



September 2024

Welcome to a New School Year!

On behalf of the Seaquam staff, we offer a warm welcome to all of our new and returning students and their families. We would like to extend a special welcome to our Graduating class of 2025 as they begin their final year at Seaquam. We hope you all had a safe, restful and relaxing Summer.

With August coming to a close, we turn our attention to the opening day of school on Tuesday, September 3 and the many details associated with the beginning of a school year. In addition to this letter, information regarding school start-up, student schedules, and general school information can be found on our school website:

<https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/> or Seaquam.ca.

There is a great deal of research that connects regular school attendance to academic success and a feeling of community. We would like to stress to families and students that we want you to attend all the time. Appointments and family vacations should be scheduled outside of school times. Lates are something that we would like students to improve on. There is a steady stream of students arriving late to school each day. Families, please help build a plan with your student to get to school on time and ready for learning at the start of each day.

This year we have the introduction of the Personal Digital Devices policy that is mandated by the Ministry of Education. This will be a large but needed change to how staff and students use and interact with things like cell phones. The general gist will be that cell phones will not be allowed to be used during instructional time and in instructional settings, ie classrooms, library, etc. There is going to be some growing pains and difficulties adjusting to this new reality. Please see more information below.

The Seaquam Code of Conduct Committee developed an acronym (CARES – Communication, Accountability, Respect, Excellence, Safety) that resembles Seaquam’s shared values and qualities. Students will be reintroduced to CARES on the first day and it will be incorporated into all aspects of our student’s experiences throughout the year.

I would like us to all welcome the following staff members. Some are new to Seaquam, some are returning from leave, while others are making a return trip:

Ms. A. Kaila - Counsellor

Ms. J. Heslip – Teacher, Science and Math

Mr. R. Saare – Teacher, Socials

Mr. Z Savari – Teacher, Automotive

Ms. S. Nguyen – Office Support worker

Ms. M. Amorelli – CYCW, returning in October

Ms. A Choy – Teacher, ELL and English

Mr. M. Annandale – Vice Principal, Grades 8 and 10

Ms. R. Elworthy – Teacher, French

Mr. M. Harder – Cafeteria Assistant

Personal Digital Devices (PPD) – Ministry Mandated

Admin will be sharing this information and other procedural things with Students on the first day during the assemblies. Teachers will also be going over important information about this as it pertains to their learning spaces.

[Administrative procedure 145](#)

Here are the highlights of this procedure that Seaquam will be enforcing September 1, 2024

- PDDs are not permitted during instructional time except when explicitly required by the teacher for educational purposes. Such exceptions may be granted when these devices directly support specific curricular objectives and are integrated into the instructional planning. The school will communicate with parents should any urgent situations occur.
- PDDs must be securely stored in a designated area, separate from the owner, to help reduce distractions and ensure an environment conducive to learning. Individual schools will determine storage and access to PDDs.
- PDDs are not to be used in settings such as change rooms, washrooms, private counseling rooms, that have the potential to violate a person's reasonable expectation of privacy.
- Students with disabilities or unique learning abilities may utilize PDDs as part of their designated support plans or Individual Education Plans (IEPs). This encompasses employing assistive technologies on such devices within the school environment to enhance students' access, communication, and self-reliance.
- PDDs are valuable electronic devices. The security and storage of these items is the sole responsibility of the owner/user. The district assumes no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of PDDs.
 - PDDs which are taken temporarily from students by teachers or administrators must be securely stored.
- Non-compliance with the Personal Digital Device Procedure 145 will initiate a process of progressive discipline as detailed in Procedure 350 - Student Conduct and Discipline

For more detailed information, please click the links below:

- [Infographic and Frequently Asked Questions – Secondary School](#)
- [Procedure 145 – Use of Personal Digital Devices](#)
- [Personal Digital Devices: Research and Resources](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your school principal.

Attendance

As noted above, we want students to attend all classes and on time. Being away effects the learning of your student. Arriving late to classes effects student learning and also is a disruption to the class. Teachers are concerned that attendance is getting worse and as a school we will be working together to encourage students to attend more and on time. If students are away from classes it is their responsibility to connect with their teacher and find out what learning was missed. The connection can be done the next class, during flex or checking the google classroom. Teachers will not be reteaching lessons missed during class time, that is what flex or after school appointments are for.

