

# **J.N. BURNETT SECONDARY SCHOOL**



## **GRADE 8 WELCOME GUIDE**

**GRADUATION CLASS OF 2030,  
WELCOME TO YOUR FIRST YEAR OF  
HIGH SCHOOL AT J.N. BURNETT!**



Welcome to J.N. Burnett, home of the Breakers! Transitioning from elementary to high school is an exciting time, but it is also normal to feel a little anxious. We hope this guide will help answer some questions you may have.



## **J.N. Burnett History**

J.N. Burnett, also known as JNB, was first opened in 1968 as a junior secondary school. Burnett is named after a Scottish settler, John Napier Burnett, who served as the district's superintendent from 1955-1964. In 1996, it finally became a full secondary school for Grades 8-12.

## **School Logo/Mascot - Breakers**

Burnett "Breakers" is a reference to the ever breaking waves along the banks of the Fraser River and coastal waters. The school colours, royal blue and crimson red, were chosen by the student council during the early years. The school has a long standing relationship with several sister schools in Japan and a long history of student exchanges. The influence can be seen in the use of Hokusai's "The Great Wave Off Kanagawa" as the inspiration for our school logo. Hokusai's wave is a representation of what our Breakers are; unified in purpose, forceful in direction, moving at the leading edge, and inspiring with our depth of conviction.



## **Location and Facilities**

Burnett is across from Thompson Community Centre, which is a place many students like spending time at outside of school hours. Aside from the skate and bike park nearby, there are also tennis courts, basketball courts, and a lacrosse box for students to use when available. At school, we have a library, two gyms, a weight room, music room, art studio, theatre, tech shops, computer lab, and science labs. Behind the school, we have a large field, perfect for soccer, ultimate, football, or just hanging out.

## **The Hub**

In the counselling centre, we have a room called The Hub. This is a space to help with emotion regulation! What does that mean? It means that you need a little bit of time to calm yourself down or decompress after a distressing situation. You will find sensory materials, calming activities, and a bean bag chair in the room. If you wish to use The Hub, please see your counsellor and they will unlock it for you. You will be asked to keep the blinds open and the lights on to ensure safety. When you are calm and ready to learn again, please check out with your counsellor before heading back to class.



## Cafeteria

We have a cafeteria that offers different menu items daily. They sell breakfast items, lunch, cookies, muffins, snacks, and drinks. If you forget your lunch, you can always find something at the cafeteria. The cafeteria is also known as the multipurpose room.

