

4615 - 51 Street, Delta, BC V4K2V8 604.946.4194 [deltasd.bc.ca/de](http://deltasd.bc.ca/de)

Friday August 25, 2023

Dear Pacer Families,

**Welcome to the 2023 – 2024 school year!** We hope this letter finds you well, rested and re-charged for the challenge and excitement of a new school year. Welcome back to our returning students and families, and a special welcome to our many new students and families as they prepare to take their first steps as part of our Pacer community! I would also like to extend a special welcome to our Graduating class of 2024 as they begin their final year of high school.

With August coming to a close, we turn our attention to the school start up and the many details associated with the beginning of a school year. Please click on the link for information regarding school start-up: [Getting Ready for the First Week](#).

Over the course of the year, we ask that you please visit our [Delta Secondary school website \(https://de.deltasd.bc.ca/\)](https://de.deltasd.bc.ca/) to stay up to date with information and announcements regarding the school events, activities and news items.

Our **My School Day App** (Pacer Agenda APP) is also available on Apple's iTunes or Google's Play Store. After downloading the app click on Region (British Columbia) > School District (Delta #37) > School (Delta Secondary) to get this year's **Agenda and School Calenda of Events**. Allow Push Notifications and Allow Reminders in order to receive important school information.

Below is some detailed information regarding school start up, student schedules, the opening week and this year's bell schedule:

### **Important Start-up Dates:**

- August 31<sup>st</sup>                      Optional Grade 8 Open House (1:00pm – 2:30pm)
  - Grade 8 schedule pick-up and scavenger hunt
  
- September 5<sup>th</sup>                      Opening Day of School
  - *New International Students (8:30am – 10:30am)*
  - *Grade 9 – 12 Homeroom (9:30am – 10:30am)*
  - *Grade 8 Homeroom & Orientation (11:00am – 12:30pm)*
  
- September 13<sup>th</sup>                      Grade 8 Group Photo
- September 14<sup>th</sup>                      School Photo Day (Artona Photography)
- September 20<sup>th</sup>                      First PAC Meeting (7:00pm, DSS Learning Commons)
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>                      Non-Instructional Day (Professional Development)
- October 2<sup>nd</sup>                              Statutory Holiday – Day of Truth & Reconciliation

4615 - 51 Street, Delta, BC V4K2V8 604.946.4194 [deltasd.bc.ca/de](http://deltasd.bc.ca/de)

## Opening Day Schedule:

Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup> is our first day of school and students will be arriving for homeroom for attendance, to pick up schedules, school information and receive a safety orientation to the upcoming school year. Below is our Opening Day Schedule:

- **New International Students Orientation & Homeroom** **8:30am – 10:30am**
  - *Students should meet Mrs. Lalonde & Mrs. Wiens in the Genesis Theatre*
  
- **Grade 9 – 12 Orientation & Homeroom Class** **9:30am – 10:30am**
  - *Students should attend their homeroom class*
  - *Homerooms can be found on MyED once published*
  - *Homeroom Lists will be posted in the front entrance on opening day*
  
- **Grade 8 Orientation & Homeroom** **11:00am – 12:30pm**
  - *Students should meet Mr. Annandale & Mrs. Macintosh in the East Gym*
  - *Student Welcome & Orientation*

## School Bell Schedule (Grade 8/9 Linear & Grade 10 – 12 Semester)

Delta Secondary will be implementing a hybrid schedule for the 2023 – 2024 school year.

- **Grade 8 and 9 students will be on a linear schedule** (8 courses from September to June) with a Day 1/Day 2 schedule.
- **Grade 10 – 12 students will be on a semester schedule** where they will take 4 classes for semester 1 (September – January) and 4 classes for semester 2 (February – June).
- ***New this year, we will be running a week 1 (A, B, C, D) and week 2 (B, A, D, C) schedule alternating weeks (see sample schedule below)***
  - *For our Grade 8's and 9's they will alternate between their Day 1 classes (A1, B1, C1, D1) and Day 2 classes (A2, B2, C2, D2).*
- We will continue to run a 35-minute FLEX Block between Period 1 & 2 and a 40-minute lunch break between periods 2 and 3.
  - **FLEX Time is 35 minutes of instructional time** built between period 1 & 2 to support students in the following ways:
    - Receive additional support and assistance from their teacher
    - Complete assignments or tasks pending due to absence
    - Additional practice and review to build fundamental skills
    - Independent Study and review for upcoming assessments
    - Passion Projects and Inquiry in one of their areas of study
  - **Students will be required to sign up in advance for FLEX Time with one of their teachers.** *More information will be shared with students at their grade assembly.*
  
- ***Every Wednesday, classes will start at 9:30am to support teacher Collaboration.***  
Wednesday classes will be 65 minutes in length with a 40-minute lunch break between period 2 and 3. There is NO FLEX Block on Wednesdays