Reporting Student Absences

To report a student absence please:

1. Notify the school by email seaquam.sec@deltaschools.ca (please include student name) or
2. Contact the school office by phone (604-591-6166) (please give student name and MyEd number).
We do have voice mail and you can leave a message anytime or
3. Send a message through Parent Connect.

Absences should be reported as early as possible on the day of the absence to allow a Parent Advised code to be entered into the system. Any unreported absences will result in an automated email from the student system.

Ways to help set your child up for success in the upcoming school year

- Set high expectations for your student and encourage them to do their best;
- Contact teachers or counsellor directly when you have a question or concern regarding your student's progress;
- Ensure good attendance;
- Provide a quiet place in your home for study;
- Insist that your student accept responsibility for their learning and their conduct;
- Model the importance of life-long learning;
- Encourage a strong work ethic and promote/teach good time management skills;
- Encourage your student to maintain healthy eating and sleep habits;
- Review proper social media guidelines;
- Keep a planner and calendar of events;
- Sign up for Flex at least one week in advance

Grade 8's

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Seaquam. On Friday, August 30 the building will be open for anyone in Grade 8 who wants to come and visit and explore the school. This is completely optional. Come anytime between 9am and 11am. There is nothing formally organized but we will have some senior students here to help students with their MyEd log in, how to use a lock, the Seaquam app, tour students around the school and answer any questions. If you come please bring your schedule and your phone. Grade 8's will also have time on September 3 to explore. Parents can come if they wish.

Opening Day Schedule

On September 3, students in grades 8-12 will come to school at the following designated times to attend an assembly in the Theatre, go to Homeroom and get their **school photos taken by Artona Studios** in the cafeteria.

The student Homerooms will be their block A class. Students will have access to their schedules in the Student Portal of MyEd by Monday, August 26. Students without a Block A class or with a Block A study will meet in the Library for their Homeroom class. The schedule for the day is:

- Grade 9 – Meet in the Theatre at 9:30 and then go to Homeroom/Block A. End time 11:00 am
- Grade 10 – Meet in Homeroom/Block A at 9:30 and then go to the Theatre. End Time 11:00 am
- Grade 11 – Meet in the Theatre at 11:10 and then go to Homeroom/Block A. End time 12:40 am
- Grade 12 – Meet in Homeroom/Block A at 11:10 and then go to the Theatre. End Time 12:40 am

Grade 8s

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|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1:00-1:30 | Grade 8 Assembly in Theatre |
| 1:35-2:30 | Grade 8 Photos and Homeroom (Block A) |
| 2:45 | Grade 8 Group Photo in the Main Gym |

Opening Week Schedule:

From September 4 to September 6, we will be having a Homeroom class built into the schedule for attendance purposes. The schedules for these days will be:

Wednesday, September 4

9:30 – 10:50	Block A and Homeroom
10:55 – 11:55	Block B
11:55 – 12:35	LUNCH
12:35 – 1:35	Block C
1:40 – 2:40	Block D

Thursday, September 5

8:30 – 9:40	Block E
9:45 – 10:20	Block A Homeroom/Flex
10:25 – 11:35	Block F
11:35 – 12:15	LUNCH
12:15 – 1:25	Block G
1:30 – 2:40	Block H

Friday, September 6

8:30 – 9:40	Block B
9:45 – 10:20	Block A Homeroom/Flex
10:25 – 11:35	Block A
11:35 – 12:15	LUNCH
12:15 – 1:25	Block D
1:30 – 2:40	Block C

Monday, September 9

8:30 – 9:40	Block F
9:45 – 10:20	Block A Homeroom/Flex
10:25 – 11:35	Block E
11:35 – 12:15	LUNCH
12:15 – 1:25	Block H
1:30 – 2:40	Block G

Safety Measures

The updated safety guidelines continue to stress the importance of everyone taking responsibility to continue to practice personal prevention measures. As a reminder:

- Conduct Daily Health Checks
- Stay at home if you are not feeling well
- 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).
- Sneeze and cough into the crease of your elbow
- Respect others comfort levels regarding personal space
- Do not share food or drinks

Practicing these personal prevention measures will help reduce the risk of transmitting communicable diseases in our community.

