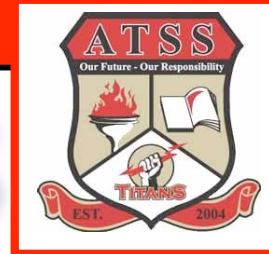


# ABBOTSFORD TRADITIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL



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# Welcome to ATSS

Welcome to the second year at ATSS. We had a wonderful first year as the finishing touches were put on our building, and our Founding Committee of students, staff and parents established many programs and traditions.

We anticipate a very busy and exciting school year as we welcome new families and our population expands from 190 to 340 students. There will be some changes at ATSS to meet the needs of our larger student body including some additional courses and.

What will not change at ATSS is the emphasis on:

- academic achievement
- respect and a positive and safe school environment
- 'dress for success' – dress code
- parental involvement
- student participation in school government
- technology throughout the school
- fine arts and media arts
- literacy across the curriculum
- connecting with students

We encourage parents to take an active part in the school and the activities happening throughout the year. There are many different events and ways for parents to be part of the school and their student's educational experience.

Important information included on our school website:

1. The ATSS Course Booklet – with a brief description of all courses
2. The ATSS Parent Handbook – outlining programs and the operation of the school for parents
3. The ATSS Student Government Constitution Booklet – a detailed outline of the structure of the student government
4. The ATSS Computer Program Structure
5. A Course Selection Form
6. This newsletter that contains vital information for parents and students about the school and the programs NOTE: Students will receive an agenda book in September



### Classes for Next Year

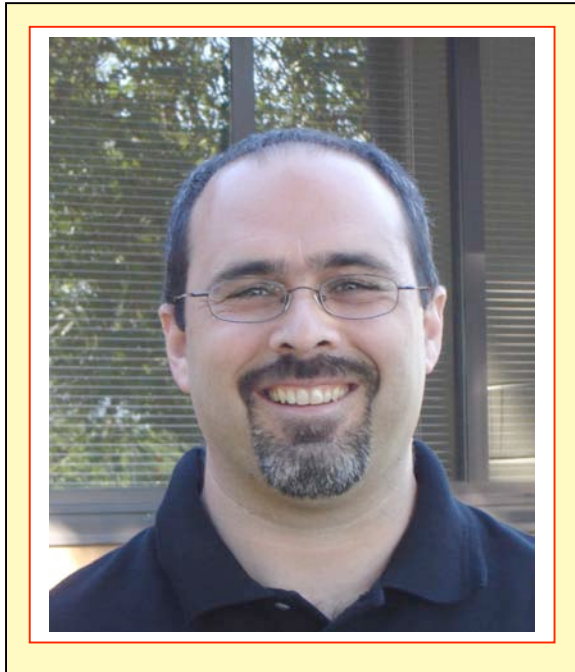
Classes at most grade levels for next year are close to being full.

If your student is not going to return to ATSS next year, please inform our secretary in the office or Mrs. McDonough at marg\_mcdonough@sd34.bc.ca.

Cut off for classes for the 2005-2006 school year:

- Grade 8 - 60
- Grade 9 - 120
- Grade 10 - 60
- Grade 11 - 90
- Grade 12 - 30

There are a few spots left - please let friends know - classes will be filled on a first come basis.



## Welcome Mr. Testa Our New Vice-Principa

We are delighted to welcome Mr. Testa to ATSS. Mr. Testa has worked in the Abbotsford School District for many years as a teacher and administrator. Most recently, Mr. Testa was the Vice-Principal of Abby Senior Secondary School. In addition to other administrative duties, Mr. Testa was in charge of the grade 9 - 12 Fine Arts Program at Abby Senior. Mr. Testa's extensive background in music and theatre enabled him to develop and expand the program. We look forward to working with Mr. Testa at ATSS for this coming year.

## Student Timetables

We were hoping to be able to include your student's timetable for September in this package. Unfortunately, due to some unforeseeable delays in the staffing process, timetables will not be available until students arrive at school in September.

If you are concerned about the courses available for students, please check our 'Course Booklet' - courses are outlined in the booklet in addition to graduation requirements for students on both the '1995 Grad Program' (grade 12 students) and students on the '2004 Grad Program' (grade 8 through 11 students). We apologize for any inconvenience this delay may cause you. Please feel free to telephone the school if you have any questions about the timetable or courses at ATSS (604-850-7029).



## Exams Went Very Well

Our students worked hard on their exams in June. We are waiting for the grade 10 maths and science marks from the Ministry so that we will have the grade 10 students' final marks.

Reports are available in the office for pick-up. Parents who still owe fees are asked to settle their accounts before picking up their student's report card.

# National Institute on Media and the Family

## National Institute on Media and the Family NATIONAL PARENTAL WARNING

National Institute on Media and the Family Warns Parents of  
*Secret Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas Content*  
**Hidden pornography easily accessible**  
**David Walsh Ph.D. Available for Comment**

**Minneapolis** - The National Institute on Media and the Family has issued warnings of explicit pornographic and violent content in Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas since the October 2004 release, but recently additional hidden pornographic content has been found in the game. The pornographic content can be accessed by downloading the "Hot Coffee" mod and directions online. This unlocks sexually graphic interactive scenes for all users.

"It should be clear to everyone by now that video games do influence young people," said Dr. David Walsh, author of the best selling book on teenage brain development, *Why Do They Act That Way?* "While San Andreas is already full of violent behavior and sexual themes, the pornographic sex scenes push it over the edge. The ratings board has launched an investigation to determine if it was mislead into issuing a "Mature" rating instead of the "Adults Only" rating. There may even be legal ramifications since most states have laws restricting the sale of sexually explicit material to those eighteen and older.

"Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" never belonged in the hands of kids," said psychologist Dr. Walsh. "We are taking the unusual step of alerting parents to the pornography available through this game to any child or teen who is Internet savvy. This gives greater urgency to our message to parents: Become MediaWise: Watch What Your Kids Watch."

### ELECTRONIC COURSES

We are offering students a broad range of courses to choose from. However, the size of the school makes it problematic to offer some courses. While this will mean that we have some limitations, our wireless technology will support electronic options through Cool School, Open School, Virtual School and Trinity Western University (see the Course Handbook for details and a list of courses available).

This electronic connection will provide students with greater flexibility in terms of when and where they complete courses.



*"It should be clear to everyone by now that video games do influence young people!"*

*"Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" never belonged in the hands of kids!"*



**OUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS SEPTEMBER 6 - IT IS A HALF DAY 8:15 – 11:00**

**Welcome Back ATSS Staff Members and Greetings to the New Teachers to Our School**

As our student numbers have grown considerably this year, so our staff numbers have also grown to keep pace. We will be welcoming several new teachers to ATSS this September to join our truly amazing and dedicated staff.

We are sad to say ‘Goodbye’ to three of our teachers. Thank you so much for sharing your skill and caring with us last year. We will miss Mr. Guenther, Ms Jamieson and Miss Hayward. We wish you all the best for the future.

**PAC NEWS**

Thank you so much to our first ATSS Parents’ Advisory Council (PAC) Executive Council:

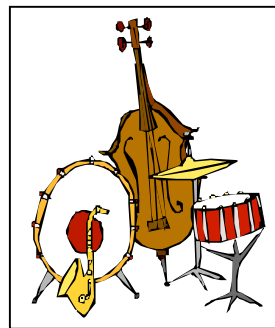
- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Chairperson      | Mrs. Bourassa  |
| Vice-Chairperson | Mrs. Schultz   |
| Secretary        | Mrs. Chalkias  |
| Treasurer        | Mrs. Martens   |
| DPAC             | Mrs. Swanepoel |
| BCCPAC           | Mrs. Martens   |
| Key Communicator | Mrs. McCracken |
| Member at Large  | Mrs. Matties   |
| SPC Member       | Mrs. Schultz   |
| SPC Member       | Mr. Ottom      |
| SPC Member       | Mrs. Swadden   |

Nominations for positions for this coming year will be invited early in September. This is your opportunity to get involved at the school, share your ideas and support school projects and activities. Please consider running for a position on our PAC Executive Council for the 2005-2006 school year.

**School Timetable**

8:10	Warning bell
8:15 – 8:50	START
8:50 – 9:50	Class one
9:50 – 10:00	Locker Break
10:00 – 11:00	Class two
11:00 – 12:00	Class three
12:00 – 12:40	Lunch
12:40 – 1:40	Class four
1:40-2:40	Class five

**Band Information**



**BAND IS CROSS GRADE – PART OF OUR SCHOOL ELECTIVE BLOCK**

Band is one of the courses that is offered in our ‘School Elective Block’. Students in grade 8 through 12 can choose to take Band, Musical theatre, or Choir during this block. Other elective choices such as art, drama, cooking and sewing are available at this time are not cross grade.

This elective block allows students to take band and musical theatre during the school day without missing academic courses. Students in these classes should expect to put in some extra time for practices and special performances.

START to move to first thing in the morning. In addition to an emphasis on literacy, START will include topic in Health and Careers for grade 8 and 9, Planning 10 for grade 10, Portfolio development for grade 11, and Career and Personal Planning (CAPP) for grade 12.

**HOMEWORK**

When is the Time to Start Doing Homework and Review??? Right Away!

Here is something to help. Check out the homework website. This is a great place to go for help with all subject areas.

Homework website - [www.fvrl.bc.ca](http://www.fvrl.bc.ca)



## COMMITTEES – WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?

Thank you to the many people who have given so generously of their time and energy to structure the secondary school – your hard work and positive approach have been greatly appreciated!

We would like to invite all of our parents to get involved in some aspect of the school. There are many areas that need your help and ideas. Involved parents often pull back when their students reach secondary school and seem to not want their parents at the school. In fact, this is a vital time to be involved with your student’s school and your son or daughter. Please choose an area that you would like to be included in. If you don’t see a committee you would like to serve on, let us know where you would like to help out. The committees that we have thought of to date are:

- PHONING
- DRESS CODE
- TRANSPORTATION (CAR POOL AND BUS)
- FUND RAISING/GRANTS
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- YEARBOOK
- MUSICAL THEATRE
- LIBRARY
- PAC CONSTITUTION
- PAC NEWSLETTER
- TEACHER APPRECIATION
- SAFETY
- GRADUATION
- AWARDS AND PRIZES

Dress Code  
Dress Code

# Dress Code



We are very proud of our dress code that was developed by our founding committee of parents, staff and students. The boys’ and girls’ shirts, blouses, vests and hoodies bear our school crest with our school motto, “Our Future – Our Responsibility”, both of which were created by the founding committee.

The dress code was established for many reasons. These reasons include:

- ✚ To help develop a strong school focus and team spirit
- ✚ To give students a sense of belonging to a unique school
- ✚ To discourage competition based on clothing.

Students are expected to wear the school dress code. It is each student’s responsibility to wear the dress code appropriately and with pride. When students are involved in a school-sponsored event (a field trip, public speaking competition, writing workshop, etc) they are expected to wear the dress code.

School is a partnership with parents, staff and students working together to support learning and the development of strong character and moral fiber. Please ensure that your student comes to school ready for the day in correct dress code. If a student is not in dress code, he or she will be asked to correct the situation or, if this is not possible, work in the office for the day. Parents are asked NOT to excuse their student for not wearing dress code unless it is a dire emergency.



