



Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Seaquam students and families,

The first full week of school has been tremendous where students and staff are now settling into our new normal for learning and teaching. Although we needed to adjust our practices in the COVID-19 environment, our teachers are providing students with a quality educational experience. We are so impressed with how everyone is doing their part to ensure our community is safe by following the basic safety measures of wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing, regularly washing or sanitizing their hands, and coughing or sneezing into the crease of their elbows. We have seen many examples of students and staff practicing these measures and are so appreciative with how serious and respectful everyone has been with taking personal responsibility to meet and exceed these measures.

We want to thank our Seaquam community for their patience as we start the school year. Our counselling team has been working to solidify student schedules and for the most part, students are now settled for the first quarter. We are now solidifying quarters 2 to 4 schedules and will provide students and families access to their My Ed portals today to view their complete schedule for the year.

In true Seaquam fashion, we are all rising to the challenges of this current situation and taking steps to care for ourselves and others. Well done Seahawks!

### **Daily Health Check**

All families are required to read the “Daily Health Check” form on Parent Connect. Parents must acknowledge that they have read this form by clicking the appropriate box on Parent Connect. Parents **MUST** complete this process as soon as possible. Most importantly, it is imperative that families monitor their student’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 keep your child home, contact the Health Authorities by dialling 8-1-1 and/or have them see a doctor.**

The province has developed a “Daily Health Check Tool” that families can use to monitor their child’s health before sending them to school. If your child is exhibiting symptoms, please do not send them to school, but contact your family doctor for an appointment. The Daily Health Check Tool, which was recently updated by the Ministry of Health, can be found on the Seaquam website. The link below will take you to the document.

<https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2020/09/BCCDC-Daily-Health-Check-Sept-11-2020.pdf>

If your child is ill, please contact the local Health Authorities by dialling 8-1-1 for the steps that need to be taken before your child returns back to school. Also, please notify the school with the updates you receive from the Health Authorities or your family physician.

Please do not contact the main office for advice on your child’s symptoms or whether to send your child to school. Only the Health Authorities can advise on health matters. However, for everyone’s safety, one of the most important ways of helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to keep our children home if they are displaying any symptoms.

## **Grade 12 Graduation Credit Review**

In an effort to ensure that all grade 12 students are informed about their graduation progress, we will be conducting physically distanced assemblies in session 3 in the Theatre where students will be reviewing their graduation credits, reviewing their full year schedules and making requests to adjust their courses in quarters 2 to 4 to meet graduation requirements. We will communicate when this graduation credit review will take place in the coming weeks.

## **Ms. Gehiere's Updates (Scholarships, Post-Secondary Entrance & Other Opportunities)**

Just a short note to let you know that post-secondary and scholarship procedures will not change too much despite COVID-19.

Application deadlines will remain the same as previous years because they are all done online. What will likely change is how you are assessed, that is, how post-secondary institutions (colleges and universities) will evaluate your grades now that we are using a Quarter system.

### **DO NOT PANIC!**

Some of you have already expressed concerns about “grades being too late” because of the Quarter system. The PSIs will take this into consideration and, as always, you apply before final grades are available anyway.

For the most part, offers of admission will be made on grade 11 grades and any projected grades you may receive (this has always been how it is done – even before COVID). Projected grades are what your teachers expect you to achieve based on your previous years of work. I am waiting on updates from PSIs on how this will work and I will keep you updated on this in the coming weeks.

## **SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Mini Med School**

This is a very popular program and will be virtual (“on-demand” is what they are calling it) this year. It usually fills within minutes, so if you wish to participate, you must register yourself on September 24 at 3:30pm at the following link:

<https://www.bcchr.ca/events/mini-med-school/mini-med-school-vancouver/participate-mini-med-school-demand>

### **Scholarships**

There are tons of scholarships available; I will provide more details next week, but this is the one you need to act on first:

### **The Loran Scholars Foundation**

- DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 FOR SCHOOL NOMINATED APPLICANTS AND OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup> FOR DIRECT POOL APPLICANTS.
- Please review the criteria and if you wish to enter the Seaquam competition, you must:
  - E-mail me so we can arrange a time to discuss the procedure
  - submit your application to me by October 1<sup>st</sup>

Before you do this, of course, you need to review the eligibility criteria at: [loranscholar.ca](http://loranscholar.ca)

I will be sending weekly/bi-weekly updates to your deltalearns e-mail, so please be sure it is activated and that you check it on a regular basis. Please contact Ms. Gehiere at [jgehiere@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:jgehiere@deltasd.bc.ca), if you have any questions.

## **Student Schedules, Course Change Requests & My Ed Access**

At this point of the first quarter, we will not be taking any more requests to change first quarter schedules. Counsellors are working on past requests for schedule adjustments and will investigate whether or not these requests can be accommodated. Our schedule is extremely limited and the limitations on our timetable are further complicated with the provincial health mandate to maintain learning groups.

Students will have the opportunity to sign into their My Ed accounts today to view their entire schedule. We will communicate to students and families when access to My Ed will be available along with instructions to activate student accounts. Students in grades 9-12 should be able to access their My Ed accounts by following the instructions at the link below.

<https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2020/09/MyEd-Student-Access-Info.pdf>

Grade 8 students will be given their access codes in their block A classes next week.

## **Counsellor Contact Information**

Below is the Counselling Department's grade allocation for the 2020-21 school year. Please feel free to contact them at 604-591-6166 or by email.