Student Access to MyEd Account

1. Go to <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do>
2. Log in
3. If your Account is disabled or you don't know the password please click on forget my password. They will send you a link to reset your password to your [@deltalearns.ca](https://deltalearns.ca) account.
4. If you are new to a Delta School and can't get in please contact the office.

Parent Access to MyEd

All parents should be able to access MyEd through the parent portal. If you are having any problems with access, other than passwords, please contact the office for help. Parents if you can remember how to log in, please follow the above directions but realize that if you reset your password it will be e-mailed to what ever email we have on file for you.

Seaquam Mobile App

All students are encouraged to use the Seaquam mobile app to keep their courses and activities organized throughout the year. The app integrates two basic communication methods - push notifications and news bulletins. Once downloaded onto a device, students and parents alike can receive broadcast messages from the school office on important events or news items pertaining to Seaquam. There are no means for two-way communication via the app user. Students and parents will need to reference the school website for their teacher's email address to initiate a two-way conversation.

Our community can access the Seaquam App by searching "My School Day" at the App Store or through Google Play. Once downloaded choose Seaquam as your school.

For more specific information about the app including links on where to download it and reference guides to navigate the app, please check out the dedicated page on our school website. The link to the website is below.

<https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/student-resources/school-app/>

Student Schedules and Course Change Requests:

Starting the week before school begins the counsellors will be reviewing this document to address student schedule concerns. They will not be accepting phone calls nor e-mails during that time. This form is the only means of making a request. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT DUPLICATE REQUESTS.

If Counsellors can make a change they will do so. Please check MyED to see if changes have been made. Counsellors will only contact Students if more information is required. Please be patient. Not all requests can/will be fulfilled because of the constraints existing in the schedule.

Changes to Students' timetables WILL NOT BE MADE for the following reasons:

- * Change of an elective unless it meets one of the priority requirements below
- * Specific teacher requests
- * Retaking a course to attempt to achieve a higher mark
- * Students requesting to be with friends in a specific class

The following circumstances will be given priority for changes:

- * Date the form was submitted
- * Graduation requirements
- * Incomplete Timetables (does not have 8 classes)
- * Courses required for post-secondary applications

****NO CHANGES REQUESTS WILL BE TAKEN AFTER FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13****

<https://forms.gle/woAg7sL5j1KnhDic8>

Counsellors and Youth Care Worker

Below is the Counselling Department's Alpha allocation for the 2024-25 school year. Please feel free to contact them at 604-591-6166 or by email.

Last Name Starting with

A – D Mr. M. Arends (marends@deltaschools.ca)

E – La Ms. M. Costin (msalmon@deltaschools.ca)

Le – Sam Mr. H. Mian (hmian@deltaschools.ca)

San – Z Ms. A. Kaila (akaila@deltaschools.ca)

Youth Care Workers

Marisa Amorelli – returning in October 2024 (mamorelli@deltaschools.ca)

Roy Campbell (rcampbell@deltaschools.ca)

School Bell Schedule

This is a linear bell schedule for the 2024-25 school year

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Period 1	8:30 - 9:40	8:30 - 9:40	Collab	8:30 - 9:25	8:30 - 9:40
Flex	9:45 - 10:20	9:45 - 10:20	Period 1	9:30 - 10:35	9:45 - 10:20
Period 2	10:25 - 11:35	10:25 - 11:35	Period 2	10:40 - 11:45	10:25 - 11:35
Lunch	11:35 - 12:15	11:35 - 12:15	Lunch	11:45 - 12:25	11:35 - 12:15
Period 3	12:15 - 1:25	12:15 - 1:25	Period 3	12:25 - 1:30	12:15 - 1:25
Period 4	1:30 - 2:40	1:30 - 2:40	Period 4	1:35 - 2:40	1:30 - 2:40

Daily rotations

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Period 1	A	E	B	F
Period 2	B	F	A	E
Period 3	C	G	D	H
Period 4	D	H	C	G

Athletics:

Mr. T. Clarke is our school's Athletic Director, point person, but there will be two other teachers helping to organize and facilitate athletics at Seaquam, Mr. Forbes and Mr. MacKenzie. The AD's will be creating a Family and Student newsletter that will provide a great deal of important information regarding Athletics at Seaquam. This will come out 3x a year with the first installment coming out mid September.

