

Welcome to the
John Barsby School Family

We're the Bulldawgs!



Grade 8 Orientation Guide
2025-2026

The John Barsby community acknowledges and thanks the Snuneymuxw Nation, on whose traditional and unceded lands we teach, learn, live and share knowledge.

Welcome to High School!

A little about the John Barsby School Family

John Barsby Community School is looking forward to working with you and your family during your high school years. The John Barsby grade 8 program offers a supportive environment for learning, opportunities to strengthen academic skills, and options to explore different interests. John Barsby offers many extra-curricular activities including athletics, clubs, and special events. As you move through your high school years, we hope you explore them all so that you can meet friends, develop different skills and talents, and find your passions that will lead you to your best future. Get ready, get involved, get excited ... start collecting experiences and fill your high school years with amazing memories!

The staff and the administration of John Barsby believe in providing students with experiences that are relevant, challenging, inspiring, and personalized. Our vision is to help students become confident and flexible learners able to meet the challenges of the future. We offer students a wide range of learning opportunities in a supportive, secure, and student-centered environment. The school is committed to giving students the support they need to achieve academically and to explore their own personal development.



Principal and Vice Principal Team

Mr. Epp, Principal	
Mr. Christianson, Vice-Principal	A-K
Ms. Sunde, Vice-Principal	L-Z

Counsellor Team

Haley Healey	A-K
Sterling Jamont	L-Z

Where do I go on the first day of school?

Even before school starts on September 2, 2025, we'll have been planning for your first day of high school! Have your parents and caregivers keep an eye on their email during the last week of August, because they will be sent an email with a map of the Barsby school grounds, showing where you'll go to meet your Homeroom teacher and classmates. Your Homeroom teacher is also your A block teacher.

What does the first day of school look like?

The first day of school is actually pretty short. You'll come in the afternoon for two hours to spend time with your Homeroom teacher and classmates. During that time, you'll receive your schedule for the year and important documents to bring home for signatures. You'll get help finding your classrooms and learning about lockers. You don't need to bring any supplies other than a pen or pencil.

The second day of school is a full day. On this day you'll meet the rest of your teachers and classmates. Please bring your school supplies on this day.

What kind of school supplies do I need?

You will need the basic supplies like pens, pencils, and lined note paper. Most students use 3-ring binders that have a zipper closure for notes and assignments. Your subject teachers will let you know if you need any additional supplies.

You'll also need a change of clothes that is appropriate to the activity level for your PE class. Usually a pair of runners and some joggers or shorts is what students use.

What courses will I take in Grade 8?

- English 8
- Social Studies 8
- Math 8
- Science 8
- Physical and Health Education 8
- French 8 or Hul'qumi'num 8
- Elective Package – each package will contain a selection of 4 courses from the following choices: Foods 8, Textiles 8, Woodwork 8, Drama 8, Rock Band 8, and Art 8.

**Try Your Best
Do the Right Thing
Get Better Each Day**

Bell Schedule: What time do classes start?

The warning bell rings at 8:25 am. At this time, you move to your classroom and prepare for the day's learning activity. A final bell rings at 8:30 to indicate the start of class. The mid-day break is 40 minutes long. On Monday and Friday, classes are shorter, and the day finishes at 2:00 pm.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 1,2,3 or 4
First Block	A 69 min 8:30 – 9:39	C 84 min 8:30 – 9:54	B 84 min 8:30 – 9:54	D 84 min 8:30 – 9:54	1st Block 8:30 – 9:39 69 min
Second Block	B 70 min 9:45 – 10:55	D 85 min 10:00 – 11:25	A 85 min 10:00 – 11:25	C 85 min 10:00 – 11:25	2nd Block 70 min 9:45 – 10:55
LUNCH BREAK	10:55 – 11:35 11:30 Warning Bell	11:25 – 12:05 12:00 Warning Bell			10:55 – 11:35 11:30 Warning Bell
	Class Start 11:35	Class Start 12:05			Class Start 11:35
Third block	C 70 min 11:35 – 12:45	A 85 min 12:05 – 1:30	D 85 min 12:05 – 1:30	B 85 min 12:05 – 1:30	Third block 70 min 11:35 – 12:45
Fourth Block	D 70 min 12:51 – 2:00	B 84 min 1:36 – 3:00	C 84 min 1:36 – 3:00	A 84 min 1:36 – 3:00	Fourth block 70 min 12:51 – 2:00
	45 min. PLC 2:15 – 3:00				Early Dismissal

When is the school open?

