

BARRIERE SECONDARY COUGAR NEWS



What's Happening This Week

MONDAY, October 5

- World Teacher's Day
- BSS PAC Meeting, BSS Library 5:50 pm

TUESDAY, October 6

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WEDNESDAY, October 7

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THURSDAY, October 8

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FRIDAY, October 9

Monday, October 12

- Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)

Upcoming Dates

- October 12 Thanksgiving (School Closed)
- October 15 Early Dismissal Day (Busses at 12:30 pm)
- October 15 PTIs 1:30 pm – 5:00pm
- October 20 Picture Retakes
- October 23 Pro-D Day (No School for Students)
- November 10 Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 11 Remembrance Day (School Closed)

October 5 – October 9

Tenth Moon

Pesqelqlélten
many salmon month

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

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

Cafeteria Menu

Monday

- Tortellini w Sauce & Garlic Toast or Meatloaf Dinner w Mashed Potatoes & Veg

Tuesday

- Creamy Broccoli Soup w Bun or Wieners & Beans w Toast

Wednesday

- Chicken Caesar Wrap or Pulled Pork Sandwich w Coleslaw & Veg

Thursday

- Grilled Ham & Cheese w Veg or Taco Salad Bowl

Friday

- Crispy Chicken Wrap or Spaghetti w Meat Sauce & Garlic Toast

becoming a Marine Biologist. For about a decade, I worked as a contract consultant on projects around the world, including setting up research labs, field expeditions, conferences, and teaching at universities.

Along the way, I held a wide range of jobs to support my education—everything from baking donuts at Tim Hortons to working in trades, serving in executive roles with non-profit organizations and founding my own company. These experiences gave me a strong appreciation for hard work, adaptability, and lifelong learning.

After more than 10 years in science and consulting, I decided to shift directions. I returned to Quesnel to build a house with my father, and by chance found a job teaching high school. I realized I had a passion this kind of teaching and spent three years gaining experience before moving to Kamloops in 2021. Since then, I've taught at all the high schools in SD73 and a college in the NWT teaching environmental science and adult basic ed.

I joined Barrière Secondary in the winter of 2023 and have taught senior electives and math, and this year I'm excited to be part of the Grade 7/8 Learning Community as the math and social studies teacher. Outside of school, I enjoy cats, cooking, building things, reading, traveling, games, tattoo art, drawing, and music.

As a teacher, my priority is creating a safe, welcoming classroom where students feel confident exploring who they are and what they want to become. I aim to use my experiences beyond the classroom to show students that there are many paths to success—and that with curiosity, effort, and big dreams, they can find one that's right for them.

BSS Staff Profile

Welcome Mr. Neilsen

Hi There Barrière Students and Families!

I'm Travis Nielsen, the new senior humanities teacher here at Barrière. I have been here at BSS for 3 and a half years now and I thoroughly enjoyed everything that this community and school has given me in teaching.

I was born and raised in Quesnel, BC, and after leaving in 2000, I followed a winding and adventurous path to teaching. I spent many years in university earning four degrees, ultimately



BSS Personal Device Policy

Please speak with your child prior about the [BSS Digital Device Usage Policy](#). While the official language is in the link, what it means is that personal devices, such as cell phones are not to be used during class time and not to be on their person 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 Thursday, 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 has started. For those new to BSS, every weekday from 8:00 am – 8:25 am all students can enjoy a free breakfast.

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.

FEES and SchoolCash

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.

Student fees (enhancement fees for field trips and athletics for example) now include a processing fee for all payment transactions using online payment options. This processing fee, which was approved by the Board after the budget consultation process last spring, represents actual costs the Board incurs for using online fee payment services. Cash and cheque payments will not incur this processing fee. We recognize that fee increases can be challenging for families. School District 73 is committed to ensuring that no student is

excluded from an educational program or activity or extracurricular activity because of financial need as outlined in the District's Administrative Procedure 506: Student Financial Assistance.

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.

Barriere Secondary School Graduation Parent's Information

Facebook: BSS Grad 2027

Email: bssgrad2027@gmail.com

BSS Bell Schedule for the 2026/2027 School Year

The [bell schedule](#) for the 2026/2027 school year will be changed slightly from this year. The start end times for the day will remain the same but there will now be two blocks before lunch and two after lunch. This change will allow for lunch to take place earlier in the day, hopefully helping to ensure students have better access to food throughout the day.

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.
Mental Health	Create a school environment that supports positive mental health.
Culture	Foster a safe, caring, welcoming, and inclusive school culture.

For more information, please check out the Barriere Secondary School Learning Plan at the following [LINK](#).

OPEN HOUSE

Discover your future at TRU's Open House

Explore programs, take a campus tour, engage in hands-on activities and enter to win prizes!

 **Saturday, Oct. 3**

 **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

 **TRU Kamloops campus,
multiple locations**

Apply to TRU at Open House and enter to win a tuition-free semester!



SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS



Admin Message

Dear Barriere Secondary School Community,

We want to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone in our school community for making this year's Orange Shirt Day so meaningful and memorable. Seeing our students and staff wearing orange in honor of Truth and Reconciliation was truly inspiring.

A major highlight of our day was the incredible chili and bannock lunch. A huge thank you goes out to Mr. Neilsen, Mrs. Kendrick, and their dedicated team of students! Their hard work, preparation, and leadership provided us with a delicious meal and created a wonderful learning opportunity for our school.

Thank you, Cougar families, for your continued support as we learn and honor this important day together.

Warm regards,

Chris Spanis
Vice-Principal

Derek Markides
Principal