Student participation in these activities is an important part of a student's school experience. Participation in these activities are a privilege and students participating are expected to be in good standing as they represent our school community on the playing field and in various extracurricular events.

Flextime - Own Your Learning (see schedule above)

Flex Time acknowledges that students lead busy lives and navigate competing demands for their time in and outside of school. Flex Time provides students the opportunity to self-direct and engage in their own learning. Flex times will occur Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays between period 1 and 2. Each Flex block will be 35 minutes in length.

While some school-wide initiatives might occur during Flex Time, teachers will not be teaching new course material. Teachers will be accessible to students for additional help and guidance on current and ongoing learning. As this is school instructional time, students are expected to be in a classroom for the entire Flex Time period. Students will need to log into Student Connect to choose a class to sign up for. **We encourage students to do this a week in advance.** Students who do not sign up or do not attend Flex will be marked away.

Locks and Lockers

All lockers will be assigned to students who want one during their Homeroom (block A) starting as early as Tuesday, September 3. Grade 8's will get a lock automatically and will be assessed for it. Some Grade 8's got their lock in June, please bring that one with you. Grade 8's if you did not get a lock then you will get one in homeroom. It will be part of their fee for the Grade 8 retreat. Those students in Grade 9-12 please bring your lock from last year. Those who need a new lock can buy one from the office for \$11. We recommend that families do not buy a lock out in the community. Sometimes the quality of those locks is not great. We provide a very high-quality combination lock and guarantee it will work for the whole time the student is with us at Seaquam. Remember, lockers are property of the school.

Valuables in Gym Change rooms

Theft sometimes happens in the school gym change rooms. Please do not leave valuables unattended. Either lock them up in their hallway locker or a locker in the change rooms – you will need a second lock for changerooms. The school is not responsible for any thefts. We strive to have a safe and secure environment. We sell good quality locks in the office for \$11.

Protocol for Parent/Guardian Concerns at Seaquam Secondary

If parents/guardians have concerns about general school procedures or issues stemming from their child's classroom, there is a procedure for raising those concerns.

If the concerns originate in the classroom, the first and most important person to communicate those issues with is your child's teacher with an email (preferred), or a phone call. You may need to make an appointment to meet with the teacher. If in this discussion you continue to have unresolved concerns, then it is appropriate to be in contact with your child's counsellor.

If your concern is not addressed to your satisfaction after the counsellor has intervened, then please contact the administrator of your child's grade. If there is still an outstanding concern, contact the Principal.

We are always willing to speak with parents to explain how and why particular decisions have been made and to listen openly to suggestions that might make our school community a better place. We will do our best to work along with you to solve problems.

We want Seaquam to be a community that supports children's learning and nurtures the hearts of children and families. To maintain a positive working relationship, please follow the protocol as outlined above when difficulties arise. Sharing difficulties in more round about ways (eg. classroom e-mail lists, social media sites that are public forums or have open pages, or playground discussions, etc.) in isolation of school staff does not support a positive school community and in fact leads to misinformation and hard feelings.

It is imperative that we remain respectful in our interactions and solve problems in a way that benefits everyone. Our students are watching our examples.

Provincial Assessments

Numeracy 10 and Literacy 10 and 12 assessments will continue. These are graduation requirements. The assessments will be Literacy 12 in November, Literacy 10 in January, Numeracy 10 in April and a catchup for all assessments in June. Information will be communicated in early October from the school.

Communication – Home and School

We believe in the importance of open communication between the home and the school to help students find success. Seaquam uses a variety of communication methods to provide families with updated information. These methods include email notifications, weekly newsletters emailed, the Seaquam website (<https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/>), and the Seaquam App. **Please ensure you have provided us a current email address, updated all your contact information and are able to log into Parent Connect.** Please contact the office if you require assistance after reviewing the support documents on the school website – seaquam.com

Signing in to Parent Connect

You must be authorized in order to utilize this web product. If you do not know your password, you can request that the system email you the password by clicking on “Forgot My Password”.

To login to Parent Connect you can do so here –

<https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/parent-community/programs/>

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Delta School District
Inspired Learning

Parent Connect

Powered by CIMS

PopUps District Help

IMPORTANT INFORMATION Parent Connect is unavailable each night between 1:00-1:30 a.m. for backups. Also, for security purposes, Parent Connect does not allow saving the password on your computer. If you save the password, the sign on screen will just flash and you cannot sign on. You will need to remove the saved password from your browser setting before you can sign back into Parent Connect.

Email Address
youremailhere

Password
***** * case sensitive

Get Students

Parent Connect will allow parent/guardians to review:

- Attendance (it lags by a day), updated by 5pm each day
- Reporting information under the Folder Tab (this is usually a 1-2 days behind MyEd)
- Demographics (address and guardian information),
- Student assignments and quizzes (if teachers are utilizing this feature in Teacher Connect)
- Register and review upcoming Parent-Teacher Interviews
- Student fees (assessment and payment details)

Parent Connect allows parents one-way communication with teachers and the office.

Permission Forms

There are a number of forms on Parent Connect for you to review and authorize. Please login to 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 Sept 30. Forms are:

Personal Information Consent Form, Outside Media in Schools, Electronic Communications, Walking Field Trips Permission, BC Fruits and Vegetables Program Permission, Demographic Information, Student Emergency Release, and GAFE (google apps for students)

Student Fees

Student fees will be assessed in early October – we will send a message to families. Fees can be viewed on Student/Parent Connect. Fees include a basic student fee, an Emergency Preparedness fee and in some cases, students may be assessed a course fee to cover the cost of consumable materials. Students may also choose to purchase optional ‘enhancements’ that support a course, ie workbooks, but are not required for course completion. Optional Yearbook fees will be assessed to all students. Field Trip fees and Athletic team fees will be added to students’ fees. Fees can be paid three ways: on-line in Parent Connect (most preferred), using a debit/credit machine at the office or dropping off a cheque or cash.

Information About Fees and Deposits

The Delta School District believes in the provision of a broad general education, containing options for student needs and interests, combined with a common core of learning. In accordance with the Delta District Policy, Seaquam provides an education program free of charge to our students, but may also charge fees and deposits for some goods and services as reasonable and consistent with legislated requirements. For example, student fees or deposits may be charged for:

- Goods intended for students to take home for personal use or as a gift (e.g. a desk made in Woodwork class)
- Goods such as writing tools, calculators, student planners, exercise books or other supplies and equipment for a student's personal use
- Activities such as field trips, special events, and extra-curricular activities, where the fees are limited to defraying actual costs of transportation, accommodation, meals, admission and equipment rentals
- Rental fees for musical instruments
- Deposits for educational resource materials such as reusable workbooks with the deposit being refunded in whole or in part upon return of the materials. (i.e. if a supplemental workbook is not marked or damaged it may be returned for a deposit refund)
- Goods and materials which provide students with the opportunity to experience or create a more enriching, or augmented project or activity

Financial Need

We realize that sometimes families struggle financially. Please contact your child’s counselor or administrator if your family requires financial support. All requests and conversations are confidential.

Engaging as a Parent/Guardian

We urge parents/guardians to stay engaged with their child’s progress at school. Parents can use MyEd or Parent Connect to monitor student attendance and view report cards. We encourage parents to contact their child’s teachers, counselor and when they have questions.

PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

The Seaquam PAC meets regularly throughout the school year and meetings typically take place in the evening. The PAC Chair will be communicating meeting dates and format at a later date. The PAC provides feedback and input to the administration, and applies for and allocates gaming funds to support extracurricular programs throughout the school. The PAC typically does not organize fundraising events. All parents, especially new Grade 8 parents are invited to join the PAC, meet other interested parents and learn more about the school and recent changes in education in BC. Please stay tuned for information from our PAC chairs in the weeks to come.

We hope the information provided will help you gain a better understanding of how Seaquam will be organized to deliver the curriculum and to maintain a safe environment. We are and will continue to work on providing a positive experience for our students, while placing measures in place to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your patience over the past weeks while we get ready for the start of school. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark Robinson
Principal
Grade 12

Margaret Callander
Vice Principal
Grades 9 & 11

Mike Annandale
Vice Principal
Grades 8 & 10