

BARRIERE SECONDARY COUGAR NEWS



What's Happening This Week

MONDAY, September 7

- Labour Day (School Closed)

TUESDAY, September 8

- First Day of Classes (10:30 am – 12:30 pm)
- Cafeteria Closed

WEDNESDAY, September 9

- Regular Classes
- Cafeteria Closed

THURSDAY, September 10

- Regular Classes
- Cafeteria Closed

FRIDAY, September 11

- Camp Cougar (Lunch will be served)
- Cafeteria Closed

Upcoming Dates

- September 7 Labour Day
- September 8 First Day of Classes
- September 11 Camp Cougar
- September 14 Cafeteria and Breakfast Program Opens
- September 14 Meet the Teacher BBQ (4:30 pm – 6:00 pm)
- September 14 BSS PAC AGM 6:00 pm – BSS Library
- September 16 Photo Day
- September 18 Student Verification Packages Due
- September 21 Pro-D Day (No school for students)
- September 29 Orange Shirt Day
- September 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (School Closed)

September 7 – September 11

New Moon, August 12

Ninth Moon

Pelltspántsk
mid summer month

**Secwepemcúl'ecw yi7élye ell,
re tmicws re Simpcw n7élye.**

**We Acknowledge that we are
on the territory of the
Secwepemc Nation,
specifically the territory of the
Simpcw People.**

Welcome back Cougar Families!

We are incredibly excited for the upcoming 2026/2027 school year. The office is officially open! We look forward to welcoming students back into the school on Tuesday, September 8 for a short first day of school beginning at 10:30 am ending at 12:30 pm.

We will be sending out the weekly Cougar News beginning Friday, September 11 with information for the upcoming weeks. If you have any thoughts regarding information items that could be included, please feel free to reach out. We are always looking for your voice and feedback.

Welcome Mr. Chris Spanis

We are excited to welcome Mr. Spanis as Vice Principal at Barriere Secondary. He brings a solid background in both school leadership and classroom teaching, having served as VP at Westsyde Secondary and Norkam following many years teaching science, psychology, and yearbook at SKSS. Outside of school, Mr. Spanis stays active with mountain biking, soccer, and skiing. He lives in Kamloops with his wife, two children, and dog. Above all, he is looking forward to building strong, supportive relationships with Barriere and Simpcw families, so every student is engaged, encouraged, and given the opportunity to excel.



First Week

Teachers will discuss supplies and classroom expectations during the first day of classes.

Tuesday, September 8: Classes begin for the 2026-2027 school year. Classes are scheduled 10:30-12:30 on the first day. Buses will pick students up at your scheduled pick-up location approximately 2 hours later than usual. Buses will pick students up from BSS at approximately 12:40 pm. Students should bring their school supplies for their first day.

September 8, 2025, BSS First Day of Classes Schedule	
Time	Block
10:30 – 11:00	A
11:00 – 11:30	B
11:30 – 12:00	C
12:00 – 12:30	D
Dismissal	

Wednesday, September 9: Regular classes.

Thursday, September 10: Regular classes.

Friday, September 11: Camp Cougar! 8:30 am – 3:01 pm. More information will be shared with students on September 8. Lunch will be provided.

Class Schedules

Student schedules will be available on the [MyEd Portal](#) beginning Today week. Please watch your email for more information.

Grade 10 - 12 Students can pick up a paper copy of their schedules on the first day of classes in the cafeteria.

Grade 7, 8, 9 Learning Community Students will be welcomed at the main entrance by Ms. Davis, Mr. Powers, Mr. Cordeiro, and Mr. Bouthillier.

School Fees

School Fees for Semester 1, Grades 7-9 will be posted in SchoolCash Online within the next couple of weeks.

Semester 1 school fees for Grades 10-12 will be posted in SchoolCash Online middle to end of September once schedule changes are finalized.

At that point I will also email the fee schedule to parents/ send paper copies home with students.

BSS Personal Device Policy

Please speak with your child prior to them coming on Tuesday about the [BSS Digital Device Usage Policy](#). While the official language is below, what it means is that personal devices, such as cell phones are not to be used during class time. Phones must be stored in their lockers during class time.

At Barriere Secondary School we believe that the foundations of a safe, caring, and welcoming school environment are fostered and maintained through a focus on inclusivity and equity-focused education implemented and supported through a progressive continuum of supports.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria will be open on Monday, September 14. Cash is accepted or you may purchase your child(ren) lunch cards through the [SchoolCash](#) Online system.

Breakfast Program

The **Free** Breakfast Program will begin during the second week of classes—Monday, September 14. For those new to BSS, every weekday from 8:00 am – 8:25 am all students can enjoy a free breakfast.

**SEPTEMBER 14,
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM**

**BARRIERE SECONDARY
SCHOOL COMMUNITY
BBQ AND MEET THE
TEACHER NIGHT**

JOIN US FOR BURGERS AND
HOTDOGS AND MEET YOUR
CHILD'S TEACHERS



Course Change Requests

If a course change is needed for Graduation or Post-Secondary requirements, or due to incorrect course assignment, please request an appointment. Continue attending your original classes until you have completed the processes the change.

Lost and Found Items

If students have misplaced clothing or personal items they will be placed on the table at the entrance to the school where students and families can collect the items. If you happen to be in the school, please have a look. Unfortunately, we do not have space to store these items for long periods of time. We will periodically be packaging unclaimed items and donating them to charity.

Leaving Early or Reporting Absences

Under "Safe Arrival": Did you know there is a safe arrival app? This makes reporting absences that much easier! You can find more information [HERE](#).

A reminder to parents that ALL absences/ lates /early dismissals should be recorded on our Safe Arrival system prior to 8:30 am on the day of the absence/ late / dismissal (you can also report absences in advance, if they are known). Please review [THIS](#) link for more information and instructions.

BSS Bell Schedule for the 2026/2027 School Year

The [bell schedule](#) for the 2026/2027 school year will remain the same as last year.

TIME	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
8:25 A.M.	Warning Bell		
8:30 - 9:48	A	C	D
9:48 - 10:04	16 Min LONG BREAK		
10:04 - 11:22	B	B	B
11:22 - 12:19 (warning 12:14)	LUNCH		
12:19 - 1:37	C	D	A
1:37 - 1:43	BREAK		
1:43 - 3:01	D	A	C
3:01	DISMISSAL		



Barriere Secondary School Learning Goals 2026-2027



Engagement	Foster student connection and care by engaging all educational community members.
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Mental Health	Create a school environment that supports positive mental health.
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Culture	Foster a safe, caring, welcoming, and inclusive school culture.
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For more information please check out the Barriere Secondary School Learning Plan at the following [LINK](#).

Admin Message

Dear Barriere Secondary School Community,

We are so excited to see everyone on Tuesday, September 8 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm.

Please come join us for a burger or hotdog between 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm on Monday, September 14 for our Welcome Back Community BBQ. Following the BBQ the Barriere Secondary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will be holding their 2026/2027 Annual General Meeting. Please join us in the library if you are interested in learning more.

We are looking forward to a great year at Barriere Secondary. Enjoy the long weekend. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Chris Spanis
Vice-Principal

Derek Markides
Principal