

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE HORNETS

SEPTEMBER 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the new school year at SOSS. I would like to introduce the newest member of our staff team. June McGhee, our IST, and Heather Koppe, our French teacher. The returning staff are very excited for the new school year and everything it has to offer.

We have had a great start to the year. It was nice to see all the new faces of the grade 8's this September. Mrs. Podmorow and the Link Crew introduced them to what they should expect at SOSS. They learned about their lockers, their classes and much more. Our newest Hornets are doing very well navigating the new school.

The grade 12's are excited to learn about everything grad and are setting a great example for the rest of the school.

What's new at SOSS...

We are hitting the cell phone policy pretty hard. Please talk to your student about not using their cell phone at school. Expectations are they can use in the morning, at lunch, and after school. No headphones in class either. Students with an IEP may have some adaptations that require phone use and we will accommodate those students.

Some consequences have us removing the phone from the students if they have had warnings. Parents may be asked to pick up the phone if we get to that point. So far, so good.

We have had grade wide meetings to review expectations and go over what SOSS has to offer for the 26-27 school year.

Fall athletics are underway. Field hockey, boys soccer, cross-country and volleyball are all in full swing. Please come and support our athletes at our home and away events.

A couple of important events are coming up:

Sept 23 is our first half day for staff inquiry.

Sept 24 the Terry Fox Run. We are selling hot dogs after the run to raise money for the Terry Fox Society.

Sept 29 is Orange Shirt Day. We will be walking down to the band shell at the park and having some people from our community speak to the students. Please feel free to join us.

If you have any concerns or questions please reach out to the school.

See you all at the BBQ tonight.

Sue Beyer



IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER 16 - WELCOME BACK BBQ, 5PM

SEPTEMBER 23 - INQUIRY CLASSES OUT @ 11:55AM

SEPTEMBER 24 - TERRY FOX RUN

SEPTEMBER 29 - ORANGE SHIRT DAY

**SEPTEMBER 30 - DAY OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION,
NO SCHOOL**

OCTOBER 1 - GRADE 8 DAY ON THE LAND

OCTOBER 12 - THANKSGIVING, NO SCHOOL

Southern Okanagan Secondary School
6140 Gala Street
PO Box 990
Oliver, BC V0H 1T0

Phone: 250-498-4931
Fax: 250-498-6957
Website: soss.sd53.bc.ca
Email: soss@sd53.bc.ca

SKATEBOARD CLUB

We will be meeting Tuesdays until November. Skateboard club travels after school each week to Penticton and Summerland skateparks. Skateboarders and scooter...ers of all levels are welcome to join. All you need is a helmet, skateboard/scooter, and a permission form. Permission forms are available outside Room 206. See Mr. McKinnon for details.



PARENT PORTAL

All new parents and guardians should have received an email with login information for the MyEducation BC Family Portal. The portal is used to access student attendance, academic information, and report cards.

Please take a moment to log in [here](#) and verify that your child's address and contact information are correct. If any updates are needed, please email the office at soss@sd53.bc.ca.

If you have not received your login information, please contact the school office at 250-498-4931 or soss@sd53.bc.ca.

Thank you for helping us keep our student records accurate and up to date!

MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

The SOSS Mountain Bike Club and Outdoors Club is taking a group of students to Revelstoke, BC for an overnight camping trip from Thursday, Sept. 24 - Saturday Sept. 26. We'll be hiking or mountain biking some of the spectacular trails in the area, including a day at Revelstoke Mountain Resort. The total cost per student is \$150. Students interested in going can get more information and a permission form from Mr. Baerg, Mr. Breneman, or Mrs. Burns.



Bus Registration!

If you have a new student attending SOSS or are moving be sure to complete the bus registration form at this link: <https://op.sd53.bc.ca/bus/busreg.html>



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.

HORNET WEAR

This year we are offering all students the chance to purchase clothing with our school logo.

Students will be able to order online via the school website or through Mrs. Wilkie in the Accounting Office.



Thank you Secrest Organic Produce for the generous donation to SOSS!!

**STUDENT FEES ARE DUE!
YOU CAN PAY ONLINE
USING THE STUDENT
QUICKPAY OPTION HERE OR
SEE MRS. WILKIE IN THE
ACCOUNTING OFFICE**



Our attendance call-out system, SchoolMessenger, is up and running for another school year! If your student is marked absent without an excuse, you will receive a phone call and/or text message around 6:00 p.m.

Regular attendance is an important part of student success, and we appreciate your help in making sure your student is at school each day and ready to learn. Thank you for partnering with us to support the success of every SOSS student!

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
- homework - Fall behind
- 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.

Why Student Attendance Matters

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

What is Chronic Absence?

- Missing **20% of the school year**(about 3-4days 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 coun

Every Day Matters – Together, we can help all students learn, grow, and succeed!





E-BIKE, E-SCOOTER & E-DIRT BIKE RULES



E-BIKES

- **Minimum age:**
 - Standard e-bikes (500W): 16 years old
 - Light e-bikes (250W): 14 years old
- **Maximum speed:**
 - Standard e-bikes: 32 km/h
 - Light e-bikes: 25 km/h
- **E-bikes with a battery over 500W are not permitted except for off-road.**



Note: A person under 14 years old cannot ride any e-bike.



SAFETY GUIDELINES & RULES OF THE ROAD

E-bikes do not have a separate set of rules when it comes to the road. Under the Motor Vehicle Act, cyclists must follow the same regulations as drivers, including obeying road signs and traffic signals.

- ✓ Always wear a helmet
- ✓ Use lights and reflectors when riding at night or in low-visibility conditions
- ✓ Cyclists must ride as close as possible to the right side of the roadway
- ✓ Hand signals must be used to indicate turns
- ✓ Only one person per bicycle is permitted
- ✓ Riding on sidewalks is prohibited
- ✓ Respect pedestrians and other road users



E-SCOOTERS

- ✓ Rider must be 16 years or older
- ✓ Must wear a helmet
- ✓ Battery power cannot exceed 500 watts
- ✓ Weight cannot exceed 45 KG, including motors and batteries
- ✓ Max speed 25 km/h
- ✓ Must have a braking system that can stop the device travelling at maximum speed within 7.5 meters. The motor must also stop when the accelerator is released or brakes applied.
- ✓ Must have front and rear lights to operate after sunset
- ✓ Not permitted on a numbered highway (this includes Main Street)
- ✓ Not permitted on roads that have a speed limit above 50 km/hr



E-DIRT BIKES NOT PERMITTED

E-dirt bikes cannot be driven on any public roadway. E-dirt bikes are only permitted for off-road use or on private property.



APPLICABLE FINES:

- No insurance – approximately \$598
- No driver's licence – approximately \$276 and demerit points
- No helmet – approximately \$138
- Additional violations such as driving without due care or consideration
- In some cases, riders may also be subject to vehicle impoundment or criminal charges, including dangerous operation of a motor vehicle.



E-dirt bikes are not insured, which means riders — and in the case of youth, their parents — may be held personally liable for damages if a collision occurs.