



Friday, May 8th, 2020

Dear Seaquam families,

We hope that you and your family are well and that your child(ren) are continuing to engage with remote learning. We recognize that these are challenging times and our staff will continue to support students and families to the best of our ability.

We have supported many students who do not have the appropriate technology to be successful in the remote learning environment. If your child(ren) require access to technology to participate in the remote learning environment, please contact Mr. Nikic, via email, at vnikic@deltasd.bc.ca.

We have also been supporting families who do not have the basic needs. The district and Seaquam staff have been in contact with many families who require this support. Our Child Youth Care Workers have been delivering food hampers to vulnerable families and our cafeteria staff have been preparing meals that are distributed to families in our school community and throughout the Delta School district. We are proud of the extraordinary efforts that both district and school staff have taken to ensure our most vulnerable community members are being supported. If you require this type of support, please contact your child's counselor or contact the school directly.

We understand that parents are being placed in a role of guiding their child's education where some are comfortable and have the time, while others are not in a position to guide learning. Please do not hesitate to reach out to teachers, counselors or administrators for additional support in supporting your child. For example, Ms. Hudon and Ms. Duhamel, Educational Assistants, have set up their Homework Club virtually so students can connect with them for extra support. The following link will provide you with information to help you access their support.

<https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/news/homework-club-is-available/>

We know this change to remote learning has been relatively easy for some students, while other students are finding this way of learning quite difficult. We would like to acknowledge the resiliency of many of our students and encourage those who are having difficulty to reach out to our staff for additional support. We are so proud of how students have adapted for the most part. Please continue to communicate with your teachers on a weekly basis, keep up with the activities that you are being assigned and reach out when you need support. This situation will not be forever and we need to do our part to ensure we are all safe. Thank you Seaquam students for your patience.

I would like to recognize the efforts of the Seaquam staff for also being resilient in pivoting into this remote learning environment. While some staff are comfortable working in the online environment, others have learned a great deal and have changed their practices to help students to continue their learning since Spring Break. We know that this transition has not been perfect, but under the circumstances, our staff have also been resilient in this change in practice. Thank you Seaquam staff.

The remaining items in this letter contain information regarding:

- Provincial Announcement
- Schedule for Learning
- Student Expectations during Remote Learning
- Counselling Support
- Recognition of Grade 12 Students
- Graduation Comments
- Resources for Families
- School Surveys
 - Student Learning Survey
 - OurSchool Survey
- Flex Time 2020-21

Provincial Announcement

On Wednesday, May 6th, the Province announced plans for a phased-in approach to resume in-class instruction. While it is encouraging to think we may gradually get back to a somewhat normal routine, we must remember that any return to school will be planned in a measured and mindful way to maintain a healthy and safe environment for students, families and staff. Please temper your expectations regarding this announcement as there needs to be a great deal of planning to setup schools for this type of return. As mentioned in Superintendent Doug Sheppard’s letter distributed to parents yesterday, more information will be shared in the coming weeks.

Schedule for Learning

Students should expect learning activities to be shared with them by their teachers according to the schedule below. Should students have questions or require clarification about any learning activities, they are encouraged to contact their teacher on any day. On most Fridays, teachers have designated ‘office hours’ during which a student can contact a teacher for individualized support. Students who regularly receive support from a Learning Support Teacher or Educational Assistant, we encourage them to contact these individuals on any day to access assistance with learning activities. Please note that because Friday, May 15th is a Professional Development Day, staff will not be available to share learning opportunities or provide additional support.

Schedule May 11th to May 15th

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Blocks A 9:00am-11:00am	Blocks E 9:00am-11:00am	Blocks B 9:00am-11:00am	Blocks F 9:00am-11:00am	Pro D Day
Block C 1:00pm-3:00pm	Block G 1:00pm-3:00pm	Block D 1:00pm-3:00pm	Block H 1:00pm-3:00pm	

Schedule for May 18th to May 22nd

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Victoria Day	Blocks A 9:00am-11:00am	Blocks E 9:00am-11:00am	Blocks B 9:00am-11:00am	Blocks F 9:00am-11:00am
	Block C 1:00pm-3:00pm	Block G 1:00pm-3:00pm	Block D 1:00pm-3:00pm	Block H 1:00pm-3:00pm

Student Expectations during Remote Learning

As students and staff continue with remote learning, it is important that students are aware of the following expectations:

- Students are strongly encouraged to check their DeltaLearns account daily.
- Students should be responding to each of their teachers at a minimum of one time each week. ‘Responding’ means sending something back to your teachers (e.g. submitting assignments, sending email messages, phone conversations, participating in a video conference, etc.)
- Students are strongly encouraged to contact their teachers more than one time each week as necessary.
- Students are expected to engage in a meaningful way in the learning activities that are shared by teachers.

If students are not meeting these expectations, students and parents will be contacted by a teacher, counsellor or administrator to offer guidance.

Recognition of Grade 12 Students

We know that the interruption to our regular school routines has been a difficult time for our grade 12 students. The anticipation, planning, and excitement about graduation, and all the associated celebrations and gatherings are significant events in our students’ lives. The pandemic has left many of our grade 12 students and their families disappointed with the impact on traditional grade 12 experiences. With the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) indicating that large gatherings will not be permitted through the summer, the Red Carpet, the Grad Dinner/Dance and the Commencement Ceremony as we know them, will not take place.

As a community, we can be very proud of the sacrifices that we have made to ensure the safety of others. By following the directives of the PHO, our collective actions have ‘flattened the curve’. We must continue to do our part. Now is not the time to gather in groups. Due to these changes in society, celebrations as we’ve known them in the past are on hold. We are currently investigating safe alternatives to recognize the achievements of our grads. We are saddened by this change as there is nothing that can replace the magic and connection of the typical grad experiences that includes gatherings and photographs with friends, families and teachers. Once it is safe to do so, we too look forward to returning to a regular program of events and celebrations for our grade 12 students.

In the meantime, we remain committed to honouring our grade 12 students in an alternative way and hope to have additional details to share in the near future.

Graduation Comments

Although it has yet to be determined how we will recognize grade 12 students in June, we would like all grade 12 students to submit a comment so that they may be included in any form of recognition ceremony that takes place.

Grade 12 students are asked to submit their grade 12 comment here:

<https://forms.gle/vF5FtDe2AUTuUNjd6>

Counselling Support

Students and families who would like to connect with a counsellor should do so by email and request that the counsellor contact them by phone. Students should contact the appropriate counsellor as listed below:

Mr. Plut	Grade 8	pplut@deltasd.bc.ca
Ms. Costin	Grade 9	msalmon@deltasd.bc.ca
Mr. Day	Grade 10 (A-L)	jday@deltasd.bc.ca
Mr. Lalli	Grade 10 (M-Z)	hlalli@deltasd.bc.ca
Mr. Mian	Grade 11	hmian@deltasd.bc.ca
Mr. Rickey	Grade 12	rickey@deltasd.bc.ca

Resources for Families:

We would like to remind families to access the online resources on the Seaquam website (<http://se.deltasd.bc.ca/>). Please go to the Parent Community tab, then to the Helpful Resources area. We will continuously be updating these resources for your families. Also, the Delta School District website (<http://www.deltasd.bc.ca>) has a number of resources and regular updates.

We would like to direct families to the Teen Mental Health website that provides a number of great resources for students and families. The link below takes you to the Toolbox section of the website where there are a number of helpful strategies you can implement at home to support your child.

<http://teenmentalhealth.org/toolbox/>

School Surveys (Student Learning Survey & OurSchool Survey)

While classes are suspended until further notice, students and parents/guardians will be asked to complete a variety of surveys in the coming weeks. Each of these surveys provides feedback on the implementation of the curriculum changes, learning environment, student wellness and satisfaction, student belonging and engagement, and career preparation. These surveys are a source of province-wide information about students' learning experiences through the perspectives of students, parents/guardians, and school staff. Schools and districts use the survey results to make informed decisions around long-term planning and goal-setting. More information on how to participate in these students will be share in the coming weeks.

Flex Time 2020-21 (Flex Time Survey)

We will be collecting feedback through surveying students, parents/guardians and staff on the effectiveness of Flex Time this year. The surveys will be conducted in the coming weeks. Due to our current situation, we have decided to maintain our current Flex Time structure for next year. We will use the survey data to continue our conversations and direct our next steps for the future of Flex Time at Seaquam.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these extraordinary times. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rick Mesich
Principal

Ian Close
Vice Principal

Vlad Nikic
Vice Principal