



September 1, 2026

Dear Jackson Families,

Welcome back to school! Hopefully everyone enjoyed a restful summer filled with quality family time. My name is Gord Ritchie and it's my privilege to be the Principal of J.L. Jackson Secondary School. On behalf of myself, Vice Principal Matt Laslo, and our entire staff, we are excited for you to be joining our learning community this September.

The privilege of teaching, caring, and supporting children requires a great deal of time, energy, passion, and conviction. After a much-deserved summer break, our staff is gearing up for another successful school year.

Below is some important information regarding the start of school. Please don't hesitate to call or stop by the school from Sept 1 to Sept 4 (8:00am-2:00pm) if you have any questions or concerns.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school is **Wednesday, September 9**. This will be a half day from 9:10am to 12:34pm. Thursday, September 10 will be a full day of school, starting at 9:10am with dismissal at 3:34pm.

Below is our adjusted schedule for the first day.

8:15	Grad Breakfast in Courtyard/Cafeteria
8:45	Students pick up schedules outside front entrance. Staff will be in the halls greeting students and helping them find their classes.
9:10-10:00	Block A – Homeroom tasks completed (ie. Lockers, permission form, code of conduct, etc.)
10:05-10:25	Block B
10:30-10:50	Block C
10:55-11:15	Block D
11:20-12:00	Welcome Back Assembly in Gym
12:34	Busses arrive

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students should come to school on the first day with some basic supplies for the day:

- A three-ring binder
- Lined loose-leaf paper
- Pens/pencils/eraser

A [General Supplies List](#) can be found on the Jackson school website under the "Students" top tab. Individual classroom teachers may require course specific supplies.

STUDENT SCHEDULES & COURSE CHANGES

We have been busy over the summer working on the school timetable and hiring fantastic new teachers. Due to the evolving nature of this work, some student schedules may have changed. Students will receive an updated paper copy of their final schedule on the first day of school.

A DRAFT of your child's schedule for the 2026-2027 school year is available in the [MyEd Aspen Go portal](#). Students can log into this portal with their SD83 email address and password.

A FINAL Copy of your child's schedule will be published to the [MyEd Aspen Go portal](#) by Tuesday Sept 8, 2026.

If you have any questions or concerns about the schedule shown in the MyEd Family Portal, please contact one of our counsellors via email, or set up an appointment by phone (250) 832-2136.

Heather Buikema hbuikema@sd83.bc.ca (Last names A to K)

Jehane Johnson jejohnso@sd83.bc.ca (Last names L to Z)

Counsellors will be in the school from 8:30am to 3:00pm **Tuesday, Sept 1 to Thursday, Sept 3** to assist those students who would like to request course changes. Please note that due to scheduling constraints, we may not be able to accommodate all course change requests, and we cannot make course changes based on teacher preference or friendships.

SCHOOL TOUR

We would like to give new students the opportunity to join us for a tour of Jackson on Thursday, September 3 at 1:00pm. If you would like to attend this tour, please contact the school at (250) 832-2136.

LOCKS AND LOCKERS

Lockers and locks are provided to students wanting one. Only SD83 assigned locks are allowed to be used on our lockers. Lockers will be assigned during Block A on the first day of school.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Please take some time to review our [Code of Conduct](#) for the 2026-2027 school year. This document is also included as one of our permission forms to be completed online.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Our [Staff Directory](#) is available on the Jackson website. Students can contact their teachers via Teams by simply starting a new message and typing in the teacher's name. Parents can use the email address provided in the staff directory to reach out to teachers or call the school at (250) 832-2136 to arrange an appointment.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

Our annual Meet the Teacher Night is scheduled for Wednesday Sept 23 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. This informal event is a great way to make an early connection with your student's teacher.

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

Please note that the Fairfield Hotel and Salmon Arm Rescue Unit parking lots across the road from Jackson should not be used for drop-off or pick-up.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be on Monday, September 14. Please be sure to dress in your favourite outfit and put on your best smile.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

We utilize our website (www.ilj.sd83.bc.ca) to publish up-to-date news items and information. At times, we will also send short, topic-specific emails or electronic newsletters. If you would like to follow us on Facebook, please use the link below:

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/JL-Jackson-Secondary-104563572387511>

FOOD SERVICES AND WATER

J.L. Jackson is extremely fortunate to have an outstanding Lunch Program that offers daily hot lunches from \$3.50 to \$7.50, brought to us by the Local Shuswap Food Action Society and Shuswap Community Foundation. This program will begin regular service on Tuesday, September 22. Orders can be placed in advance through the [Lunch Program Website](#). Also, please remember to bring a water bottle to school as our water fountains have been replaced with water bottle filling stations.

PERMISSION FORMS, WiFi, AND OFFICE 365

Parents and students can now complete all required start-up permission forms online using a Microsoft Form. Please click on the [JL Jackson Permission Forms](#) link to get started. Student permission forms need to be completed to take advantage of our Wi-Fi and Microsoft Office 365 cloud services.

SD83 BUS TRANSPORTATION

Only registered student riders are allowed to ride a school bus. Please contact School District No.83 Transportation with any questions or concerns: **(250) 832-9415**

FALL SPORTS

Tryouts and start-up practices for our fall sports begin with the start of school. Students are encouraged to listen to the daily announcements and check the Athletics page on our website during the first week of school for more information about Football, Volleyball, Boys Soccer, and Cross-Country Running meetings/practices.

CELL PHONE POLICY

As supported by Ministerial Order No. 89 and SD83 Board Policy, **the use of cell phones is not permitted during instructional time.** This policy aims to create a more focussed, respectful, and engaging learning environment by limiting distractions and the negative impact cell phones can have on student's mental health.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular school attendance and punctuality are critical to student success. **It is important that parents communicate with the office to let us know** if your child is arriving late, leaving early, or unable to attend school for any reason.

PARKING

Student parking is in the lower parking lot by the tennis courts. Students driving to school should come to the office in the first week to register their vehicle and pick up a parking sticker.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Wednesday, September 9th, at 9:10am. Enjoy your last week of summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Gord Ritchie
Principal
gritchie@sd83.bc.ca

Matt Laslo
Vice-Principal
mlaslo@sd83.bc.ca