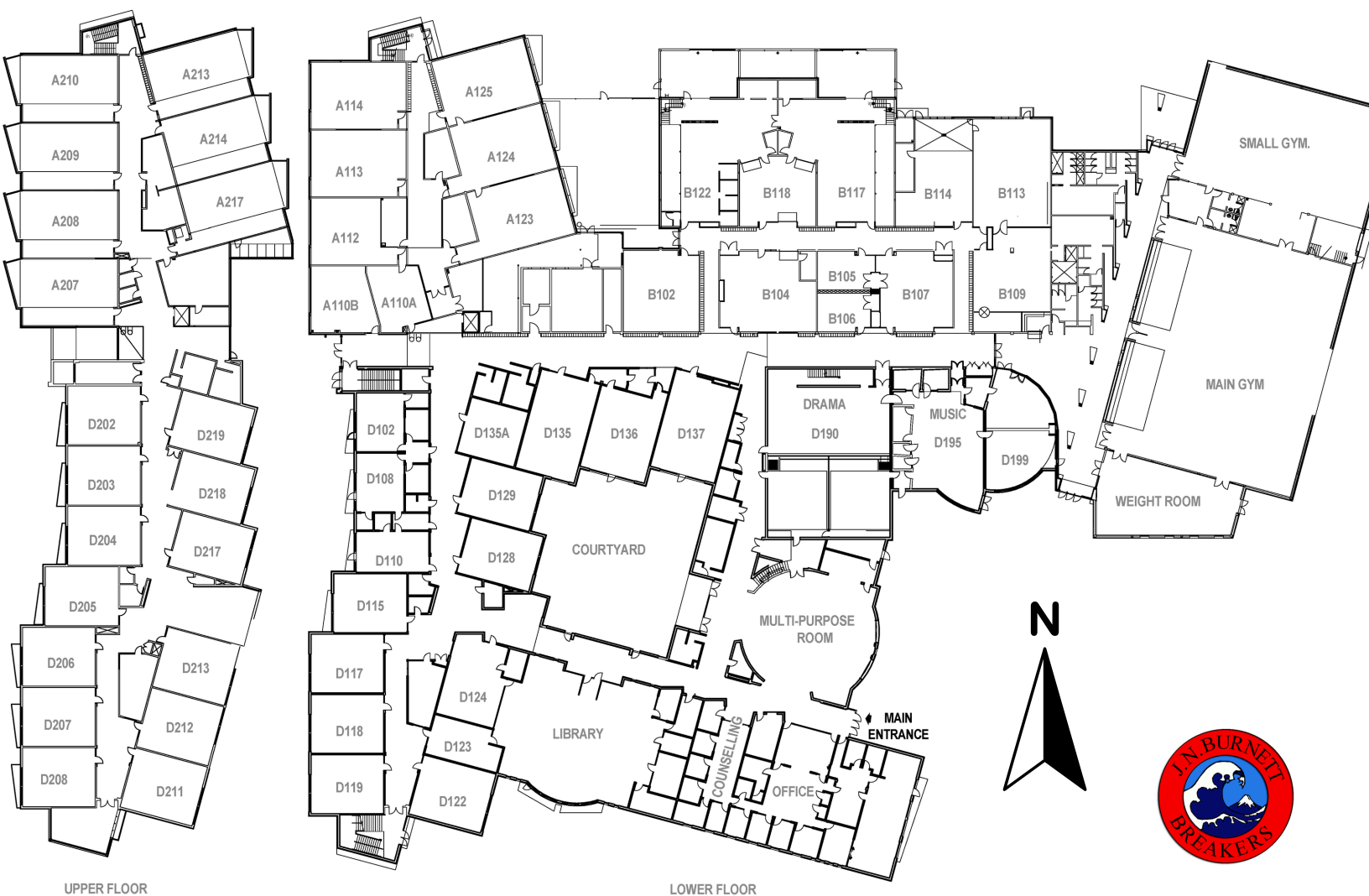


## School Stores

The marketing/entrepreneur classes will usually run two small school stores in the school. They are open at recess, lunch, and after school. Here, you will find snacks, drinks, and even lunches sometimes! They are located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, one by the gym, and one by the ELL wing.

## Finding Your Way

High schools are much larger than elementary schools, but if you can navigate around a mall, you will do just fine! We have two floors and most of the school is divided into their respective departments. On the second floor, we have Math, Modern Languages, and Sciences. Right under the second floor, we have Humanities, Social Studies, English, Resource, ELL, and Business Education. On the east side of the school, we have Home Economics, Technology Education, Fine Arts, and Physical Education. We encourage you to carry a map for the first week so you can familiarize yourself with the school. Larger maps are available in the office. Don't forget, you can always ask someone for help!



# Bell Schedule

## Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 8:25am            | Welcome Bell |
| 8:30am – 9:50am   | Block A      |
| 9:55am – 11:15am  | Block B      |
| 11:15am – 11:25am | Recess       |
| 11:30am – 12:50pm | Block C      |
| 12:50pm – 1:35pm  | Lunch        |
| 1:40pm – 3:00pm   | Block D      |

## Collaboration Days

For several days a year, we will have collaboration day for teachers. Exact dates will be shared in the school calendar. School starts at 9:30am for students on those days. You are welcome to come to school at usual time to catch up on work, hang out with friends, or just sleep in!

