



March 8, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: Seaquam Secondary School Timetable for the 2023-2024 School Year

In 2020, COVID safety protocols necessitated High Schools in Delta to do things differently. Seaquam moved from a Linear timetable to Quarters and then to a Semester timetable. Now that COVID has receded, all seven secondary schools in the Delta School District have been working through a decision-making process to determine each school's timetables for the 2023-2024 school year.

Schools have been reviewing extensive feedback collected from students, parents, and staff over the past year, including through a dedicated survey last spring. Although neither the linear nor semester system is better than the other, there are certainly pros and cons to each, and schools will need to minimize the negatives regardless of the system.

Regardless of the system, a few common themes emerged from the feedback that have helped us come to our decision:

- Students are concerned about their workload and need a schedule that provides balance.
- Regardless of taking 4 courses or 8 courses at a time, students asked for the due dates of assessments and assignments to be coordinated better and spread out to the greatest extent possible to help reduce stress.
- Students stated the importance of help with managing their workload and with being able to receive learning support throughout the school year.
- All groups expressed concern about the pace of semestered courses and felt that linear classes provided the extra time for learning, skill development and assessment of core competencies.
- Parents expressed managing workload and access to supports, i.e. LST, etc., as being a priority for their children.
- Teachers, with the added stressors of the pandemic, and the aftermath impact on the mental health of students, expressed several workload concerns, including access to preparation time throughout the school year.
- Parents and teachers expressed that some courses work well in a semester and some work better for student learning and physical activity over a full year.
- Students and parents showed strong support for Flex time as a supportive structure to continue next year.

We have considered all of the feedback received and determined we will be building a MOSTLY LINEAR timetable for the 2023-24 school year. We feel that for Seaquam, a Mostly Linear



system is the best way to go to provide the quality education and school experience our students, staff and families expect. Remember, prior to COVID, Seaquam has always been a linear school. Throughout our deliberations it was felt that our school's design and breadth of curricular and extra-curricular offerings were created and ultimately best suited to a Linear model. This is not the end of the preparation for next year. Our next step, after Spring Break, is to see how we can adjust our schedule to incorporate strategies to mitigate the negative effects of a Linear system and possibly incorporate some semester course options. We can assure you that we will build the best Mostly Linear timetable we can and address the needs of Seaquam students, staff and families.

Over the next few months, we will be working with students to help them understand the changes to the timetable and prepare them well for the start of the 2023/24 school year. Parents can expect to receive more detailed information on next year's timetable and other related information over the next few months.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mrobinson@deltaschools.ca](mailto:mrobinson@deltaschools.ca) or 604 591 6166.

Sincerely,

Mark Robinson  
Principal, Seaquam Secondary