply value the partnership between home and school and ask for your support in the following areas:

Communication

- ☒ Please follow our process when concerns arise: Begin by making an appointment to speak with your child's teacher, and if more follow-up is needed, contact the school administration. Additional information can be found in Board Policy [F-10 Dispute Resolution Policy Use](#) respectful language in all communication, whether in person, on the phone, or through email.
- ☒ Please understand that responses may not always be immediate. Staff will do their best to communicate with you as soon as possible. Clarify your child's perspective with staff to better understand the full picture, and work toward calm, reasonable solutions. Avoid using social media to air complaints. It does not resolve concerns and often makes situations harder for everyone involved.
- ☒

Partnership

- ☒ Support your child's regular attendance at school and reach out if you need help with this.
- ☒ Work with staff to find solutions when issues come up.
- ☒ Review and discuss the Student Code of Conduct with your child so they understand expectations.

Conduct

- ☒ When visiting the school, please remain calm and respectful. Swearing, inappropriate language, threats, or verbal abuse are not acceptable.

School Culture

- ☒ Please join us in treating all members of our school community with dignity and respect. This includes respecting diversity in identity, race, culture, beliefs, family status, abilities, gender, and age, as outlined by the BC Human Rights Code.

Together, we can build a school environment where all students and adults feel safe, respected, and supported in their learning. Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

Warm regards,

Marcus Toneatto
Superintendent of Schools
Okanagan Similkameen School District No. 53



Why Student Attendance Matters



In the Okanagan Similkameen School District, we all share the responsibility - educators, families, and community members - to help every student not only succeed but thrive. A key part of that success is **being at school every day**. When students miss school they:

- Miss valuable learning that cannot be replaced with
- homework Fall behind in reading, especially by
- Grade 3 Struggle more in later grades Are less likely
- to graduate from high school
- Are less engaged in school. Group work, hands-on activities, and daily social experiences can't be recreated. Teachers must adjust plans and spend time helping absent students catch up, which impacts the whole class. Every missed day affects learning.

What is Chronic Absence?

- Missing **20% of the school year** (about 3-4 days per month)
- Includes **excused absences, unexcused absences, late arrivals, early pick-ups, and suspensions**

What Parents Can Do

You play a key role in building strong attendance habits. Here's how you can help:

- **Communicate** with the school about any lateness, early pick-ups, or absences
- **Schedule appointments** after school or on non-school days
- **Plan vacations** during school breaks
- **Have a backup plan** for getting your child to school if something unexpected happens
- **Build healthy routines:**
 - Create regular bedtimes to ensure enough sleep. Cell phone & electronic usage should end before bedtime.
 - Have clothes & backpacks ready the night before.
- **Address anxiety early**—
if your child is worried about school, talk to their teacher or school counsellor

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS

- Students are expected to **arrive on time and stay for the entire school day**
- If your child is absent, you **must notify the school office**
- Review school calendars as days off & breaks are posted on each school's website



Guiding Principles for AI Use in SD53

Introduction

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into education, the Okanagan Similkameen School District is committed to ensuring that its use aligns with our core values: inclusivity, curiosity, relationships, well-being, truth & reconciliation, and adaptability. These guiding principles provide a framework for the responsible and ethical use of AI by students and staff. They will be reviewed and updated as needed in an evolving educational landscape.

1. Inclusivity

AI tools must be accessible, equitable, and age appropriate for all learners and staff. The district commits to embracing AI to enhance access to information and equity in education, providing safe environments that honor and reflect our diversity.

2. Curiosity

AI tools can enrich critical and creative thinking and problem-solving while also promoting digital literacy and responsible usage. The district encourages students and staff to explore AI to pursue innovation through inquiry and curiosity.

3. Relationships

Education is fundamentally about human connection. AI should enhance—not replace—meaningful relationships between students, staff, and the community. AI tools should be used as a complement to human processes, collaboration, and ethical decision-making.

4. Well-Being

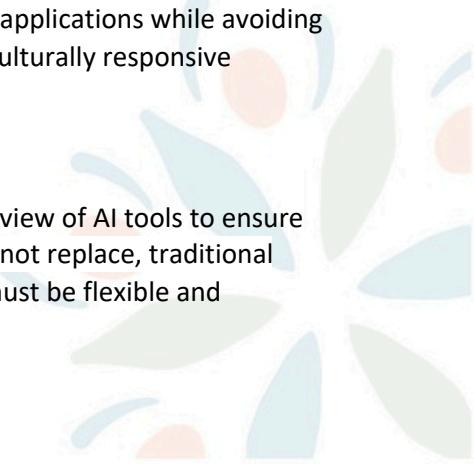
Fostering well-being is a cornerstone of the Okanagan Similkameen School District's strategic plan. We are committed to using AI to enhance learning and promote the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of students and staff. AI should help make education more engaging, inclusive, and supportive. All AI use must respect user safety, privacy, and data protection, and align with ethical standards and legal requirements.

