



Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Dear Seaquam families,

We hope that you and your families are having a wonderful summer and are healthy.

We would like to welcome Seaquam students and families to the 2020-21 school year. At the end of the last school year we persevered through a different educational experience. This school year will bring different educational experiences as well.

Since the announcement at the end of July by the Ministry of Education that schools will be opening in phase 2 of the Five Stage Framework ( <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school/five-stages-framework> ) where students will be placed into learning groups with full time in class instruction, we have been planning and preparing for the start of the school year.

By now you should have received the back to school plan for Delta. If you have not already viewed the document, it can be found here: <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/news/information-for-parents-guardians-novel-coronavirus/>

Your child is currently registered to return to school for in-class instruction. We are in the process of timetabling students and creating learning groups. **If your child is not going to be attending school for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than Wednesday, September 2.** If you are planning to choose a home learning model such as Delta Access or Homeschooling for your child for the upcoming school year, please advise us if you would like us to hold your child's spot in the school for the following school year (2021/22). Please contact us by email at [seaquam.sec@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:seaquam.sec@deltasd.bc.ca)

Parents of returning students can expect to receive more information next week. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we get everything into place for welcoming students back on September 10<sup>th</sup>. It's been an incredibly tight timeline for us and we know many of you are anxious for more detailed information.

We hope this letter will provide you with a better understanding of our plan, but please understand that more details will be communicated to you as we get closer to September 8th.

### **Daily Health Checks**

As of today, there is a form on Parent Connect called a "Daily Health Check". It is required that you acknowledge you have read this form before sending your child back to school.

### **Quarter Schedule**

We all need to be prepared for a major shift in the way we have traditionally experienced school. This shift has been necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The structure and delivery of the curriculum will shift to respond to the unpredictable nature of the virus. One of the major shifts is moving from an 8 block linear schedule over 10 months to a quarter schedule where students will experience 2 classes every 9/10 weeks.

Seaquam will be adopting the Quarter schedule in delivering the curriculum. Students will be taking 2 courses at a time over a 9/10-week period where each class will be 120 minutes in length. This schedule will allow for meeting and exceeding the necessary health and safety measures, and provides flexible if we need to move to different phases of the Five Stage Framework.

There will be changes in course offerings where students' elective choices may be limited and variations of courses (like adapted or challenge) will not be offered. The quarter schedule and reduced course offerings will be a change for everyone in our community as it deviates from what we understand to be traditional practices and choices. We will need to support one another to adapt to this change.

We are currently building a new timetable to adjust to this new schedule and will provide students and families more details about student schedules closer to the start of school.

For your reference, the schedule below is a **SAMPLE** of a Quarter schedule structure. This may not be the Quarter schedule we choose to use at Sequam.

BLOCK SCHEDULE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>SESSION 1</b> (F2F – 100% learning group)  <b>8:30 – 10:30</b>	BLOCK A	BLOCK A	TEACHER COLLABORATION TIME <b>8:30 – 9:30</b>  FLEX BLOCK <b>9:40 – 10:40</b>	BLOCK A	BLOCK A
<b>10:30 – 11:10</b>	FLEXIBLE LEARNING TIME / NUTRITION BREAK	FLEXIBLE LEARNING TIME / NUTRITION BREAK	Block A <b>10:50 – 11:50</b> *nutrition	FLEXIBLE LEARNING TIME / NUTRITION BREAK	FLEXIBLE LEARNING TIME / NUTRITION BREAK
<b>SESSION 2</b> (F2F – 100% learning group)  <b>11:20 – 1:20</b>	BLOCK B	BLOCK B	BLOCK B <b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	BLOCK B	BLOCK B
<b>SESSION 3</b> (F2F – 100% learning group)	Late Afternoon Session  <b>1:30 – 3:30</b>	Late Afternoon Session  <b>1:30 – 3:30</b>	Late Afternoon Session  <b>1:30-3:30</b>	Late Afternoon Session  <b>1:30 – 3:30</b>	Late Afternoon Session  <b>1:30-3:30</b>
<b>2:50 – 4:10</b>	X Block Courses	X Block Courses	X Block Courses	X Block Courses	X Block Courses

