

SOUTHERN OKANAGAN SECONDARY SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Welcome to 2026! A new year brings fresh opportunities, renewed focus, and a chance to finish strong. At Southern Okanagan Secondary School, we are encouraging students to approach the remainder of Semester One with effort, focus, and pride. Your continued support at home—encouraging good attendance, preparation, and healthy routines—makes a meaningful difference and is greatly appreciated.

As we move into the final weeks of the semester, students will participate with in-class exams, assessments, projects, or presentations on January 21 and 22. All students are required to attend both of these days. Formal exam days will take place on Friday, January 23; Monday, January 26; and Tuesday, January 27. On these days, students are required to attend only when they have a scheduled exam. Students have been notified of their exam schedules, and a copy has been attached to this newsletter for your reference.

Report cards will be available on February 5 or 6, and families will receive an email from the office with instructions on how to access them.

From January 12–14, Grade 10 students will be writing the provincial Literacy and Numeracy Assessments, and Grade 12 students will be writing the Grade 12 Literacy Assessment. These Ministry assessments are important, and a snapshot of student results will appear on their final transcripts. Students who wish to rewrite an assessment will have opportunities to do so at future scheduled sessions.

We have also begun planning for the 2026–2027 school year. A course selection booklet has been created, and grade-level meetings will be held in early February to review the course selection process with students. Families will receive information to support conversations at home as students consider their interests, strengths, and future pathways.

Finally, I would like to share an update previously communicated by email: a new principal has been hired for SOSS. I have been honoured to serve in this interim role while the district completed the recruitment process following Mrs. Harrington's retirement. It has been a privilege to support the students and staff during this transition, and I will truly miss the energy and vibrancy that define a secondary school community. Ms. Susan Beyer will officially begin as Principal on February 1, and I know you will join me in warmly welcoming her to SOSS.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support of our school community.

Bev Young



IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 12-15	LITERACY/NUMERACY ASSESSMENTS
JANUARY 23-27	EXAMS
JANUARY 27	SEMESTER 1 ENDS
JANUARY 28	EARLY DISMISSAL, INQUIRY
JANUARY 28	SEMESTER 2/TERM 3 BEGINS
FEBRUARY 8	GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS
FEBRUARY 13	PRO-D, NO SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 16	FAMILY DAY, NO SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 18-20	GRAD PHOTOS
MARCH 9	GRAD PHOTO RETAKES

COURSE SELECTION

We are almost at the end of semester one, and although it seems early, it is time to start planning for next year. The scheduling team will be visiting classes during the week of February 9-12 to go over graduation requirements and how to plan for them as well as showing students how to use MyBlueprint to be able to select their courses for next year. If you would like to get a head start on this process the courses being offered next year are available on the [school website](#).

Japan 2028

Students in grades 8-10 are eligible to sign up for the next international school trip planned for spring break 2028. Mrs. Kingsfield and Mr. Hofman will be taking a group of students to Japan to visit 3 major cities - Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka. Highlights will include visits to temples, parks, shrines, a Studio Ghibli visit, Manga Art school visit, a ride on the bullet train, Osaka Castle, karaoke, and lots more! Students will have free time to explore in each city.

If you are interested in signing your student up (parents are welcome to tour with us as well) please contact Mrs. Kingsfield for more information.



GARDOM LAKE

The annual grade 9 trip to Gardom Lake will be May 26-28 this year. This is a fantastic 3 day, 2 night trip to an outdoor camp near Salmon Arm. Students spend the three days participating in a variety of activities at a summer camp. Students stay in cabins and food is prepared by chefs at the camp. The trip cost is \$250 and there are payments set up on the Student QuickPay system. We are aware this trip is expensive and would like to ensure this trip is accessible for any grade 9 students who want to attend. Please contact Mr. Adam if you need assistance paying part or all of the fees to attend this trip.



HOLIDAY TREES SPREAD CHEER

This December, our school brought the holiday spirit to life with five real Christmas trees in the front foyer. Decked out with lights and ornaments, they made the space feel warm and festive for everyone to enjoy.

Before the break, the trees found new homes—four went to families in our school community, and one was donated to the local Mission Society. A big thank-you to everyone who helped make this happen!





The SOSS presentation of **ROCK OF AGES** is coming up! Performance dates are March 5 and March 6th at 7pm and March 7th at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and can be purchased from the Venables Theatre.



The Textiles 9-12 class got into the holiday spirit by making quilted Christmas stockings. A wonderful community member joined us with sandwich cookies and quilting tips to make the week extra special. The results were amazing, and each stocking showcased creativity and craftsmanship. One student even made a custom stocking for a pet lizard, proving that holiday spirit comes in all shapes and sizes!