John Barsby office is open from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. The school is often open in the evenings for community and sport activities.

How do I find out what is going on?

Our morning announcements run at 10:00 each day and are filled with information about things going on at the school. Also, please check out the John Barsby website, Facebook and Twitter.

Extra Curricular activities at John Barsby

There are lots and lots of ways for you to get involved, have fun, and make new friends. Here are some groups that have been offered in the past. ***Listen to the announcements and get involved!***

Volleyball
Theatre
Board Games Club
Library Club
Golf
QSA
Robotics

Basketball
Cross Country
Weightlifting Club
Track & Field
DIY Club
Board Game Club
Intramurals

Dragon Boating
Sewing Club
Badminton
Swimming
Baking Club
Homework Club
Dungeons and Dragons

What do I do if I am late or will be away from school?

Important learning happens at the beginning of class but all of us run late sometimes. If you arrive late to school, please go directly to class. Your teacher will adjust your attendance to show that you were late and not absent.

If you're going to be away from school for the day, we ask that parents and caregivers give us a call and let us know (250-753-8211). Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday to Thursday and 8:00 am to 2:30 pm on Fridays. We also have a voice messaging system so you may phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If your absence from school is unexcused your parents will receive an email to let them know.

What if I need to leave during the school day?

Please bring a note or have a caregiver call the office. You'll also sign out in the sign out book in the office and sign back in upon return.

Can I use my phone in the classroom?

During class time, all students only use personal electronic device with the acknowledgement or request of your classroom teacher. You'll keep your phone in your locker or backpack during class time. Cell phone use in class has been shown to negatively affect student development, including shortening attention and increasing anxiety. We are committed to learning habits that strengthen student focus and limit classroom distractions.

If your parents or caregivers need to contact you during class time, they can call the office at 250-753-8211 to be put in touch with you.

How do I get a computer password and login information?

Once you are a student at John Barsby and your parent/guardian has completed the appropriate online permission forms, you will receive access to Cloud applications such as Google Classroom. Your grade 7 Learn68 password will stay the same.

Is there food available?

Barsby offers a free breakfast and lunch program. We also have an amazing Cafeteria that prepares and sells a selection of hot food choices every day that you can pay for with cash or a debit card.

We work hard to make sure that Barsby is a Zero waste school! Please be sure to use the recycling and compost bins to help keep the school clean.

School Expectations: Try your best, do the right thing and get better each day.

Respect for one another within our school community is the foundation of all our expectations

- Attend all classes – be prepared to work and be on time.
- Give your best effort, ask for help and support if you need it.
- Respect others, the building and the property of others.
- Dress appropriately for the learning environment
- Do not possess or consume drugs or alcohol while at school or at any school function. Smoking and vaping are not permitted on school property.

Who are the helpful people at John Barsby?

The short answer to this is...everyone! And over the year you'll find your best adults to talk to. Here they are:

Counsellors School counselling services are designed as a support service for students, teachers and parents. School counsellors provide the following services:

- assistance with program planning and course selection
- assistance with study skills, time management, and tutoring
- personal counselling to support social and emotional challenges
- small group counseling based on common needs
- assistance with career planning
- information on post-secondary education and scholarships

Child, Youth, and Family Support Workers provide support, guidance, and counselling services to our students, families, school staff and the community.

Classroom Teachers and Education Assistants are the people who will see you the most and may know you the best. They're often the first person you'll go to when you have a question about what to do.

Principal and Vice Principals are responsible for the overall operation of the school, including the supervision of all staff members working at John Barsby, student learning and instruction in the classrooms, and student safety and behaviour. They also work closely with teachers and parents to have students successfully complete the high school experience in a positive way.