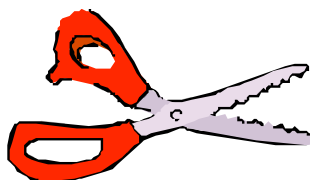
# School Supplies

## 2005/2006

The following is a list of basic school supplies students will need. As your student works with his or her computer, he or she will have a better idea of what is needed and what can be accomplished more quickly and more easily on the computer. Thus, we advise you not to purchase too much initially but to wait and see what your student will use.

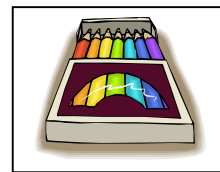
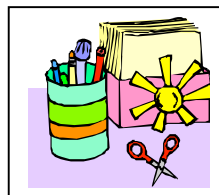
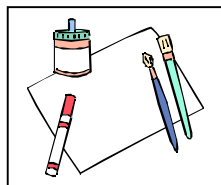
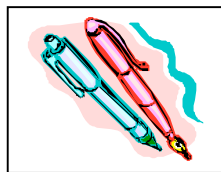
NOTE: Students taking art will need to purchase an art package of paints, drawing pencils etc. available through the school. The pencil crayons, pencils and glue in this list are for general use.

- ⇒ 1 1/2" binders (2)
- ⇒ loose-leaf paper – lined - 3-holed punched
- ⇒ dividers with tabs
- ⇒ scientific calculator – grades 10 through 12
- ⇒ Gage Dictionary
- ⇒ glue sticks
- ⇒ HB pencils
- ⇒ erasers
- ⇒ ruler (30 cm)
- ⇒ pencil crayons - 1 package
- ⇒ pens - red, blue and black



\* Additional supplies will be requested by subject teachers.

\* Students will be issued planners at the beginning of the school year.



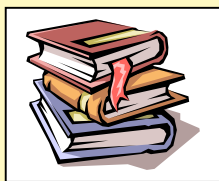
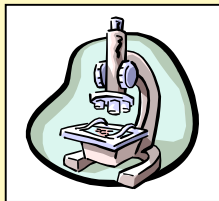
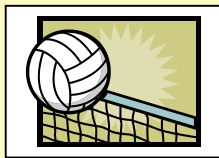
### CITY BUSES A BLOCK AWAY!

The city bus system connects ATSS to the Central Fraser Valley System that serves Abbotsford and Mission. There are regularly scheduled routes morning and afternoons.

Go to [www.busonline.ca](http://www.busonline.ca) and click on the Central Fraser Valley link for information, or visit the school office for a Bus Timetable.

## ATSS YEARBOOK

OUR FIRST ATSS YEARBOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE IN EARLY OCTOBER. WE ORDERED 100 BOOKS AND MOST OF THESE HAVE BEEN SOLD. DON'T MISS OUT — IF YOU DIDN'T ORDER A YEARBOOK, YOU STILL HAVE TIME. WE HAVE A FEW COPIES OF OUR YEARBOOK THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME — FIRST SERVED BASIS — ORDER YOUR COPY IN THE OFFICE NOW!



**CLOSED CAMPUS**

ATSS is a closed campus. This means that for the safety of our students, they are expected to stay on campus for the entire school day. We will have hot and cold meals and light refreshment items available in our cafeteria at lunch hour, so students will be able to purchase these items if they prefer this option to bringing a bag lunch – no need to go off campus

On a related issue – we are endeavouring to avoid scheduling any ‘spares’ (time during the day when students are not in a class) – students should plan on a full course load for the year.

**SCHOOL AND COURSE FEES**

As with all the secondary schools, ATSS will have course fees for some of the specialty courses. In addition, every student is responsible for:

- Activity fee \$18.00
- Locker and lock \$ 7.00
- Sports shirt and shorts (logoed) \$26.00
- Grade 8 and 9 iBook Computer (one-to-one) rental per month \$35.00
- Grade 10 to 12 Acer PC Computer (one-to-one) rental per month \$40.00

Course fees depend on the course choice

**Extra Electronic Courses**

Sometimes students wish to take extra courses or courses ahead of their grade level. If students choose extra courses, they will be responsible for the cost of the course unless the course is required for graduation and is not provided by the school. In this case, the school will pay for the course.



