

Important Notes for 2023-24

Below, we highlight specific items for 2023-24 including significant changes from what is in last year's **Family & Student Handbook** (found on the TDChristian Splash! Page under the Family Information section). We expect that the 2023-24 Family & Student Handbook will be posted by Wed., Aug. 30. It will be updated periodically throughout the year.

Daily Schedule times are 8:55 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. Regular Days have four periods with a 45-minute lunch during which students may spend time with friends, spend time alone in a quiet place, participate in a half-credit choir or art course, receive extra help from teachers, and/or engage in clubs, advisory groups, or intramurals. Grade 9 students must remain on campus the entire school day (which includes visiting the Fire Hall Thrift Store). Assembly Days, which occur about once every two weeks, begin with an assembly, and include shorter periods, and a shorter lunch.

Final Student Schedules for Grades 10 and up will be posted in Edsby no later than Wed., Aug. 30. To request any change, parents/guardians must email schedules@tdchristian.ca. We wish to make all changes prior to Mon., Sept. 5.

The Grade 9 Week One Schedule will be emailed (and posted on the Splash! Page) on or by Fri., Aug. 25. The four days of orientation include a *Day of Service* on Thurs., Sept. 7. **Students will need to be picked up at 7 p.m. from the school.** Grade 9s receive their Semester 1 schedules when they arrive at school on Mon., Sept. 11.

Grade 10 Overnight Trip (to Beacon Bible Camp with a focus on 'empathy') is Wed., Sept. 27 to Thurs., Sept. 28. Information and permission forms will be shared by Mr. Hoving in early September.

Grade 11 Service Trip (for students in first semester English and Perspectives) is Wed., Sept. 20 to Fri., Sept. 22 – three days, two nights. Information and permission forms will be shared by Mr. Terpstra and Mr. Van Eerden in their classes.

Dress and Appearance Guidelines help students, families, and the staff work together to foster respectful relationships that contribute to effective learning. To do so effectively with students, there are five main guidelines: dress must be safe for the learning environment (e.g., shop, PE, science), tops must have straps and cover the chest, tops must meet bottoms (e.g., pants, shorts, skirts), bottoms must be at least as long as TDChristian shorts, and clothing, jewelry, piercings, or tattoos, that are unsafe or bear suggestive or offensive material must be avoided or covered.

Hats and Hoods: Students may wear them in a respectful and safe manner. When asked to remove them (e.g., prayer, out of respect) they should comply. As with clothing, they must be appropriate for a school setting.

Cell Phones: Studies indicate that students' learning improves when they do not have constant access to phones. This year, cell phones may not be used or seen during scheduled class times (including in the hallways) unless directed by teachers for specific learning purposes. Students may, if they wish, use their phone at lunch or break times. For students, who do not have cell phones, there is one in the main office that can be used, if needed.

Presentations of Learning: Since presentations are integral to learning, students are required to present in every course. Every semester, we celebrate them on *Presentation Day* – a great day for parents/guardians to visit and volunteer.

Community Service Hours: To graduate from high school, students must complete 40 hours of community service. Check the Splash! Page links for information, especially to ensure students' volunteer hours qualify. We encourage students to keep track of their hours for themselves (e.g., in *myBlueprint*) as TDChristian only records the first 40.

Honour Certificates: With year-end reports, TDChristian sends Honour Certificates to students whose grades qualify them. Details are in the *Family & Student Handbook*.

Mentorship: Grade 11 students (and families) must read the Mentorship@TDChristian document (link is on the Splash! Page). Most students complete their mentorships between semesters.

Technology: Students are expected to follow the *Technology Code of Conduct* found in the *Family & Student Handbook*.

Membership: Find out how you can become a **Voting Member** of TDChristian during 60 to 90-minute sessions scheduled throughout the year. Click the Membership@TDChristian link on the Splash! Page to learn more.

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Hours: Find out how you can fulfill the 25 hour per family requirement by reading the Volunteering@TDChristian sheet. We are looking for volunteers for a committee to either oversee or help improve the Parent/Guardian Volunteer Hours program. Contact Marg Laswick at marg@tdchristian.ca if you have questions.

The TDChristian Fall Market and Silent Auction is on Sat., Sept. 30. Volunteer before or at that event by emailing Leanne Fernhout at fernhout@tdchristian.ca. Of course, you can attend and enjoy it, too! It is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.