



September 26, 2022

Dear Families

Grade 12 is certainly a special year and high school graduation is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication on the part of learners and their families. At Seaquam, we are committed to supporting you throughout the year in preparing your student to successfully embark on the path of their choice upon leaving the doors of Seaquam Secondary. We are excited to help enable all of our graduates to reach their full potential and contribute their personal best to the future.

Counsellors will be doing a Grad Verification in November to make sure that each Grad has the right number of courses and type of courses in order to graduate. They will share a TVR (transcript verification report) with each Grad and ask them to verify the courses and marks listed are accurate and complete – sometime courses taken on-line don't end up on the transcript report.

Ms. Jenny Gehiere is our Career and Post-Secondary advisor at Seaquam. She is available to provide guidance and information about post-secondary and career options for student and families. She also has a wealth of information about scholarships, both internal and external. She communicates directly with the Grads via their @deltalearns account. Our Career and Post-Secondary Advisor, Ms. J Gehiere is accessible via email at jgehiere@deltaschools.ca to answer questions or book an appointment.

Along with the academic achievements of students come a variety of celebratory events for students who are graduating in June 2023. We are planning the big three (Boat Cruise, Red Carpet and Banquet, and Valedictory). These extracurricular events do come with a degree of expense and are opportunities for students to celebrate in a safe environment and form lifelong memories with classmates. The information below is intended to provide you an overview of 2022-23 Grad Events and help you prepare for your student's Grade 12 year.

Expectations of Grads

To make sure this year is memorable, enjoyable and safe, we expect our grade 12 students to be stellar citizens at Seaquam Secondary by being positive role models for students in grades 8 through 11. This expectation includes our grade 12 students demonstrating behavior that meets and exceeds our Student Code of

Conduct – CARES (see Seaquam website under the Student Resources), attend classes on a regular basis and have good relations with school staff.

All Grads and families need to be aware that all events organized and sponsored by the school must be free of alcohol and drugs. This is for the safety and well-being of our students and volunteer sponsors who give up their time to supervise these events. We must be respectful of the enormous responsibility they undertake. The school, therefore, expects that during these events our students will behave, dress appropriately and demonstrate good judgement at all times. Our expectations extend to activities that are deemed a "prank", whether in the school or not, that jeopardizes the safety, well-being, security of others and/or property and the reputation of Seaquam Secondary. Consequences for breaching our expectations listed above may result in denied participation in future sanctioned grad events listed below.

In the past, members of Seaquam' Grad classes have planned their own unsanctioned "Grad Activities". These events are student planned, unsupervised and often interfere with learning because of missed class time. The school DOES NOT support these activities that could include Grad Class Ski/Snowboarding, Grad Class Camping in the Spring, "S-Trip" events (Big White, Mexico, etc.), Grad Skip Day and others.

Sanctioned Grad Event

There are five staff members sponsoring Grad Council and Grad events this year – M Robinson, A Serres, I Close, T Carke and S Withenshaw. If you have any questions please email me – mrobinson@deltaschools.ca. All sanctioned Grad events will be promoted by the school and we will keep you informed.

Grad Clothing

Planning for this has begun with Mr. T. Clarke taking the lead. He is working with some students to get this going. The first step is looking for a design. Grad council will be looking at designs and what clothing options will be available. The Grad class will have a say in what logo is chosen. Once this is done, we will look at the clothing options, brands and prices. We hope to have a few price points for Grads and families. More information and on-line ordering will come soon.

Grad Boat Cruise

We have booked a Grad Boat Cruise for Friday, October 14, 2022. As in the past this is a semi-formal event. The 3-hour cruise will depart from the Coal harbour. Dinner will be served on board. All participants will need to ride the coach bus to and from downtown Vancouver. The cost is included in the price of the ticket. We are anticipating that tickets will go on sale on from October 4-11. I would anticipate the price will be around \$120. Any outstanding student fees must be resolved prior to purchasing a ticket. Also parents need to sign off on the Grad code of conduct. This can be done in Parent Connect.

'Grad'

The day of 'grad' is composed of three separate events: Red Carpet Walk, Grad Banquet and Dry Grad. All three events take place on Saturday June 10, 2022.

- **Red Carpet Walk**

Grads will have the opportunity to participate in the Red Carpet Walk. This event takes place at the front of the school and is open to the community. Friends and family of grads are encouraged to attend. This is a free event for grads and spectators.

- **Grad Banquet**

The Grad Banquet follows the Red Carpet event. Students will be transported, via luxury coach busses, from Seaquam to the banquet at the Wall Centre in Vancouver. This formal event includes a buffet dinner followed by dancing. Tickets to the Grad Banquet will cost approximately \$175. From the Banquet students will be transported by Coach bus to Dry Grad. Any outstanding student fees must be resolved prior to purchasing a ticket.

- **Dry Grad**

Following the Grad Banquet, Dry Grad takes place at the XXXXXXX. This event is put on by the Seaquam Dry Grab committee. Grads get changed at the banquet into casual clothing for this event. Typically, it goes until 5am.

Grad Games

We are bringing this back. It started 5 years ago but COVID put it into a hiatus. Essentially it is a series of 7 activities where the Grads will compete against the Staff. 5 of the activities will be sports related (floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer and softball) while the other 2 will be more mental competitions. Grads can sign up for what they want to participate in but they can only be involved in 2 of them. We want to maximize the number of different grads who participate. More details to come once we get it all organized.

Commencement

The Commencement Ceremony will take place on Friday, June 23, 2022 at the South Delta Baptist church. Grads will wear a grad cap and gown for this event. The cost of the cap and gown is included within the grad fee assessed at the beginning of the school year. Commencement is free of charge to both grads and spectators. Each grad will be provided two tickets to the event. A request form for additional tickets will be circulated closer to the date of the event.

Financial Need

While the expectation is that grads will be dressed in formal attire for the Red Carpet and Grad Banquet, we recognize that this comes with a significant financial cost to families. The school will do its best to support families in need of assistance

and ask that grads speak to a counsellor or principal early in the school year about their situation.

Graduation Fee

Each graduating student will be assessed a Graduation Fee at the beginning of the school year. This fee is used to pay for the grad cap and gown, and expenses related to the Red Carpet event, Grad Banquet and Valedictory Ceremony. The graduation charge is \$45.

As always, the staff at Seaquam Secondary is here to support you and your child to create a positive and successful graduation year. Please contact me at your convenience if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. M. Robinson
Principal