January 2026

Entrée \$5
Salads \$3 to \$5
Baked Goods \$1
Snack Cups \$3
Wraps \$4
Juice \$1

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
5 Pizza	6 BLT Sandwiches with Oven-Baked Fries	7 Chicken Chow Mein	8 Jerk Chicken, Pineapple, Rice	9 Mac & Cheese
12 Pizza	13 Greek Donair Pitas with Potato Wedges	14 Spicy Mango Chicken Quesadillas	15 Poutine	16 Sushi Bowls
19 Grilled Cheese with Chicken Noodle Soup	20 Seafood Fettucine Alfredo	21 Beef or Veggie Burgers with Sweet Potato Fries	22 Pizza	23 Exam Day (No Service)
26 Exam Day (No Service)	27 Exam Day (No Service)	28 Early Dismissal (No Service)	29 Semester 2 Kitchen Orientation (No Service)	30 Semester 2 Kitchen Orientation (No Service)

ASSESSMENT/EXAM SCHEDULE

In Class Assessments							
B Block, Wednesday, January 21 8:30-11:10	Subject & Room#	Teacher	Special Notes	A Block, Wednesday, January 21 12:05-2:45	Subject & Room#	Teacher	Special Notes
	EXAMPLE Socials 10 A - 209	Stopa			EXAMPLE Math 10 B - 209	Schulting	Full test in class
	EPF Pre-AP 11 - 208	Larsen			French 9 - 203	Arnason	
	Science 9 - 118	McIntyre	In the Science Lab.		English 10 - 202	Ducharme	
	English 8 - 206	McKinnon			AP English 12 - 208	Larsen	
	Workplace Math 10 - 119	Seymour			English 9 - 206	McKinnon	
					Science 9 - 119	Seymour	Science lab and 119.

C Block, Thursday, January 22 8:30-11:10	Subject & Room#	Teacher	Special Notes	D Block, Thursday, January 22 12:05-2:45	Subject & Room#	Teacher	Special Notes
	EXAMPLE Socials 10 A - 209	Stopa			EXAMPLE Math 10 B - 209	Schulting	Full test in class
	French 8 - 203	Arnason			French 8 - 203	Arnason	
	English 8 - 907	Dyer			EPF 11 - 202	Ducharme	
	Okanagan 8 - 208	Jensen			Spanish 9 - 204	Frank	
	Law 12 - 205	Splane			English 12 - 208	Larsen	
	Socials 10 - 202	S. Podmorow			Chemistry 11 - 118	McIntyre	
					English 9 - 206	McKinnon	

SOSS Final Exams - Friday, January 23 to Tuesday, January 27

Friday, January 23					
8:45 - 10:45			12:15 - 2:15		
Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room	Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room
Science 10	D - M. Russo	117	Socials 10	D - Stopa	209
Science 10	A - Wurfli	116	Socials 8	B - Janda	210
Science 10	C - Wurfli	119	Socials 8	D - Janda	208
Math 8	C - Kaiser	108	Workplace Math 11	A - Seminoff	108
Economics 12	A - Schulting	104	Foundations of Math 11	B - Seminoff	105
Chemistry 12 (Midterm)	A - McIntyre	118	Physics 12	C - Khodarahmi	122
Socials 9	B - Stopa	209	Physics 11	C - McIntyre	118
Socials 9	C - Hall	208			
Socials 9	A - Janda	210			

Monday, January 26					
8:45 - 10:45			12:15 - 2:15		
Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room	Exam	Class/Teacher	Test Room
Science 8	C - M. Russo	117	Life Sciences 11	A - M. Russo	117
Science 8	D - Seymour	119	Anatomy and Physiology 12	B - Wurfli	116
Precalculus Math 10	B - Schulting	104			
Math 9	C - Seminoff	105			
Math 9	D - Seminoff	207			
Precalculus Math 12	D - Kaiser	108			

Tuesday, January 27 - I Day, Conflict Exams & Re-Writes (as permitted)					
8:45 - 10:45			12:15 - 2:15		
Conflict Exams			Conflict Exams		
Exam	Class/Teacher	Room	Exam	Class/Teacher	Room
Please See Mrs. Koffler in the Office with any Conflicts	Various	202	Please See Mrs. Koffler in the Office with any Conflicts	Various	202

Information for Students - January 2026 Final Exams

Report any exam conflicts to Mrs. Koffler in the office immediately. All conflict exams will be written on Wednesday morning in room 202 unless you arrange something different directly with your teacher

All students must arrive to exams 10 minutes before the starting time

Students must stay in the exam room for a minimum of one hour after the start of their exam

Please leave bags and backpacks in your lockers as no bags will be allowed in the exam rooms

No phones or other electronic devices in the exam rooms except for calculators which will be checked by the supervising teacher

Busses will run at the regular times during exam week

Bring all writing utensils needed for exam (pencils, pens, erasers)

Students can bring a water bottle into the exam. Please do not bring food into an exam as it can be a distraction for peers

When exams are in session, please remain quiet in the upstairs hallways and the main floor hallway near the drama room

Students may use the library for quiet study

Students only need to be present for their exams and are expected to be off of school grounds when they are not writing or studying in the library



Okanagan
Similkameen
SD53

Trades Sampler at OC



February - June



A 16-week hands-on program where students explore **multiple trades**, gain **practical skills**, and **build confidence**.

Learn through real-world training, industry knowledge, and **employability skills** - all while earning 12 graduation Credits.

This program takes place at OC Penticton and will introduce youth to:



Carpentry

Welding



Plumbing

Sheet Metal



Electrical

Refridgeration



Ready to explore the Trades?