4615 - 51 Street, Delta, BC V4K2V8 604.946.4194 [deltasd.bc.ca/de](http://deltasd.bc.ca/de)

## Sample Week 1 Schedule – Linear Schedule ([Semester Schedule in Blue](#))

Period	Time	Day 1's	Day 2's	Wednesday Schedule	
1	8:30 – 9:40am	Block A1 (Block A)	Block A2 (Block A)	8:30 – 9:30am	Teacher Collaboration
<b>FLEX</b>	<b>9:45 – 10:20am</b>	<b>FLEX Block</b>	<b>FLEX Block</b>	Period 1	9:30 – 10:35am
2	10:25 – 11:35am	Block B1 (Block B)	Block B2 (Block B)	Period 2	10:40 – 11:45am
<b>Lunch</b>	11:35 – 12:15pm	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	11:45-12:25pm
3	12:20 – 1:30pm	Block C1 (Block C)	Block C2 (Block C)	Period 3	12:30 – 1:35pm
4	1:35 – 2:45pm	Block D1 (Block D)	Block D2 (Block D)	Period 4	1:40 – 2:45pm

## Sample Week 2 Schedule – Linear Schedule ([Semester Schedule in Blue](#))

Period	Time	Day 1's	Day 2's	Wednesday Schedule	
1	8:30 – 9:40am	Block B1 (Block B)	Block B2 (Block B)	8:30 – 9:30am	Teacher Collaboration
<b>FLEX</b>	<b>9:45 – 10:20am</b>	<b>FLEX Block</b>	<b>FLEX Block</b>	Period 1	9:30 – 10:35am
2	10:25 – 11:35am	Block A1 (Block A)	Block A2 (Block A)	Period 2	10:40 – 11:45am
<b>Lunch</b>	11:35 – 12:15pm	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	11:45-12:25pm
3	12:20 – 1:30pm	Block D1 (Block D)	Block D2 (Block D)	Period 3	12:30 – 1:35pm
4	1:35 – 2:45pm	Block C1 (Block C)	Block C2 (Block C)	Period 4	1:40 – 2:45pm



4615 - 51 Street, Delta, BC V4K2V8 604.946.4194 [deltasd.bc.ca/de](http://deltasd.bc.ca/de)

Forms for review include:

- *Personal Information Consent Form, Outside Media in Schools, Electronic Communications, Walking Field Trip Permission, BC Fruits and Vegetables Program Permission, Demographic Information, and Student Emergency Release*

## **Student Fees:**

Student Fees will be assessed during Semester 1 once class changes have been made. 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 but are not required for course completion. Yearbook fees will be assessed to all students. We are encouraging parents to pay fees online using Parent Connect.

## **No Cell Phone During Instructional Time Policy: (New for 2023 – 2024)**

In order to support student learning and teachers with navigating the issues and challenges that come with cell phones as distractions in classes when not used for educational purposes, Delta Secondary is implementing a **"No Cell Phone Policy"** during instructional time which includes Flex Time.

- *Cell phone use in class without prior teacher consent is NOT PERMITTED. It is up to teachers' discretion as to when devices can be used and for what purposes. Students have the option to secure their phone in their personal bag, classroom phone blanket or designated area determined by the teacher. Students may also secure their phones in their lockers or leave them at home.*

## **Extracurricular Activities:**

We are expecting a return to extra-curricular activities for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Mr. Andrew Robson and Mrs. Kayla Jow are our school's Athletic Directors and they will be providing information to students and our community regarding school athletic opportunities. If any parents are looking for opportunities to coach this upcoming season, please contact Mr. Robson by email [arobson@deltaschools.ca](mailto:arobson@deltaschools.ca).

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. More information will come out over the course of the year.

## **PAC (Parent Advisory Council):**

This year's PAC Chair is Mrs. Alison Day. PAC typically does not organize fundraising events and Delta Secondary's PAC meetings take place in the evening, approximately once per month (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month in our learning commons).

School PAC's provide feedback and input to the school administration and play an integral role in supporting extracurricular programs and student lead legacy projects and initiatives.

4615 - 51 Street, Delta, BC V4K2V8 604.946.4194 [deltasd.bc.ca/de](http://deltasd.bc.ca/de)

All parents, especially our new Grade 8 parents are invited to join our PAC. For more information, please visit the DSS PAC website: <https://deltasecondaryschool.wordpress.com/>  
**Our first PAC meeting will take place Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in our Learning Commons.** More information will come out closer to the meeting date.

### Ways to help set your child(ren) up for success in the school year:

- Set high expectations for your child(ren) and encourage them to not accept minimum effort or indifference to quality work;
- Contact teachers directly when you have a question regarding your child(ren)'s progress;
- *Ensure good attendance* (attendance can be viewed on Parent Connect);
- Provide a quiet place in your home for study with few distractions;
- Insist that your child(ren) accept responsibility for their learning and their conduct;
- