



Frequently Asked Questions

-Grade 8 Students-



What will September look like?

We are not sure yet, but we will communicate with you every step of the way. Visit the CDDHS website and go to the section called “**Future Royals**” on the home page. All of our most recent information will be there, as well as a *Welcome to CDDHS* slideshow.

Will there be a Grade 9 Orientation?

We normally have an orientation for grade 8's in August. During the orientation you would get to see the building, get your timetables, find your classes, find your locker, figure out how your lock works, get your photos taken and see your friends!

We will have some type of orientation before school starts. We are waiting for direction from Public Health & the Ministry of Education. Keep your eye on the communication that is coming from your school, and it is a great time to become familiar with the CDDHS website that has all kinds of information on it!

Will we be behind because of the time we missed due to the pandemic?

Every student is in the same position as you, and may be worried about not being ready due to missed work. Rest assured, that your teachers will be assessing what you know and building upon your skills.

Is there anything I can do to help me academically prepare for high school?

If you feel that you would like to continue learning over the summer, there are some resources created by the Ministry of Education that you may find helpful:

- Resource provided by the Ministry of Education, Ontario for students grades 9-12
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/learn-home-grades-9-12>
- If you struggle in math, TVO Mathify is an excellent resource that provides free one-to-one online math tutoring for students in grades 6 to 10.
<https://www.tvomathify.com/students>
- Khan Academy is also very good resource that provides math video tutorials
<https://www.khanacademy.org>
- Upper Grand DSB is providing 2 options for summer Reach Ahead credits. You can earn

a credit in Civics & Careers (Grade 10 mandatory course) or a credit in Learning Strategies: Skills for Success in Secondary School. Ask your grade 8 teacher or email Ms. Burton (Grade 8 guidance counsellor) on how to sign up.

- Sometimes reading novels or magazines and doing some math exercises from time to time over the summer helps students to feel ready.
- Some local tutoring agencies that also provide one-on-one help include: 4 Word Thinking (Shelburne), Mind Over Math (Orangeville), Kumon (Orangeville), Oxford Learning Centre (Orangeville). These are paid services.

What supplies will I need for my classes?

We usually suggest 2 binders - one for the morning (Block A and B classes) and one for the afternoon (Block C and D classes). Each binder will have 2 classes in it so each binder should have a divider. Your teachers will tell you about any special supplies you might need for their class. Start with binders, paper, pencils, pens, ruler and pencil crayons. If you need certain supplies for art, or tech, or gym, your teacher will tell you that on the first day.

What is the best way to get organized so I don't get stressed?

The best way to get organized is to have a system:

- Have a system for your books (see the question above);
- Have a system to keep track of homework and upcoming assignments: - a good planner, a calendar on your phone or on the wall, a white board - whatever works best for you.
- Have a system for getting your homework done: - choose the time of day that works best for you - if you are a morning person do homework before you go to school; if you are an evening person choose the time of night that works for you (before dinner? after dinner?). Get into the habit of setting 20 minutes aside every day to do homework - if you didn't get any assigned, review your notes. This way you have established the habit and will stick to it.
- Remember, the most important way to control stress (because there is always going to be stress, we have to learn how to minimize it and how to handle it), is to eat well, drink lots of water, and get a good sleep!

What are the teacher expectations going to be like?

Your high school teachers are going to expect the same things from you that all of your previous teachers did: be respectful of yourself, each other and the space; ask questions if you aren't sure about something; do your homework; cooperate; do an equal share in group work; work well independently; use the help and resources that are available to you.

How will I know my way around?

There will be some version of an Orientation for Grade 9's in the summer, whether it is at the school or "virtual". At that orientation you will be helped to understand the school and where your classes are. You will also be receiving a map of the school before school starts so that you have a chance to look it over. Our recommendation is that you highlight your classrooms on the map.

What if I get lost the first day? What if I go into the wrong classroom?

Many students worry about getting lost the first day. There will be teachers in the halls ready to help and answer questions. You will be given a paper map, so it is a good idea to have that with you on the first day. There are numbers above each classroom door to help guide you. If you walk into the wrong classroom don't worry; you aren't the first to ever do that and you won't be the last! It's OK. When you realize you are in the wrong room, use this as an opportunity to ask the teacher where your classroom is!

How will I get a locker and lock? What if I forget my combination? What if I can't figure out how to use the lock?

Lockers will be assigned to each student, close to their Block A classroom. The school sells locks at the same time we collect "activity fees". You will have a chance to practice with your lock combination. It is a good idea to write your combination down in a very safe place, like at home on your bulletin board and on a piece of paper hidden in your binder at school. If you have never opened a lock before, you may want to watch this [video tutorial](#).

How will we get our timetables?

We will be providing you with that information as soon as we know. Don't worry, we will not forget about you! We look forward to meeting you!

How many kids will be in my class?

If you are in academic classes, there could be 31 students in a class. If you are in an applied level class, there could be 23 in a class. In your elective classes there could be 27 students and if you are in essential level classes there could be 15 students in your class.