If [students] can conceive it and believe it, they can achieve it. They must know it is not their aptitud but their attitude that will determine their altitude.  
 —Jesse Jackson



**BUSSING – YES – WE HAVE USER-PAY BUSSING!**

As we did last year, there will be a bus available on a user-pay basis (if there is enough ridership). If you are interested in user-pay bussing, please contact the School District transportation department at 604-855-5278.

Another very viable option is the city bus service. There is a bus that connects the terminal with ATSS (bus stop is one block from the school). The terminal in turn connects with all of the Abbotsford bus routes. This may be the easiest, fastest and cheapest solution to transportation difficulties. Check out the city bus website for details

The last option is to car pool. Please complete the form included in this package if you would like assistance in this area.

# Space at ATSS is limited Is your student returning?

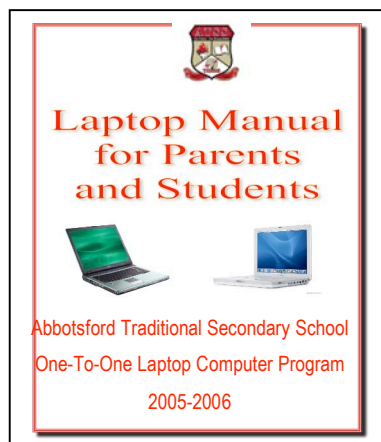
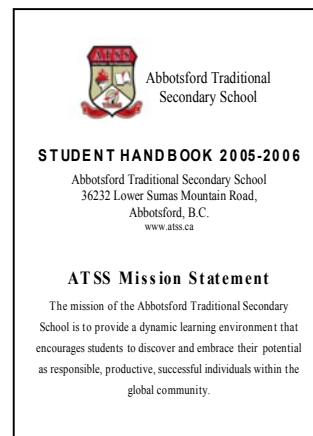
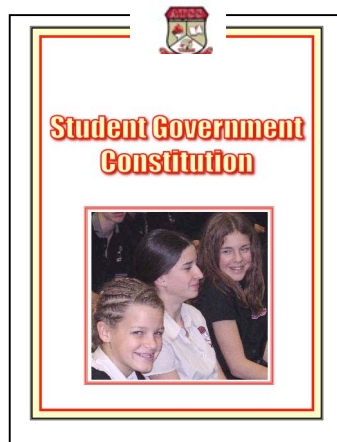
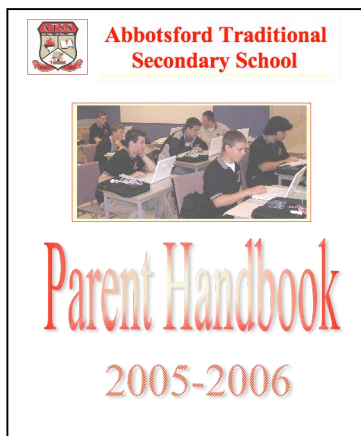
## We currently have wait lists at ATSS

Our grade 8 and 9 classes are currently full with waitlists and our grades 10 through 12 classes are filling up quickly.

Please contact the school and let us know if your son or daughter will NOT be returning in September. We would like to phone the families on our wait list as soon as possible to let them know that there is a spot for their student.

Please call the office at 604-850-7029.

SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS — AVAILABLE ON LINE AT [WWW.ATSS.CA](http://WWW.ATSS.CA)



Please check our website at [www.atss.ca](http://www.atss.ca) for all of these school publications. Each of these booklets contains information about the programs at ATSS.

Course Booklet and Selection Sheets

Our 2005-2006 Course Booklet and Course selection sheets for grade 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are posted on our school website.

Please check out the courses for next year - with our larger population we have more course choices including advanced courses from grade 9 and up.