



Dear Bowser Elementary Families,

****Correction - First Day of School is Tuesday Sept 2nd****

*This email is to officially welcome your family to the **2025-2026 school year!** We hope you have enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to beginning (another) new school year with us. We are certainly excited to get going next week!*

We also hope all families impacted by the Wesley Ridge Wildfire have returned home safe and sound after such a frightening experience. Our thoughts were with you all so please let us know if your child would benefit from some extra school supports next week.

Please see below for some important “First Day” and “First Week” information for the start of school. We (the office staff) are in the school all this week between 8:30am-3:30pm, so please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Huy cep q’u (thank you),

BES Office Staff

Mr. Gordon, Ms. Charnock, & Ms. Dee

Bowser Elementary School

Qualicum School District

We acknowledge and are honoured to live, work, and play on the unceded traditional territories of the Qualicum and Snaw’Naw’As First Nations.

"First Day" - Tuesday Sept 2nd (8:54am-11:45am) - students return to last year's classrooms for games/activities, recess play, school-wide assembly & early dismissal.

* **School busses** - Will be running on the first half-day of school, but with some new routes & stops. Please see important info below.

* **All new students** - will report to the main entrance to meet the admin team, have a tour of the school, and then will be put in grade cohorts.

First "Full Day" - Wednesday Sept 3rd (8:54am-2:45pm) - for Grades 1-7 & regular school bus schedule begins. Students return to last year's classrooms on Wednesday & Thursday for "Reconnect Activities" in the mornings and school-wide activities in the afternoon. **Kindergarten gradual entry begins** - please see separate email sent to all Kindergarten Families in July.

"New Classes" - Friday Sept 5th - Students in Gr 1-7 will be placed into new classrooms on Friday morning & classroom teachers will send out "Welcome & Introduction" communication to all classroom families after school.

School Busses: - will be running the first day of school:

- **School Bus Registration** - all riders must register each school year through the school district - [HERE](#)
- **NEW BUSSING ROUTES** - have been established. Once you have registered for the school bus, you will then need to register in [MY RIDE APP](#) to see all the new stops for pick up and drop off and also to receive notification. Register for the MY RIDE app - [HERE](#). See attached FAQ for more information.

School Supplies: - As per last year, classroom teachers will be collecting \$45 for school supplies for all students in Grades 1-7. Kindergarten school supplies will be \$40. You can either pay online or in person either by cheque or cash. Online payments can be made here <http://qualicum.schoolcashionline.com/>. Please call Denine in the office for any questions.

***For the first week of school, please pack some extra clothing, snacks, a lunch, and water bottle. Please wait until your child is placed in their new classes before sending any additional supplies and/or outdoor shoes.**

After-School Care: - We are pleased to announce that BES will once again be offering an "After-School Care Program" this year for students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 which will begin on

Monday September 8th, 2024 (only during instructional days). Please contact Heather Morris at 250-954-3046 or email at hmorris@sd69.bc.ca for any questions.

School Communication: - We are committed to using a variety of ways to communicate with families throughout the year, including:

- **School Messenger** - used for all “education-related” or emergency communications.
- **Weekly Newsletters (Principal Updates)** - any families wishing to receive these weekly updates must subscribe via our [BES website](#) at the bottom of the page where it says **“Sign up for our newsletter & keep in touch”**. You are unable to receive these without signing-up, so please subscribe!
- **Classroom Teacher Communication** - used for all classroom-based communications at teacher discretions.
- **Addressing Parent/Guardian Concerns** – Parents/Guardians must contact your child’s classroom teachers directly for any classroom concerns (before contacting the admin team). Any other “outside the classroom” concerns can be directed to Mr. Gordon - Principal.

“Cell Phone Restrictions in Schools” Policy & BES Code of Conduct: - Please note that student cell phones are NOT allowed to be used during the school day (8:54-2:45pm) unless with direct classroom teacher permission. Please see links below regarding the **“Cell phone Restrictions in Schools”** policy as per Ministry of Education guidelines and our Bowser Elementary School Code of Conduct (which reflects these guidelines):

[Ministry of Education](#)

[Bowser Elementary School - Code of Conduct](#)