



H.J. Cambie Secondary School
4151 Jacombs Road, Richmond, B.C. V6V 1N7
Phone: (604) 668-6430
E-Mail: cambie@sd38.bc.ca Website: hjcambie.sd38.bc.ca

Principal: Ms. Marcy Timmins, Vice Principals: Ms. Sandy Hui & Mr. Tinh Ngo

Parent Newsletter – August 2025

Principal's Message:

To Students & Parents:

I hope you are enjoying your summer holiday. On behalf of the entire H.J. Cambie Secondary School staff, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning Cambie students and their families.

Cambie is an outstanding school with a very committed staff and a supportive and caring community. I am excited about the year ahead and know that every student will receive quality teaching and an opportunity for rich learning. Cambie students also have a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities to participate in through the numerous clubs and athletic teams we offer. We encourage all students to become involved in our school community!

We believe in a strong partnership between the school, parents and students. We continue to update our Cambie website at <http://hjcambie.sd38.bc.ca> which we hope you will find user friendly and informative. Please check our website on a regular basis to make sure that you stay up to date on what's happening at the school.

This newsletter will provide you with valuable information about school start-up and important events taking place in September. Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing all students again on Tuesday, September 2nd. We are committed to working hard to support all our students, staff and families in the coming year! Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can assist you in any way.

Marcy Timmins
Principal

Regular Office Hours starting on Monday, August 25, 2025 (8:00am - 4:00pm)

Staff Update:

We would like to welcome some new and returning staff members who will be joining the Cambie teaching and support staff:

Ms. Renit Bains – Business Ed (Semester 2)
Ms. Melodie Fallah – English and ELL
Ms. Shelly Gupta – Learning Resource
Mr. Kevin Mak – Learning Resource
Ms. Jaisy Ng- Math, Science, CLE (Semester 2)
Mr. Francis Naluz - Music

First Day – Tuesday, September 2 – Homerooms ONLY

Students report to Gym A at the following times for an assembly followed by a homeroom class:

9:00 a.m.	Gr. 8 students - Welcoming activities, grade assembly, school tour, homeroom class
11:30 a.m.	Gr. 9/10/11 students – Grade assembly & homeroom class
1:00 p.m.	Gr. 12 students – Grade assembly & homeroom class

Gr. 9 - 12 students can expect the assembly and homeroom procedures to take **approximately 60 minutes**. Gr. 8 students can expect their welcoming activities to last **approximately 3 hours**. Students will be dismissed from their homeroom class to end their first day.

Students will attend a homeroom class each morning during the first week of school for the purpose of collecting various forms. Students are asked to return their completed forms on the first day of school to their homeroom teacher. We suggest that all students come prepared with something to write on and something to write with. Students do not need to bring a lunch with them on the first day of school.

Fee statements will be available on School Cash Online. Please register if you do not already have an account. We encourage parents to make use of the School Cash Online option for payment. (Please see the attached School Cash Online registration instructions.) For payment options other than through the School Cash Online, payment may be made directly to our Business Assistant, Ms. M. Ng, at the school office. School Fees are due by September 30th, 2025.

Absent During the First Week?

Please note: If your son or daughter will be absent during the first week of school in September but intends to return to Cambie, it is vital that the school be informed. Please complete the 'Late Return' form and submit this to the school office before September 5th. **The 'Late Return' form can be downloaded from the school website and is located under the 'Parents Tab' or on the 'Home Page'**. If we do not have a copy of this form and your child is absent on Sept. 2nd and 3rd, your child will be withdrawn from our system and space at Cambie cannot be guaranteed. This is a very important form.

Homeroom Assignment:

Homeroom lists will be posted on the library windows to the left the front entrance of the school on Friday, August 29th by 4:00pm showing students' names, homeroom numbers and homeroom locations. For the most part, returning students will have the same homeroom teacher as last year. New students are encouraged to check these lists prior to the first day of school so that they know their homeroom teacher and classroom location.

Home-School Communication:

Success in school requires an ongoing and supportive relationship between the student, the home and the school. We will do all we can to support your student in their learning; however, it is important for parents/guardians to stay actively involved in their teen's education. Parents are encouraged to check the website, read the email notices, attend information nights or perhaps consider joining our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) or Dry After Grad (DAG) groups.

At the end of a week we will send the Family 'Week-at-a-Glance (WAAG)' newsletter created specifically for parents to highlight important information, news, and upcoming events. **This WAAG will be emailed home to parents who have provided us with their email address and have given us consent to receive electronic communication from the school.** The Family WAAG will also be posted on the school website. Parents are encouraged to read this WAAG to remain informed about school events and important dates.

It is also recommended that parents visit the Cambie website regularly as important information is posted on the front page:
<https://hjcambie.sd38.bc.ca/>

Cambie School Calendar:

Every family will receive a 12-month wall calendar during the first week of the school year. These will be given to students on Tuesday, Sept. 2nd to bring home. This calendar contains all the important dates for the school year including our daily block rotation. This calendar also contains important school information and policies for your reference. We encourage all families to post this calendar in your home and refer to it on a regular basis.

Consent to Receive Electronic Communication:

Our goal is to provide ongoing communication throughout the year by email. Therefore, it is very important that we collect parent email addresses for every student in the school. **If you are a new family to Cambie, have changed your email address or if you did not receive our electronic communication last year, please ensure that you contact the Cambie office to provide us with your email address.**

Student Agenda:

All grade 8 and 9 students will receive a H.J. Cambie student agenda. We recommend both students and parents read through the Cambie Code of Conduct and school rules and policies. We strongly encourage students to use the agenda daily throughout the year to record homework, upcoming due dates, marks and all other important responsibilities. Students in grades 10-12 will be encouraged to use the MySchoolDay App. Access to this App will be reviewed with students at our Grade Assemblies on the first day of school. If you are a Gr. 10 – 12 student who needs an agenda, please see your counselor.

Student Counsellors:

The counsellors are available during the last week of August to register new students and to address some student course selection errors. New students to Cambie who have not yet selected courses should phone the school office to make an appointment to meet with their counsellor week of August. Students with last name starting with **A-F** are assigned to **Ms. S. Koo**, students with the last name starting **G-Li** are assigned to **Ms. C Chen**, and students with last name starting with **Lia-Z** are assigned to **Mrs. P. Wilding**; however, students may see whichever counsellor they feel most comfortable working with. **All International students are assigned to Ms. S Hui, out Vice Principal/Counsellor.**

Regular Daily Schedule: (M, W, F)

8:25am	Warning Bell
8:30 – 9:50am	Period 1
9:55 – 11:15am	Period 2
11:15 – 11:25am	Break
11:30 – 12:50pm	Period 3
12:50 – 1:30pm	Lunch
1:35 – 2:55pm	Period 4

Tuesday, Thursday:

8:25am	Warning Bell
8:30 – 9:38am	Period 1
9:43 – 10:31 am	PLT
10:36 – 11:44am	Period 2
11:44 – 11:59pm	Break
11:59 – 1:07pm	Period 3
1:07 – 1:52pm	Lunch
1:52 – 3:00pm	Period 4

Staff Collaboration Time:

On 8 Wednesdays throughout the year, Staff Collaboration Time will begin the day. During this time, staff are not available for students. Classes will start at 9:50am.

Dates for the 2025-26 school year are:

Sep 24, Oct 22, Nov 19, Jan 7, Feb 4, Apr 1, May 6, Jun 3.

Student Timetables:

All students will receive their official timetable in homeroom class on the first day of school showing the subject, teacher, period and classroom location.

Our current timetable was constructed based on enrolment and course selections last March. We worked with students between April–June to make any requested course changes. At this time, most classes are **full**, and it is very difficult to make further course changes. We will do our very best to accommodate any changes that are required as a result of summer school. Course changes will not be made for teacher preferences or to accommodate students who have changed their mind on elective course offerings.

Student Schedules will be emailed to students and parents by August 29th, 2025. For any **timetable errors or corrections**, **students must use the Course Correction Requests Webform** (found on the Cambie website) **to submit information no later than Wednesday September 3rd at 3pm.**

Lockers:



Students will be moving from classroom to classroom during the day and will need a place to store their digital devices, books, coats, gym clothing and other belongings. **All students need to bring their own combination lock** with them to place on their assigned locker or **purchase a lock from the school for \$8.00**. Lockers will be assigned to students on the first day of school in homeroom class. It is a good idea for parents of grade 8 students to practice opening a combination lock as this reduces anxiety on the first day.

Lockers must be locked to ensure belongings are secure. Students are advised not to share their lock combination with anyone. Although every precaution is taken, sometimes lockers can be broken into. **We ask students not to bring valuables to school.** All lockers are school property and, therefore, we reserve the right to check them if deemed necessary.

What Supplies Do I Need?

Individual course teachers will inform students of required supplies during the first week of school. Students should come prepared with a binder, paper and pens/pencils on the first day of school.

Student Photographs:

Student photographs will be taken on **Tuesday, September 9th**. Students who miss the first photo date, or who need retakes, will be able to have their photo taken on **Friday, October 10th (AM ONLY)** All students need to have a photo taken to be used for the students ID Go-Card and Yearbook. Families may wish to purchase photo packages directly from the photographers (Artona Group). **Formal grad photos will also be taken from January 13th to January 15th, 2026.** Gr. 12's will need to book their formal grad photo sitting appointment online later in the year.

Yearbook Memories Last a Lifetime!

The Cambie 2025-2026 yearbook captures this year's events and experiences. Remember all the friends, trends, fashion, fun, teachers, classes, teams, games, music, art, dances and everything in-between. Students may purchase a yearbook for \$50.00 which is included as an option on the fee statement

Student Verification & Media Release Forms:

The school requires an updated medical form (Verification Form) for each student. Verification forms will be sent home on the first day of school. **These Verification forms are invaluable in the event of an emergency at the school.** Students will also receive a Media Release form on the first day of school. This also needs to be signed and returned in order for us to be able to include the student's name and/or photo in the yearbook and newsletters. We request that **ALL forms** are returned to the school as soon as parents can complete the information, ideally by **Friday, September 5th**.

School Fees:

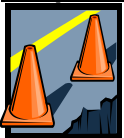


All secondary schools in Richmond have a standard school fee. This fee covers the cost of a student agenda, locker use, communication fee and some student activity costs. The General School Fee for all students is \$28.00. There are other optional and additional activity and enrichment program costs. For instance, the Yearbook may be purchased for \$50.00. Grade 12 students will have optional costs for the Graduation Activities and Valedictory Ceremony. **By logging onto the School Cash Online system, families will be able to see the statement of fees.** Fees are due September 30th. Please see attached Instructions on how to set up your account. You can find the link to SchoolCash online on our school website, or you can click [HERE](#) to take you directly there.

Key Benefits of using School Cash Online

- Receive email notifications of new fees or items available for purchase.
- Check your account history and view and print receipts.
- Pay for school fees anytime, anywhere, with a simple click, using the contactless solution.
- Keep track of your child's school items and activity fees and manage all students in your household from one location.

Drop-off and Pick-up of Students:



We encourage students to walk or cycle to school as often as possible. Not only is this the healthy and environmentally friendly alternative, it also reduces traffic congestion around the school each morning and afternoon. If you are driving to school, please note that the school parking lot can get busy from 8:05 - 8:25 a.m., so please plan accordingly to ensure your child is not late. **Also, please drive slowly and carefully and follow the entrance and exit signs.**

Lunches at Cambie:

Lunch at Cambie is from 12:50pm - 1:30pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from 1:07pm – 1:52pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students may go home for lunch or may have lunch in the school rotunda or outdoors. Cafeteria services at Cambie are open from 7:30 a.m. until 1:35 p.m. The cafeteria offers breakfast, lunch and snack items. All food and beverage offerings provided meet the provincially mandated guidelines for food and beverage sales in schools.

Meet the Teachers – Thursday, September 18th, 2025

Meet the Teacher Evening is a time to meet your child's teachers and to hear information about their courses. The Administration will address the parents at **6:30pm in Gym A**. Following the Welcome from the Administrators parents will follow their child's timetable and have an opportunity to formally "Meet the Teacher" for each subject to find out what they will be learning and course expectations. The partnership between the student, home and school is a key to success and we hope all parents/guardians attend the 'Meet the Teacher' evening.

Welcome to the Cambie Commons!

The Cambie Commons is a drop-in learning support center. The Cambie Commons will be open and available to ALL students to drop in as needed throughout the school day. Teachers will be available in the Cambie Commons during each block to provide targeted support to students. Students may be referred by their teacher or may individually request to work in the Cambie Commons to access learning support, resources, and/or to have a quiet place to complete work.

We are committed to enhancing our student support through the "Cambie Commons: Any Student...Any Subject...Any Time."

Cambie Parent Advisory Council:

Parent involvement and support at school makes a significant positive difference to student success. We hope that parents will become part of the school's many events and activities. All parents are members of the Cambie PAC, and we encourage all parents, especially those with children entering grade 8, to attend the PAC meetings throughout the year to meet other parents, find out more about the changes to education in BC and other interesting topics. The PAC group provides valuable feedback to the principal on school issues, plans and hosts some special events, and applies for and distributes BC gaming funds. The first PAC meeting is on **Thursday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m.** in the school library.

Changes to PLT (Personalized Learning Time) NEW time in the school day THIS YEAR

This year, our PLT time will be scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays, following the first period 9:43am-10:31am. This revised structure has been made to provide increased opportunity to support student learning and success. Each PLT block will be 48 minutes in duration. PLT provides a structure for students to access learning support and collaborate with other students, within their school day. Students will have the opportunity to select to attend this time with one of their current semester teachers.

Personal Digital Devices /Cell phones

Cambie school staff are supportive of creating conditions where classroom instruction will be free from the use of digital devices. Unless students are invited, by the teacher, to use them. Our plan for supporting this device free, educational environment continues this year.

For your reference, here is our policy:

At Cambie Secondary, classrooms will be a personal digital device free zone, unless instructed by the classroom teacher. Personal Digital Devices refers to any personal device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a cell phone, a tablet, a smart watch, a gaming device and an electronic toy. Prior to entering the classroom all devices (and accessories such as earbuds and headphones) are silenced and stowed in a backpack/locker.

Students who choose to access their devices without teacher permission will be reminded of the policy. If subsequent reminders are needed, the following steps will be taken:

1. Teacher retains the device for the remainder of the block.
2. Teacher/Office retains the device for the remainder of the day, and teacher sends home an email, copying admin/counselling.
3. Devices are sent to the office and are retained there until parent/guardian picks up. For the remainder of the current block rotation, the students will have lost the privilege of having their device accessible during school hours.

Personal digital devices may be used to support students with diverse abilities as outlined in a student's support plan or Individual Education Plan.

Some Important Dates to Note:

September 2	First day of the new school year
September 3	First Day of Regular Classes
September 9	Photo Day
September 11	PAC Meeting 6:30 p.m.
September 17	Terry Fox Run
September TBA	Club Fest @ Lunch
September 18	Meet the Teacher 6:30 p.m.
September 22	Pro-D Day (Students not in attendance)

September 24	Collaboration Day – School starts at 9:50 am
September 29	Orange Shirt Day at Cambie
September 30	School Closed (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)

For other dates such as holiday times and professional development days for 2025-2026, please refer to the school calendar located on the Cambie School website.