Grade 8 Mr. R. Rickey ([rrickey@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:rrickey@deltasd.bc.ca))

Grade 9 Mr. J. Sall ([jsall@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:jsall@deltasd.bc.ca))

Grade 10 Ms. M. Costin ([msalmon@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:msalmon@deltasd.bc.ca))

Grade 11 Mr. J. Day ([jday@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:jday@deltasd.bc.ca))

Grade 12 Mr. H. Mian ([hmian@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:hmian@deltasd.bc.ca))

## **Support Classes (Learning Assistance, Assist, ELL, Grad Quest)**

The implementation of the Quarter schedule does not lend itself to offering support to students throughout the year in an enrolling class environment. When schedules are released, you will not see these classes on your child's schedule in sessions 1 and 2. There may be a session 3 (block C) class on your child's schedule. These classes are simply groupings for teacher's information.

We are going to be offering a support model that will include scheduled support, pull-out sessions, additional teachers or Educational Assistance in classrooms and virtual support using Zoom. Our student support teachers will be sharing detailed information with students and parents shortly.

## **Self-Directed Study Area**

Students who would like to attend school to conduct self-directed study for their Hybrid classes can do so in the Library. Students will be required to sign in and out of the Library and sit in the designated study area. There will be limited space in the library for student access. We will assess the demand over the next few days and develop other self-directed study areas if the demand materializes.

## **Students with Study Blocks**

Some grade 12 students have a Study Block in their schedule. We are asking that students with a Study Block remain at home to complete school work and not attend school until they have a scheduled course. We do not want students attending school to socialize in the building or on school grounds during our pandemic environment.

Moving forward, we will not be approving Study Block requests as the Quarter schedule provides many opportunities for students to have time during the day to complete daily homework. Thank you all in advance for your cooperation on meeting and exceeding this request.

## **Student Fees and Course Deposits**

The collection of Student Fees and Course Deposits will take place on Wednesday, September 30th and fees and deposits will be available for viewing on Parent Connect in the coming week. We would prefer that families use the online payment option through Parent Connect in the Fees section. We will be setting up a face-to-face payment option (preferably a cheque) and will communicate this option at a later date.

## **Collaboration Mornings (Wednesday Schedule)**

Every Wednesday in our Quarter schedule there is Collaboration Time for staff to engage in collaborative professional learning from 8:30am-9:30am. We ask that students arrive to school not earlier than 9:25am as the first session classes start at 9:40am. The link below provides you with the Quarter weekly schedule.

<https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2020/09/SECONDARY-QUARTER-SCHEDULING-Full-Extended-Day-Option.pdf>

## **Permission Forms on Parent Connect**

There are a number of forms on Parent Connect for you to review and authorize. Please log into Parent Connect, review the notices and select the appropriate response to each form. It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded to by each student's Parent/Guardian by Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The forms are:

- Daily Health Check Acknowledgement
- Personal Information Consent Form
- Outside Media in Schools
- Electronic Communication
- Walking Field Trips Permission
- BC Fruits and Vegetables Program Permission
- Demographic Information
- Student Emergency Release

**We ask all families to ensure that the contact information we have in our system is up-to-date and accurate.** We have experienced situations where we have an emergency and the information on our system is incorrect. This update is extremely important in our efforts to be able to contact families.

## **Student Drop Off and Pick Up**

In an effort to ensure Seaquam school grounds are safe for students to walk into the building, we ask that parents/guardians **DO NOT** drop off or pick up their children on school grounds. We ask that you arrange with your child to meet on Lyon Road. We will have staff members supervising these areas reminding those who forget where they may drop off or pick up. Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

## **School Upgrades**

Over the summer, the district repaved the Seaquam tennis courts that was an unusable space due tree roots that raised much of the pavement. The new space has been levelled, coated with a layer of pavement and a new fence. The upgrade will allow our Physical and Health Education classes to use this space for classroom activities.

The district is currently replacing all of the second floor light fixtures (more energy efficient) and ceiling tiles over the next month. This work will not interrupt classes and will be a welcome improvement to the second floor.

The district will also be replacing the exterior doors around the building over the course of the school year.

All of these upgrades are making our building a more welcoming place for everyone.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

According to the Public Health Guidelines for K-12 School Settings:

Extracurricular activities including sports, arts or special interest clubs can occur if physical distancing can be practiced in line with the guidance for within- and outside-of-cohort interactions. Inter-school events including competitions, tournaments and festivals, should not occur at this time. This will be re-evaluated in mid-fall 2020.

We will continue to provide the extracurricular opportunities at the school level under these guiding principles. For more information about this document, please visit [http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)

## **Elementary School Gatherings**

Seaquam students should refrain from visiting our local Elementary Schools' grounds before 4:00 pm. In order to keep everyone in our community safe, we are asking parents to talk to their children about keeping away from Elementary School playgrounds until after 4:00 pm.

## **Parents/Legal Guardians Requesting Appointments**

If parents or caregivers need to contact the school Administration, grade Counsellor or a teacher, please contact the office by phone or email. In-person visits should only be for specific purposes and arranged in advance by appointment. Visitors must wear masks, be aware of and follow safety protocols and be limited in their access to necessary spaces only.

Our community is adapting well to this ever changing environment and the information that we communicate to our community may change due to information we receive from the Medical Health Officer and the Ministry of Education. We will endeavour to provide everyone with the latest information. Please see the Seaquam ( <https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/> ) and the Delta School District ( <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/> ) websites for the most current information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

Sincerely,

Rick Mesich  
Principal

Ian Close  
Vice Principal

Vlad Nikic  
Vice Principal