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| 9:30am – 10:35am  | Block A |
| 10:40am – 11:45am | Block B |
| 11:45am – 11:55pm | Recess  |
| 12:05pm – 1:05pm  | Block C |
| 1:05pm – 1:50pm   | Lunch   |
| 1:55pm – 3:00pm   | Block D |

## Tuesdays & Thursdays

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 8:25am            | Welcome Bell |
| 8:30am – 9:38am   | Block A      |
| 9:43am – 10:31am  | BLT          |
| 10:36am – 11:44am | Block B      |
| 11:44am – 11:59am | Break        |
| 11:59am – 1:07pm  | Block C      |
| 1:07pm – 1:52pm   | Lunch        |
| 1:52pm – 3:00pm   | Block D      |

## What is BLT?

No, it's not bacon, lettuce, and tomato! BLT is known as Burnett Learning Time. This occurs twice a week and is an opportunity for you to attend one of your four classes to receive extra help, or make up any tests or in-class assignments you may have missed. You are expected to attend even if you do not require extra help. You can use this period to work on homework.



## Timetable

Burnett is a semestered school where students take four classes in semester 1 and four classes in semester 2. However, Grade 8s only take seven classes because Humanities is a year-round course. Semester 1 generally runs from September to January and semester 2 runs from February to June. Below is a sample of a Grade 8 schedule. Please note, yours will look different depending on your chosen elective and whether you have ELL or Learning Strategies blocks.

| Semester 1           | Semester 2                              |
|----------------------|---|
| Humanities 8         | Humanities 8                            |
| French 8             | Science 8                               |
| Math 8               | Home Economics 8/Technology Education 8 |
| Physical Education 8 | Art 8                                   |

\* The Home Ec. and Tech Ed. wheel will occur in the same semester. Half the semester will be Home Ec. and the other half will be Tech Ed. The order may vary.

## Teachers and Classmates

Unlike elementary where your teacher teaches most subjects, you will have a different teacher for each course. You will also have a combination of different classmates in each of your class. This offers you the chance to meet many new people and learn in various classroom settings.

## Rules and Expectations

Just like elementary, you are expected to behave in a safe, responsible, and respectful manner at all times. The Code of Conduct can be found in the school agenda, which you will receive in September. Please make sure you take the time to read it carefully. Our most important expectation is that you are kind, compassionate, and empathetic.

## Cellphones and Other Digital Devices

Technology is a powerful communication and learning tool. We hope you can be a responsible and thoughtful digital citizen and only use your device in class with the permission of your teacher. Burnett follows the Richmond School District's policy on personal digital devices. Devices should be powered off and stored in a secured location such as your locker or backpack when not in use. More details about this policy can be found in the school agenda.





## WiFi and Social Media

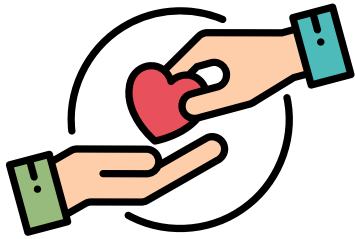
Burnett has WiFi; however, all social media applications are blocked. We hope school can be a place where technology is used responsibly to enhance your education. Always think before you text, post, like, or share something. Your digital footprint is forever. If it is something you would not want your family or teachers to see, then you should not engage in it!

## Get Connected to JNB

To stay connected, you can visit our website: <https://jnburnett.sd38.bc.ca/>, follow us on Instagram @jnburnett, or check for updates on Teams! The Teams channel is only for students, but the office sends a Week At A Glance (WAAG) weekly to families via email as well.