Office Staff can help you with signing out early, making appointments with administrators and many many other situations.

Information About Support

Inclusion Support Support is provided to all students in the general classroom so that each student receives rich learning opportunities alongside their peers. Student programs can be adjusted with adaptations and modifications, additional staffing may be provided, and students may at times access supplemental supports in another setting.

English Language Learners ELL is to support students whose first language is not English. ELL support provides opportunities to learn oral and written English so students can participate in the general classroom.

Indigenous Education At John Barsby, enhancement opportunities for First Nations, Inuit and Metis students are offered through cultural and academic support.

Grade 8 Course Descriptions at John Barsby

ENGLISH 8

English 8 curriculum emphasizes the development of language skills through literature study, writing, and communication. Students analyze a variety of texts, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama, to enhance their critical thinking and comprehension abilities. Through writing assignments and oral presentations, students refine their ability to express ideas effectively and engage with diverse perspectives.

SOCIALS 8

Social Studies 8 delves into the exploration of historical events, global perspectives, and civic responsibilities, encouraging students to understand factors that stimulate social change, living standards, and the adoption of new ideas. Through inquiry-based learning and critical analysis of primary and secondary sources, students develop a deeper understanding of global interconnectedness and the complexities of human societies past and present.

MATH 8

Math 8 focuses on building a solid foundation in mathematical concepts, including algebra, geometry, and statistics. Students engage in problem-solving activities that encourage critical thinking and real-world application of mathematical principles. The curriculum aims to develop students' mathematical fluency, reasoning skills, and confidence in tackling mathematical challenges.

SCIENCE 8

Science 8 covers a broad range of scientific topics, including biology, chemistry, physics, and earth sciences. Students explore key concepts such as cellular biology, matter and energy, forces and motion, and the Earth's systems. Through hands-on experiments, investigations, and inquiry-based learning, students develop a deeper understanding of scientific phenomena and processes.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 8

Healthy Learning places an emphasis on physical movement and skill development, along with education and discussion on healthy living – active lifestyle and healthy eating habits, healthy relationships, safety and injury prevention, and substance abuse/misuse.

FRENCH 8

This is an introductory course which develops communication skills and cultural awareness. Learn basic communication skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Experience the fascinating language and culture of French speaking countries and regions through a variety of real-life themes, cultural activities, and projects.

HULQUIMINUM 8

This is an introductory course which develops communication skills and cultural awareness. Learn basic communication skills in listening and speaking. Experience the language and culture of our Coast Salish language, Hulquiminum.

ELECTIVES

John Barsby Grade 8s have several electives in their grade 8 timetable. During course selection you will order your requests and we will do our best to program some of your favourites.

Foods

This course introduces students to basic food preparation. Topics covered include nutrition, safety and sanitation.

Rock Band

This course introduces students to the "Barsby School of Rock"! Everyone will have an opportunity to learn how to play the drums, guitar, bass guitar, and keyboards. Of course, we are always looking for vocalists too. Some of the songs that the groups have learned include rock classics, "Smoke On The Water", "Seven Nation Army", "The Middle" and more!

Textiles (Sewing)

This is an exploratory course for students to experience the field of textiles. Students will be introduced to designing and creating simple projects, hand and machine sewing techniques, safety procedures, and appropriate uses of basic sewing tools. They will complete several projects that may include a drawstring bag, a stuffy monster, a soup bowl cozy, hand embroidery and a tote bag.

Drama

This is an energetic introduction to the magic of theatre. Students will learn the basics of working together as they learn to produce a tableau for performance and are introduced to Readers' Theatre.

Art

Art 8 introduces the elements of art as the building blocks of artistic creations. Students will explore image development strategies and a variety of media. The focus of this course is to develop an understanding of how to visually communicate ideas and meaning while exploring their artistic potential and talent.

Woodwork

Woodwork 8 is an introduction to the design process, as well as the essential skills and habits required to use woodworking tools and machinery safely and correctly. Processes include processing lumber, common joinery and finishing techniques. Students will learn the procedures necessary to create a push stick, a 3D puzzle, a household item, and at least one personal project.

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