



NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2017

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Liaison Trustee: Mr. Nick Kanakos
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Vice Principal: Mr. Mark Robinson - Grades 9 & 11
mrobinson@deltasd@bc.ca

Assistant Superintendent: Ms. Nancy Gordon
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Vice Principal: Mr. Ben Scarr - Grades 8 & 10
bscarr@deltasd.bc.ca

PAC Co-Chairs: Julie Barrett
Andy Fontana

School Goal: Will a school wide focus on fostering student health and wellness have a positive effect on student well-being, engagement and achievement?

Acknowledging the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations and all the Coast Salish peoples who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to students, parents, and staff as we move closer to the start of the 2017-18 school year. I hope that the summer break provided you time to rest, to reconnect with your families and to enjoy our fabulous weather. Our school community extends a warm welcome to our new class of Grade 8 students, any new students in grades 9 to 12, as well as their parents/guardians. To our returning students, welcome back for an exciting new school year, thank you for your commitment and dedication in pursuing excellence in all facets of the school community. We are looking forward to the arrival of students on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 5th.

The staff at Sequam Secondary works collaboratively to create a wide variety of opportunities in all areas of school life for our diverse learners to help them reach their individual levels of excellence. We are also committed to our own professional growth as we try to meet the increasingly diverse needs of students and improve overall student achievement. We recognize that our efforts within the school are only part of the support that our students require. Therefore, we encourage a strong partnership with our families and the community to help our students be successful.

This partnership is strengthened when there is continuous communication between the school, our families and the community. Please visit the Sequam Secondary website, <http://se.deltasd.bc.ca/>, that will have the most current information on upcoming events and school news. We have added a Sequam App to help with communicating with families that can be downloaded on any Smart phone. We will be encouraging students to use the App as an organizational tool.

I would like to formally welcome our new staff members and those returning from leave back to the Sequam community. I am sure they will enrich our community with their expertise and care for our students. Please welcome the following staff members:

Ms. Wendy Colling, Ms. Balraj Chadha, Mr. Nathan Eveleigh, Mr. Sean Landers, Mr. Zack Lund, Ms. Natasha Dandiwal, Ms. Lucy Liu, Ms. Anne Donald and Mr. Ben Scarr

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our staff in the development of our new school goal that focusses on student health and wellness. We are going to create student and parent opportunities to provide their input on the new goal and to participate in planning to bring the goal to life in our community.

Please take an opportunity to review the information included with this letter that outlines our school opening procedures.

Mr. Robinson, Mr. Scarr, the Seaquam staff and I look forward to working with you and we wish you and your child every success in this upcoming school year. I welcome your comments and questions and can be reached at 604-591-6166 or by e-mail.

Yours truly,

R. Mesich

Mr. R. Mesich
Principal

Opening Day and Week Procedures and Schedule

Tuesday, September 5th – There are no regular classes on the first day of school. However, it is very important that all students attend to confirm their enrollment at Seaquam. (All grades at Seaquam are currently full and we have lengthy waitlists for students wishing to fill any available seats). If you do not anticipate being in attendance during the first few days, please inform the school immediately. Students are also reminded to print and bring their student timetable (available on Student Connect or Parent Connect) to school on Tuesday.

Grade 8

9:00	School is open for Grade 8 students
9:15	Grade 8 student proceed to their assembly in the Theatre
9:45	Grade 8 students led to their Block A Homeroom
10:30	Grade 8 students proceed to Main Gym – Group Photo
10:45	Grade 8 students have their photos taken in the Cafeteria The day is complete for Grade 8s once photos have been taken.

Grade 9 & 10

10:15	School is open for Grade 9/10 students
10:30	Grade 9/10 students meet in their Block A Homeroom
11:00	Grade 9/10 students proceed to their assembly in the Theatre
11:30	Grade 9/10 students have their photos taken in Cafeteria The day is complete once photos have been taken.

Grade 11

11:30	School is open for Grade 11 students
11:45	Grade 11 students proceed to their assembly in the Theatre
12:15	Grade 11 students proceed to their Block A Homeroom
12:45	Grade 11 students have their photos taken in the Cafeteria The day is complete once photos have been taken.

Grade 12

12:15

School is open to Grade 12 students

12:30

Grade 12 students meet in their Block A Homerooms

1:00

Grade 12 students proceed to their assembly in the Theatre

1:30 p.m.

Grade 12 students have their photos taken in the Cafeteria

The day is complete once photos have been taken.

Note: As the first day of school is Photo Day, students are reminded to wear clothing that is appropriate for school. Your School Photo will go on your Go Card and will also be used in the school yearbook.

Opening Week Schedule

Wednesday, September 6th

Day 1

8:30 – 10:00 Homeroom attendance/Block A class

10:05 – 11:17 Block B

LUNCH

12:00-1:20 Block C

1:25 -2:45 Block D

Thursday, September 7th

Day 2

8:30 -9:45 Block E

9:50 – 10:00 Homeroom attendance (Block A class)

10:05 -11:17 Block F

LUNCH

12:00 - 1:20 Block G

1:25 - 2:45 Block H

Friday, September 8th

Day 3

8:30 - 9:45 Block B

9:50 – 10:00 Homeroom attendance (Block A class)

10:00 - 11:17 Block A

LUNCH

12:00 - 1:20 Block D

1:25 - 2:45 Block C

Monday, September 11th

Day 4

8:30 - 9:45 Block F

9:50 – 10:00 Homeroom attendance (Block A class)

10:05 – 11:17 Block E

LUNCH

12:00 – 1:20 Block H

1:25 – 2:45 Block G

Note: Unless otherwise announced, students will proceed through the regular daily schedule with no homeroom starting on Tuesday, September 12th.