What if I feel like I chose the wrong class or the wrong level?

If you are feeling now like you chose the wrong level, have a conversation with your parent/guardian. If all agree that the level should be changed, contact your grade 8 teacher or Grade 8 Guidance Counsellor (Ms. Burton) as soon as possible and explain what you would like changed. You will need parent permission to make the change. Once school starts, if you feel like you chose the wrong level after the first week or 2, come to Student Services (Guidance) and make a request to see a Guidance Counsellor.

If you feel like you would like to change your elective choice now, we may or may not be able to change it, depending if there is room in the class you want and if it will work with your current timetable. You can send your Grade 8 teacher or Grade 8 Guidance Counsellor an email, and they will forward it to us. We will look into it and get back to you.

What is the Resource Room?

The Resource Room is a classroom where students with Individual Education Plans (IEP's) can find extra support from Resource Teachers. Some students are sent to write tests they might have missed or get extra help with an assignment whether they have an IEP or not. Many students go to the Resource Room at lunch to do homework or hang with their friends.

What teams and clubs are offered?

We offer a lot of team sports and quite a few clubs!

Clubs & Organizations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Art Club ➤ Athletic Council ➤ Band ➤ Drama Club ➤ Environmental Action Club ➤ Guitar Club ➤ Jack Chapter (student-led mental health advocacy) ➤ One Voice One Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Peer Tutoring ➤ Robotics ➤ Sci-Fi Club ➤ Social Equity - Black Chapter ➤ Social Equity - LGBTQ ➤ Students' Council ➤ Yearbook

Sports Teams	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Badminton ➤ Baseball ➤ Basketball ➤ Cross-Country Running ➤ Cross-Country Skiing ➤ Curling ➤ Field Hockey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Golf ➤ Hockey ➤ Rugby ➤ Soccer ➤ Track and Field ➤ Wrestling

How do I join a club or a team?

Every morning there are morning announcements. Throughout the year, there are announcements about how to join a club or team. The announcement will usually provide the information on when the meeting or the tryout is and in what room. If you miss the information, go to the front office and ask for the details - they usually have a copy of the daily announcements. You can also check the twitter feed on our school website for announcements.

What are some tips and tricks for a “slam dunk start” to Health and Physical Education?

As part of the physical activity community at Centre Dufferin, we encourage all students to change into activewear prior to participating in any physical activity class whether it is in the gym, the weight room or for outdoor activities. Students will have access to change rooms with individual stalls and will be given time before the start of class to change. Students should carry their change of clothes and running shoes in a separate bag so they are not bringing their backpack into the changeroom. For activities in the gym, students should wear attire that promotes safety (running shoes) and clothing such as shorts, sweatpants, stretchy pants, t-shirts and long sleeve shirts. We will be participating in physical activity outside and strongly encourage students to dress for the weather conditions. Fun Fact: You will be the first cohort to participate for a full semester on our new gym floor. High Fives! This means only indoor shoes will be allowed in the gym. Please be sure to have a separate pair of shoes for outside.

When can I start my volunteer hours? Where do I get the sheet?

You can start your volunteer hours in July. Be sure to follow Public Health recommendations if volunteering. Click [here](#) for a link to the tracking sheet to be used every time you volunteer.

I have a lot of difficulty doing presentations. What do I do about that?

Many students get nervous doing presentations; some more than others. It is normal to feel anxious before a presentation. Ask to speak to each teacher individually and explain your concerns. Each teacher will work with you. If you feel more comfortable speaking to someone in Guidance, ask to see Mrs. Matthews if you have an IEP, or make an appointment with a Guidance Counsellor. There are lots of helpful strategies.

How do I make a Guidance appointment?

You will be shown how to do this if there is a grade 9 Orientation Day. Come to the front desk in Guidance (Student Services on your map) first thing in the morning, during break or lunch, or after school - not during class time. Ms. Watts sits at the front desk in Guidance and she will help you to make a Guidance appointment. You will be given a reminder slip that you show your teacher on the day of your appointment so that your teacher knows you need to leave class. Be sure to keep your reminder slip and make a note of your appointment day and time in your organizer so you don't forget!

Can I go to the library at lunch?

Yes, you just can't eat in there. Eat in the caf first, then go to the library (Learning Commons)

Is there a gender-neutral washroom? Is there an accessible washroom?

Yes, we have gender-neutral washrooms and an accessible washroom. You will be receiving a copy of a map of the school in the mail. You will see where all the washrooms are located on the map.

How do exams work?

Exams are at the end of each semester. During exam week, there are no regular classes. Your teachers will provide you with the exam schedule. Your exam will be in the morning, and you will be free to go home for the rest of the day. Buses will run like usual. Your Block A exam will be on the first day of exams, Block B on the second day, Block C the third day and Block D the fourth day.

Your teachers will prepare you ahead of time for the exam. Your teachers will have review lessons in class and they will let you know if you are allowed to use a cheat sheet or not.

We Look Forward to Seeing You and We are Always Here to Help!!