## Counselling Department

In high school, all students are assigned to a school counsellor based on their last name.



|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Ms. Yip       | A-H  |
| Ms. Murad     | I-Se |
| Ms. Grenzberg | Sh-Z |



So what do counsellors do? Counsellors are here to support you throughout your high school career. Aside from program planning and helping you choose courses for post-secondary, counsellors also offer emotional support. The counselling office is a safe space for students to talk while counsellors listen and guide you. Whether you are needing support around a friendship conflict or a family matter, we are here for you. Conversations are confidential, with limits to confidentiality explained in the first session. Counsellors can also provide academic support. Sometimes classes can be stressful and anxiety inducing. We can teach you how to manage stress and anxiety through healthy coping mechanisms. Appointments can be made online at <https://tinyurl.com/jnbcounselling> or by scanning the QR code below. If in need, drop-ins are also welcomed. We will find someone to support you even if your counsellor is away or busy.

## Career Advisor

In addition to the counselling team, we also have a Career Advisor, Ms. Carter, who can help with post-secondary planning. She is the person to talk to if you are wondering about what requirements are needed for each post-secondary institution and program. Ms. Carter will be a good resource closer to Grade 10. She is available by drop-ins or appointments, using the same link and QR code as the Counselling Department.





## Lockers

At Burnett, lockers are optional. If you wish to get a locker, you can pick any one that is available. You must buy your own combination lock, and register your locker number and combination online. Lockers are useful in storing your belongings so you do not have to carry them all day. We strongly recommend not bringing valuables to school, even if it is locked up. There are also lockers in the PE change rooms. You can bring an additional lock to use it during your PE block. All locks must be removed after your class so the next class can use it. Any locks left on the lockers in the change rooms will be cut off at the end of the day. To register your locker and combination, scan the QR code.



## Agenda

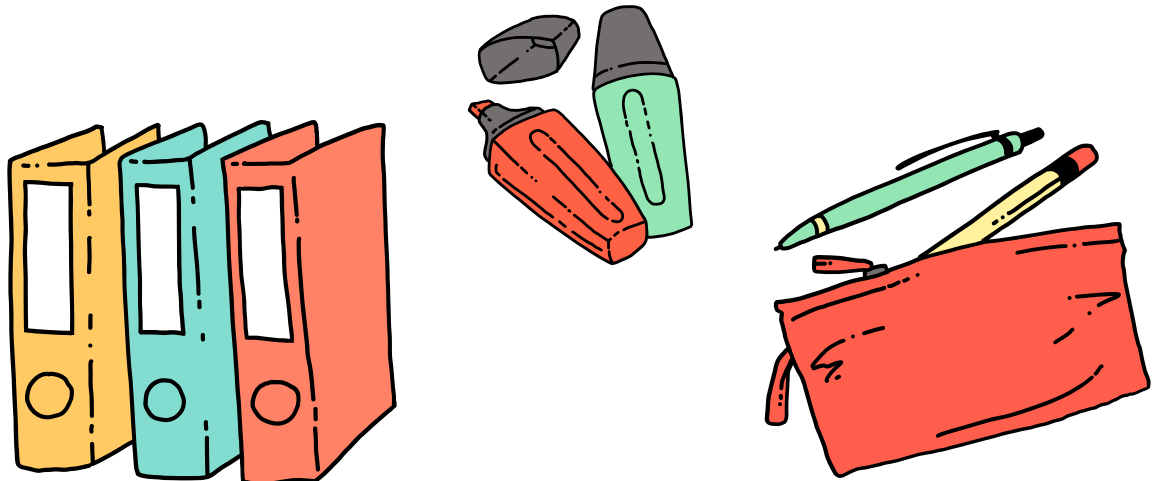
All students will be provided with an agenda that includes the school calendar and important dates. Your agenda will help you keep track of homework and assignments. Make sure to write your full name and student number on it, so in case it gets lost, it can be returned to you. The first section will contain all school expectations, policies, rules, and other useful resources about JNB.