Parent/Guardian Communication

We believe that communication between the school and families is crucial to your child's success at school. We communicate with families regularly on a variety of issues. It is important that we have accurate demographic information for all of our families. Please contact Seaquam's office at 604-591-6166 if your demographic information has changed from last year.

Student Schedules

Student schedules are now available on-line through Student Connect and/or Parent Connect.

Course Change Requests

Students with schedule problems are asked to check the school website and, through Googledocs, submit a request to their school counsellor. Counsellors will contact students if a meeting is necessary, otherwise, students should check Student Connect to confirm that requested course changes have been made. Please note that, during the hectic first few weeks of school, counsellors will be attending to schedule problems submitted through Googledocs and will not be accommodating any drop-in requests.

Counselling Department 2017-18

Please feel free to contact your child's counsellor via email.

<u>Grade and last name alpha range</u>	<u>Counsellor(s)</u>	<u>Email</u>
Grade 9 & Grade 8 (S-Z)	Mr. Kidd	dkidd@deltasd.bc.ca
Grade 10 & Grade 8 (L-R)	Mr. Rickey	rrickey@deltasd.bc.ca
Grade 11 & Grade 8 (Dhillon-K)	Ms. Costin	msalmon@deltasd.bc.ca
Grade 12 & Grade 8 (A-Dhanju)	Ms. Brealey	nbrealey@deltasd.bc.ca
	Mr. Lalli	hlalli@deltasd.bc.ca

Student Lockers

Students will be assigned lockers on Tuesday, September 5th, during their Block A homeroom. All Grade 8 students will be provided with a combination lock from the school (the cost of this lock will be part of their student fees). We recommend that students in grades 9-12 use their same combination lock from last year. Any grade 9-12 students who need a lock may purchase one for \$6.00 from the Main Office.

Please note that neither the school nor the Delta School Board has insurance to cover loss by theft or damage to personal property of students or teachers. Although supervision by staff and the cooperation of students minimizes the possibility of theft, no money or valuables should be left in hallway or change room lockers. It is recommended that valuable items be left at home.

Collection of Fees/Deposits

Student fees and deposits will be collected on Tuesday, September 26th during the school day. Students are asked to bring payment for fees/deposits on this day. Students will be called down to the Cafeteria by grade. Cheques should be made out to Seaquam Secondary. Fees and deposits will be available for viewing on Parent Connect in mid-September. A special note will be sent to grade 12 students in the coming weeks regarding Boat Cruise.

Information About Fees and Deposits

The Delta School District believes in the provision of a broad general education, containing options for student needs and interests, combined with a common core of learning. In accordance with the Delta District policy, Seaquam provides an education program free of charge to our students, but may also charge fees and deposits for some goods and services as reasonable and consistent with legislated requirements. For example, student fees or deposits may be charged for:

- Goods intended for students to take home for personal use or as a gift (e.g. a desk made in Woodwork class)
- Goods such as writing tools, calculators, student planners, exercise books, computer diskettes, or other supplies and equipment for a student's personal use

- Activities such as field trips, special events, and extra-curricular activities, where the fees are limited to defraying actual costs of transportation, accommodation, meals, admission and equipment rentals;
- Rental fees for musical instruments
- Deposits for educational resource materials such as textbooks, reusable workbooks and novels, with the deposit being refunded in whole or in part upon return of the materials. (i.e. if a supplemental workbook is not marked or damaged it may be returned for a deposit refund)
- Goods and materials which provide students with the opportunity to experience or create a more enriching, or augmented project or activity

Financial Hardship Provision:

Parents and guardians unable to pay for some or all school fees or deposits are invited to speak to their child's school counsellor, and/or administrator to discuss options to help the family.

Grade 8 Student Walkabout

Grade 8 students are invited to come to Seaquam from 10:00 – 11:00 am on Friday, September 1st to walk around the school and become familiar with the school lay out and the location of their classes. Bring your student schedule with you. We will provide you with maps. The school will be only open to Grade 8's and other new students to Seaquam at this time. Text your friends and arrange to come by on Friday. See you then!

Additional Information for Grade 8 students and new students

Much of the information regarding school opening can be found on-line through the school website or Student & Parent Connect.

FAQ's:

How do I find my course schedule?

Student schedules are available on-line through Student or Parent Connect. Contact the school if you cannot remember or do not have a password.

When and how do I find out what materials I will need for my different courses?

Teachers will inform students what materials are required for specific courses during the first class of the year.

What do I do if there is a problem with my course schedule?

Go to the school website and click on Googledocs. Complete the Googledocs form and submit it electronically to our counsellors. Counsellors will call you if an interview to discuss the matter is necessary, otherwise changes can be viewed on Student Connect.

Can I come into the school before school opening to become familiar with the location of my classes?

*Yes. On Friday, September 1, from 10:00am to 11:00am the school will be open just for Grade 8 and new students. Bring your schedule with you, walk around the school, and find the location of your classes, the cafeteria, gym, office, counsellors, etc. *See below*

What do I need to do if I won't be in attendance for the first day or week of school?

Please contact the school. We may assume you are attending another school if you are a "no-show" during the first few days, and may give away your place to another student on our wait list.