**F2F means face-to-face**

## Learning Groups

Students will be placed in learning groups of 30-60 students when they are attending their classes. This will mean that the same group of students will take the same 2 classes each day over a quarter (9-10 weeks). The learning groups may be adjusted after each quarter. Under the Ministry's guidelines, learning groups in secondary schools may include up to 120 individuals (students and staff). Within Delta's secondary schools, we are trying to keep learning groups at 30-60 students as this will result in less disruption for students if the pandemic requires schools to move between other stages of the education framework.

## First week of school

As announced by the Ministry of Education on August 12<sup>th</sup>, to ensure schools are ready to welcome students into the classroom, there will be a gradual restart to allow extra time to orient students and staff on the new health and safety measures in place.

Orientation week:	September 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	School staff return
	September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Student orientation

We are organizing school photos to take place on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. More details will be provided at a later date.

## Health and Safety Protocols

To keep our community safe in this return to class phase in education, everyone must take personal responsibility to follow the health and safety requirements outlined by the Ministry of Health.

Most importantly, it is imperative that families monitor their child's health daily and keep students at home if they exhibit symptoms that are cold or flu-like that can include coughing, sneezing, a sore throat, fever or any other cold or flu-like symptoms. If your child is experiencing these symptoms, please have them see a doctor.

To help reduce the possibility of infection, everyone in the school community must take measures for their personal hygiene and self-care. These measures include:

- No handshaking or no physical contact as the new norm.
- Practice good hygiene (frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use of hand sanitizers; avoid touching one's face; respiratory etiquette; disinfect frequently touched surfaces).
- Maintain reasonable physical distancing as much as possible when outside the home (or learning cohort) and using a non-medical mask or face covering in situations where reasonable physical distancing cannot be consistently maintained, or you enter a different learning group.
- Respiratory Etiquette – Students and staff need to:
  - Cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
  - Refrain from touching their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, cigarettes, or vaping devices.

We will be asking students to stay at home when they do not have any scheduled classes. We would like to prevent any opportunities for students to congregate or to place themselves in situations that may be deemed as higher risk of contracting the virus.

Please see the detailed district Health and Safety document at the link below.

<https://district.public.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/08/Stage-2-Health-and-Safety-Measures-V2.pdf>

## **Face Masks**

Within the learning groups, masks are not required, but masks and the practice of physical distancing are required when students are in common areas like hallways, washrooms, Library, Cafeteria and whenever students are in contact with students outside of their learning group. More information will be shared next week regarding face mask protocols.

## **Hallways and Staircases**

In common areas, like hallways and staircases, we will be having directional markers in place throughout the building to help with the flow of student traffic. We need students to follow the directional markers to get to their classes or to leave the building. This measure will be an added precaution to help reduce the possible transmission of infection in common areas.

## **Extra-curricular Activities**

Student participation in extra-curricular activities is an important part of a student's school experience. Unfortunately, the limitations of large groups and close contact has created an environment where these activities cannot function in meeting the safety requirements. Extra-curricular activities, like Athletics, will be paused until further notice and will only resume when we receive direction from the Ministry of Education and the Public Health Officer on when we can safely conduct them.

We are excited to welcome your child back to school! More information on the schedule and plans for the school photos (September 9<sup>th</sup>) and Orientation days (September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>) will be sent out to you sometime later in the week.

If you continue to have questions as to which option is best for your child(ren), please do not hesitate to contact us at 604-591-6166. For families with unique medical situations or concerns, we do have some flexibility and different options available, and so I would encourage you to contact us as soon as possible to discuss your situation.

This is going to be a different year. We are working as hard as we can to get things up and running for a successful start.

Sincerely,

Rick Mesich  
Principal

Ian Close  
Vice Principal

Vlad Nikic  
Vice Principal