



Hans Helgesen Elementary

4983 Rocky Point Road, Victoria, B.C. V9C 4G4
Office: (250) 478-3431 | Fax: (250) 478-1459

Thursday, July 3rd, 2025.

Dear HH families,

We hope you are enjoying a great start to the summer break! During the last week of school, we celebrated with our Grade 5 students at their **Farewell Assembly** with families and honored guests from Beecher Bay in attendance. Thanks to all parents who contributed decorations and refreshments to make this such a special event. On the last day of school, we had our whole school **Celebration Assembly to recognize all our students, staff, PAC and Metchosin Childcare**. We are so proud of our learners and all they have accomplished this year. We want to extend our **heartfelt thanks to our PAC** for their hard work providing special events, field trips and resources for students this year. Thank you to all families for your invaluable support!

Communicating Student Learning

Student reports are published through **MYED**. Parents can access their child's summary report online through the Parent Portal. This is the same place that parents can access attendance. Reports will be available to view until the end of August.

School Supply Lists

Current grade level supply lists are attached to this email and are being posted on our school website. This year, we were fortunate to receive some targeted funds to support all families with affordability. As a result, many school supply items have already been pre-purchased for classes in September. The remaining lists have been put on our school website, [Hans Helgesen | Elementary School](#). As always, teachers may make additional supply requests throughout the year as needed.

Staff Farewells

- Goodbye **Mr. Brendan Martin**! We will miss Brendan as one of our wonderful Educational Assistants at HH. Good luck!
- Best wishes to **Mr. Paul Pepin**, who provided Learning Support to intermediate students on Thursdays this year. Enjoy your return to Sooke!
- Thank you and good luck to **Ms. Alicia Peterson**, who taught Learning Assistance, Literacy Support and Inclusion Support during Ms. Leach's absence. We appreciate you!
- Thanks, and good luck to **Ms. Jessica Blanch**, who worked with our K/1 class during Ms. Wolf's absence. We hope we'll see you back again!
- Best wishes to **Ms. Vanessa Wolf**, who is anxiously awaiting the arrival of her baby. Thanks for all your work with our K/1 class, Ms. Wolf! Enjoy motherhood!
- Thanks, and good luck to **Ms. Stephanie Holmes**, who is moving to Savory as the Library/Learning Commons teacher! We appreciate Ms. Holmes' work with our Grade 1 / 2 class and her work in Learning Support this year.

Welcome New Staff

- Congratulations to **Ms. Heather Gustavsson** who is coming from Wishart. Ms. Gustavsson will be teaching in primary next year. Welcome!
- Welcome to **Ms. Lisa Park** who is coming to us from Happy Valley and will be teaching primary students next year. Enjoy HH!
- Congratulations and welcome back to **Ms. Kiana Archibald**, who will be returning to HH to teach intermediate students next year. We're excited you're returning!

Back to School 2025

The first half-day of school for students in **Grades 1-5 is Tuesday, September 2nd from 8:30 am -11:38 am**. Students will return to last year's classes for the first few days of the new school year before moving to new classes. This is our long-standing District-wide practice as we work to ensure all new registrations have seats in our District schools. Students will be met by members of the HH staff in the morning. This year we have a few new staff, so students will not necessarily be meeting their previous teacher.

Once the District gives schools approval to move to our new classes (typically within the first week), children will be introduced to their new teachers for the coming school year. **Unfortunately, we are unable to take any requests regarding student placements.** Please refer to the *Student Placement Process* sent to all families in May of 2024 for information about the complex work of class configurations and the many considerations involved. We also anticipate new registrations will be arriving throughout the summer.

New Students

Children who are new to Hans Helgesen are asked to bring a parent to meet some of our staff in the library at 8:30 for a welcome and introduction to Hans Helgesen. We anticipate several new students in Grades 1-5 arriving on the first day. Following the welcome, these students will be met by various HH staff and some student leaders. New students will be working alongside grade level peers for the first few days until students are assigned to new classes. At the end of the day, new students may be met by parents outside the front entrance, near the flagpole, for after-school pick up.

What to bring on the first day

Students will not need to bring their school supplies for the first morning of school. Students should bring a recess snack on the first day and be prepared to play outside in all weather.

First Week Schedule (Grades 1-5)

- Tuesday, September 2nd (Grades 1-5)
 - 8:25 - first bell
 - 8:30 - classes begin (return to last year's class; new students meet in library)
 - 11:38 - 3 hour early dismissal (buses run early)
- Wednesday, September 4th (Grades 1-5) – Full day of school (8:30-2:38)

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Our new Kindergarten children will be joining us for their "**Gradual Entry**" on **Friday, September 5th from 1:30 - 2:30**. Kindergarten children will then attend alternating half-days on Monday, September 8th and Tuesday, September 9th. Wednesday, September 10th is the first full day of Kindergarten. **All Kindergarten families will receive a welcome email this week with a reminder of this gradual entry schedule.**

Thank you!

As we finish this school year, I would like to thank the Hans Helgesen school community for your kindness and support of our staff. It is a true pleasure to work with your children and this incredible group of educators. We are already excited about next year! Our school office will reopen on Monday, August 25th at 8:00 am.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Sincerely,

Karen Sjerven



Karen Sjerven (she/her)

Principal

Hans Helgesen Elementary School

4983 Rocky Point Road, Victoria, BC V9C 4G4

O: 250-478-3431

<https://hanshelgesen.web.sd62.bc.ca/>

We acknowledge the traditional territories of the Coast Salish: T'Sou-ke Nation and Sc'ianew Nation and Nuuchah-nulth: Pacheedaht Nation. We also recognize some of our schools reside on the traditional territory of the Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation.