



Memo

TO: All Principals, Vice-Principals and Teachers
FROM: School District No. 83 and the North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers' Association
DATE: June 10, 2026
SUBJECT: Joint Communiqué re: September 8, 2026, School Start-Up Day

Below is information jointly prepared by the District Senior Leadership Team and NOSTA regarding the format and expectations for the 2026 September School Start-Up Day.

This year, the day is organized into four required time blocks, totaling 5 hours. School staffs will determine the order of these blocks collegially to best meet their site needs.

Reconnection & Refreshments – 30 minutes

A time for staff to reconnect after the summer and begin the year together. Many schools choose to share coffee, snacks or breakfast during this block.

District-Determined School Start-Up, In-Service and Growth Planning– 2 hours

This block is for district-directed and school-focused professional learning. Topics will be determined by the District Senior Leadership Team and school administration.

Teacher Preparation for Wednesday Start-Up – 30 minutes

Teachers will have dedicated time to prepare for the first day with students and to ensure classrooms and materials are ready for Wednesday's sessions.

Note – Wednesday afternoon will be a time for further classroom preparation and/or a possible brief staff meeting (maximum one hour).

Teacher-Choice Collaborative Learning / Grade-Group Work – 2 hours

This block is intended for collaborative professional learning chosen by teaching staff.


Possible areas of focus include:

- Assessment practices
- Career development
- Literacy and numeracy
- Resource exploration
- Scope and Sequence Planning
- Social Emotional Learning
- Student Belonging and Mental Health
- Student Engagement Strategies
- School District Training Opportunities


This time should be planned in discussion with school administration; however, the final decision on focus and format rests with the teaching staff. This time is not intended for staff meetings or classroom preparation like bulletin board, photocopying.

Staff are encouraged to refer to the BCTF Professional Development Lens and the School District 83 Strategic Plan to guide decisions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.



Michelle Guillou, Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources – SD 83



Jessa Clark, President, North-Okanagan
Teachers' Association