Scan the QR code, and a representative from the SD53
Careers Department will get in touch with you.



Have a question? Email Mr. Turnbull at:
bturnbul@sd53.bc.ca





Okanagan
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Health Care Sampler at OC

February - June



A 16 week introductory program giving students the opportunity to explore a variety of **high demand** health care careers. Try out **job-related tasks**, discover where your **interests fit**, and learn what it takes to **enter the field**.

Two nights a week online and biweekly Saturday classes at OC and will introduce students to:



**Health Office
Administration**

Dental Health



Pharmacy

Nursing



**Social Work/
Counselling**

Allied Health



Ready to explore a career in health care?

Scan the QR Code and a staff member from the SD53 Careers Department will get in touch with you



Have a question? Email Mr. Turnbull at:
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TECHNOLOGY SAMPLER AT OC

Sept - Feb



A 22 week program delving into the rapidly advancing world of information technology and computer science.

Hone your digital literacy and technical proficiency with practical training and industry-relevant learning in two key areas:
IT Essentials and Introduction to Coding.

This program is one night online and one night at OC and gives students the opportunity to explore:



Hardware/
Software/



Coding &
Programming



IT Systems &
Networks

Cybersecurity/
Data Protection



Ethics in
Technology



Industry Demands
& Career Pathways



Ready to Explore Information Technology?

Scan the QR Code and a staff member from the SD53
Careers Department will get in touch with you

Have a question? Email Mr. Turnbull at:
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience prepares students transitioning from secondary school to the world of work. It consists of 100 hours of work at a worksite, combined with 20 hours of related career and work experience assignments.



The Goals of Work Experience

- Students have the opportunity to observe and practice generic employability skills required in the workplace, as well as technical and applied skills relating to occupations or industries.
- Connect what they learn in the classroom with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed in the workplace to be successful
- Develop job readiness skills for specific occupations and careers
- Understand the similarities and differences in behavior standards between the workplace and school



What does the course consist of?

- Unpaid work meant to gain employability skills, many students turn their placements into paid jobs.
- Provide work to an employer with a Placement Agreement in place, ensuring that students are covered by the Ministry of Education's Workers Compensation plan- The School District will handle any WCB claim.
- Students must complete all safety assignments and provide documentation prior to commencing work experience at the placement

READY TO EXPLORE CAREER EDUCATION WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM?

Scan the QR Code and a staff member from the SD53
Careers Department will get in touch with you

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YOUTH WORK IN TRADES

Youth Work in Trades program provides secondary students with the opportunity to simultaneously earn their secondary school diplomas while working in the industry, gaining hours towards training certification



What is Youth WorkinTrades?

It is an industry training program for high school students. Through the Youth Work in Trades Program, students get paid to work as an apprentice and are also enrolled in courses that provide credits towards graduation.

Who is involved?

Programs are developed and offered as partnerships between the school district, local employers and Skilled Trade BC. The students are sponsored by the employer as a level one apprentice, and they are registered with Skilled Trades BC.



How Youth Work in Trades can help?

Students have the opportunity to:

- Earn between 16 credits towards high school graduation.
- Students who complete these programs typically have good success in their chosen trade.
- Students who complete the program qualify for \$1000 scholarship to cover the cost of technical training.
- Students earn money while accumulating credits towards graduation.
- Can be paired with Youth Train in Trades to complete a level one apprenticeship.

READY TO EXPLORE CAREER EDUCATION YOUTH WORK IN TRADES PROGRAM?

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YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES



Youth Train in Trades program provides secondary students the opportunity to simultaneously earn their secondary school diplomas and post-secondary or industry training certification

What is Youth Train in Trades?

It is an industry training program for high school students. Through a Youth TRAIN in Trades program, students can take courses that will give both high school graduation and post secondary school.

Who is involved?

Programs are developed and offered as partnerships between school districts and post-secondary institutions. These programs are often taught at Colleges.

How Youth Train & Trades can help?

Students have the opportunity to:

- Earn between 16-40 credits
- Students who complete these programs typically have very good success in finding employment
- Completion of a program will give you credit towards your level one technical training (in class) components for your industry training program.
- You can also pair the youth train in trades program with youth work in trades to complete your level one apprenticeship.

READY TO EXPLORE CAREER EDUCATION YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES PROGRAM?

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DUAL CREDIT

Dual Credit allows students to complete post-secondary courses, while earning dual credits that count towards both their high school diploma and their post-secondary diploma, degree or apprenticeship certification.



What is Dual Credit? Students participate in

apprenticeship training and post secondary courses, earning dual credits that count towards both their high school diploma and their post secondary diploma, degree or apprenticeship certification.

Who is it for?

Students in Grades 10, 11 & 12 that would like to get a jump start on their post-secondary education.

How it helps?

Students have the opportunity to:

- Earn high school credits and post-secondary credentials at the same time.
- Get a head start on learning and training for their future careers.
- Tuition for all courses or programs is paid by the school district.



READY TO EXPLORE CAREER EDUCATION DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM?

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