5. Truth & Reconciliation

The district's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation recognizes the importance of respecting cultural diversity. This encourages the consideration of Indigenous perspectives in AI applications while avoiding AI tools that perpetuate colonial biases and appropriation. We commit to a culturally responsive approach that integrates diverse perspectives in AI use and implementation.

6. Adaptability

The district commits to continuous learning, ethical reflection, and regular review of AI tools to ensure they align with best practices and our district's values. AI amplifies, but does not replace, traditional instruction, reporting, and teacher expertise. District policies and practices must be flexible and responsive.





2025/2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<u>September 2025</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

<u>October 2025</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

<u>November 2025</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

<u>December 2025</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

<u>January 2026</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

<u>February 2026</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

<u>March 2026</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

<u>April 2026</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

<u>May 2026</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2			
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

<u>June 2026</u>						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

 Stat/School Holidays

 Non-Instructional Days

 Secondary Exam Days

 Year End Administration

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1	Labour Day
September 2	Schools Open
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconcil.
October 13	Thanksgiving Day
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 22	Christmas Break Begins
January 5	Schools Re-Open
January 23-27	Secondary Exam Days
January 28	Second Semester Begins
February 16	Family Day
March 16	Spring Break Begins
March 30	School Re-Open
April 3	Good Friday
April 6	Easter Monday
May 18	Victoria Day
June 22 to 24	Secondary Exam Days
June 25	Last Day of Classes
June 26	Administrative Day (School Closed for Students)

DISTRICT NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

October 24 – Professional Development Day

February 13 – Professional Development Day

March 23 to 27 - Connected to Spring Break

EARLY DISMISSAL DATES

Schools will notify parents of early dismissal times

Also available on our website: <http://www.sd53.bc.ca/>

Cawston/Keremeos: October 22 & 23 / April 9 & 10

Osoyoos: October 22 & 23 / April 9 & 10

Oliver/OK Falls: October 22 & 23 / April 9 & 10

District wide early dismissal days for Inquiry Time are indicated on calendar with this symbol { }

Family Conferences

October 22: CPS, OKF, OES, OSE, OSS, SESS, SOSS, TEN

April 9: CPS, OKF, OES, OSS, SESS, SOSS, TEN

April 9 and/or 10: OSE

We are an innovative learning community where all members are supported in their academic, social, and mental well-being equipped with the skills and experiences necessary to thrive in a diverse and changing world.

SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT

Cawston Primary School Principal: Amanda Palmer	Phone: 250-485-4434 Fax: 250-499-5288 Hours: 8:38am-2:30pm
Okanagan Falls Elem. School Principal: Katie Poole	Phone: 250-497-5414 Fax: 250-497-8279 Hours: 8:30am-2:27pm
Oliver Elementary School Principal: Scott Tremblay	Phone: 250-498-3468 Fax: 250-498-0339 Hours: 8:30am-2:23pm
Osoyoos Elementary School Principal: Jason McAllister	Phone: 250-485-4444 Fax: 250-495-2855 Hours: 8:30am-2:30pm
Osoyoos Secondary School Principal: Dave Foster	Phone: 250-485-4433 Fax: 250-495-2669 Hours: 8:35am-2:45pm
Similkameen Elem. Sec. School Principal: Stacey Smith	Phone: 250-499-2727 Fax: 250-499-2411 Elem Hours: 8:30am-2:35pm Sec Hours: 8:30am-2:40pm
Southern Okanagan Sec. School Principal: Bev Young	Phone: 250-498-4931 Fax: 250-498-6957 Hours: 8:30am-2:45p
Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School Principal: Shannon Miller	Phone: 250-498-3415 Fax: 250-498-0388 Hours: 8:30am-2:27pm
YouLearn.ca – Online Learning & Continuing Education Principal: Brad Burns	Phone: 250-498-4597

DISTRICT CONTACTS – 250-498-3481

Marcus Toneatto	Superintendent of Schools
Subra Paliappa	Secretary Treasurer
Naryn Searcy	Director of Learning & Inquiry
Debby Sansome	Director of Facilities
Susan Trower	Manager of Human Resources
Heather Rose	Director of Student Services
Melia Dirk	District Vice Principal, Early Learning & Childcare

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Rob Zandee
Debbie Marten
Casey Brouwer
Sholeh Pickell
Christine Watson
Karen Clayton
Brenda Dorosz

PARENT AND STUDENT APPEALS:

Where a decision of an employee of the Board significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student, the parent/guardian of the student, or the student may, within a reasonable time from the date that the parent/guardian or student was informed of the decision, appeal that decision to the Board. Further information regarding the appeal process can be obtained [HERE](#).

ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORTS ISSUED:

Mid-Year Reports: Date to be determined by each school

Final Report: Thursday, June 25, 2026