## School Supplies

Unlike elementary school, you are responsible for purchasing all your own school supplies. Textbooks will be provided for free, but must be returned undamaged at the end of your course. Any lost or damaged textbooks will result in a fee. Some courses may have additional fees, but if your family is experiencing financial hardship, please see your counsellor and we can discuss options. Certain courses may also require specific materials. These will be communicated by your teacher and through the course outline. Some supplies we suggest buying are:

- Binders
- Binder dividers
- Lined paper
- Pencil case
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pens
- White out
- Highlighters
- Ruler
- Sticky notes





## **First Day of High School - Tuesday, September 2, 2025**

On the first day of school, all Grade 8s will meet in the large gym first. The first day is always a short day, only 1 hour long. After gathering in the gym, mentors will take you to your homeroom. The first FULL day of school will be on **Wednesday, September 3**. For the remainder of the first week, you will go to homeroom first before attending your Block A class.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1) Will I get a lot of homework?**

Homework is part of high school life. It will vary from teacher to teacher, and generally increases as you move from Grade 8 to Grade 12. It is really important to stay on top of your school work by planning in advance, using your agenda to mark down due dates, and using class time effectively!

### **2) What if I forget my homework?**

Every teacher will have different expectations, but be sure to hand it in the next day. Ensure you are organized so you don't miss deadlines in the future.



### **3) What happens if I am late to school?**

If you are late to school, be sure to sign in at the office first. The office will give you a note for your teacher to indicate you have signed in. Once you arrive to your class, your teacher will change your attendance from absent to late. Life happens, but it's important to arrive to class on time so you don't miss class content and activities.

### **4) What happens if I miss class?**

Attendance is very important and we do not recommend students taking extended absences. Since we are a semestered school, missing just a few days can have a significant impact on your learning. If you are going to be absent for an extended period of time, please be sure to have your adult inform the office in advance. You also need to let your teachers know so they are aware. You are responsible for getting caught up on any missed work and tests when you return.

### **5) What if I am sick?**

Your adult needs to call the school's absence line at 604-718-4007 and leave a message. Students cannot phone in for themselves. Just like any other absences, you are responsible for checking in with your teachers to receive any missed notes and work. If you start feeling ill at school, you can go to the office and have your adult speak to the office staff to sign out and go home.



## 6) Can I eat in class?

Each teacher will have different rules on food in class, but usually science labs do not allow food.

## 7) Where can I eat lunch?

You can eat in the multi-purpose room (cafeteria) or in the hallways. There are tables everywhere throughout the school. Many teachers will also open up their classroom during lunch times, so you can ask to eat in there as well. When the weather is nice, many students enjoy eating in the courtyard.



## 8) Is the cafeteria line long?

Although there is a line up at the cafeteria at the beginning of recess and lunch, it moves efficiently and quickly.

## 9) Can I change my courses?

Grade 8s have similar schedules and rarely need to change their timetables. If you have a question or concern about your timetable, please see your counsellor.



## 10) Will I make friends?

YES! Making friends is one of the most rewarding parts of high school. You may start Grade 8 with lots of friends from elementary, or you may not know anyone. Regardless of which school you are from, you will be meeting lots of new people in class, sports, and clubs. It may be overwhelming at first, but soon enough, you will find your group!

## 11) What clubs are there at Burnett?

We have over 50 clubs here at Burnett! In September, we will have a Clubs Day at lunch in the large gym. Exact date to be announced. Make sure you check it out to learn more about all the clubs available!



## 12) What sports are there at Burnett?

Here at Burnett, sports are divided into seasons. In the fall, we have Volleyball (Grades 8-12 girls & Grades 10-12 boys), Boys Soccer, Swimming, and Cross Country. In the winter, we have Basketball, Ski/Snowboard Club, and Table Tennis. In the spring, we have Volleyball (Grades 8&9 boys), Track and Field, Girls Soccer, Ultimate, Tennis, Golf, and Badminton. Make sure to listen to announcements for try-outs!



## **Last Words of Advice**

High school may seem scary at first, but trust us, you will find your place and people, and everything will be okay. Our last bit of advice is this:

- Be kind, brave, and empathetic
- Explore and try new things
- Ask questions and don't be afraid to make mistakes
- Have the confidence to ask for help
- Self-advocate for your learning and needs

**You  
/GOT  
THIS!**

**SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!**