August 2024

Dear Conestoga Families,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year and a big welcome to the Class of 2028! I hope you have all enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing summer. The close of summer always brings the excitement and anticipation of a new school year. In preparation for the start, we are writing to share information regarding the details of our opening.

### **Opening Week & Orientation Programs**

School begins for all students on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. We will again offer an expanded orientation program which will run from 7:50AM – 11:15AM. **All ninth graders and students new to T/E should report directly to the auditorium by 7:50AM on the first day.** Returning students in grades 10, 11 and 12 will have a delayed start and should report to their homeroom by 11:20AM on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will <u>only</u> be served to those attending orientation. Transportation will be provided for the 7:50AM arrival and the 11:20AM arrival. A summary of the opening day schedule is as follows:

7:50 AM - 11:15 AM: Orientation for  $9^{\text{th}}$ /New Students. Bag lunch outdoors, provided by the school. 11:20 AM - 2:50 PM: All students grades 9 - 12 attend each class, beginning with homeroom.

In addition, the next two days, August 27<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>, will follow a modified schedule to complete our orientation activities. During these programs, students will hear from their grade-level administrator and school counselor as well as complete their annual health screenings and review necessary information and expectations. A reminder that picture day will take place on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **2024-25** Schedule

This year we will begin our new bell schedule which features 8 periods on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, and 4 periods on Wednesday (odd numbered periods) and Thursday (even numbered periods). We will no longer have cycle days at Conestoga, instead we will have alternating Garnet and Gray days. Additionally, Wednesday and Thursday will feature Lunch and Learn, a one-hour period where all students will eat lunch, see teachers, meet with clubs, study in the library and relax in the Atrium. Our new bell schedule can be found <a href="here">here</a>. We will be spending time in the opening days introducing students to our new schedule.

Student schedules will be released on Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup> through Power School. Any students having trouble viewing their schedule should email the <a href="mailyhelpdesk@tesd.net">familyhelpdesk@tesd.net</a>. We will remain with our semester grading system, with grades administered mid-year and at the end of the year. This year, teachers will have the option of administering either a midterm or final exam. Each teacher will communicate expectations with their students as well as details about grading at the start of the year. It is essential that families continue to partner with the school in monitoring students' wellbeing. School counselors and mental health specialists are always available to assist students and parents throughout the year.

#### **Textbooks and Laptops**

At this time, all families received information about laptop pick-up times. The schedule can be found <u>here</u>. Once school starts, laptops will be available for pick up in the library at the Tech Deck.

# **Drop Off & Pick-Up**

Since Conestoga is located within a residential neighborhood, we ask for your cooperation with adhering to the following guidelines for drop off and pick up of students. Parents may DROP OFF in the front of the building using two lanes. The bus circle is available beginning at 7:40AM as an additional drop-off location. Parents may PICK UP in the front of the building using two lanes. The bus circle is available at 3:00PM for parents to pick up students. When dropping off and picking up, please pull all the way up allowing traffic to flow. Please DO NOT use the Main Lot for drop-off and pick up as it creates more congestion for our student drivers. Additionally, we ask that you NOT use the lower lots for drop off or pick up as they are reserved for staff use only. Thank you in advance for your help as we know this is a daily challenge given the volume of traffic we see each morning and afternoon.

## **Clubs & Activities**

We know many students are eager to get involved in the many clubs and activities Conestoga has to offer. We will hold a Club Fair the week of September 16<sup>th</sup> which includes online signups through Schoology. Clubs will officially begin meeting the following week, so stay tuned for more details!

We hope this information has been helpful in answering some of the questions regarding this year's school opening. Again, we are incredibly excited to have students back. As always, we welcome your involvement, questions and input. Please feel free to contact me or any administrator at any time. We look forward to seeing our students on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the final days of summer, and as always, Go 'Stoga!

Sincerely,

Amy A. Meisinger, Ph.D.

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Principal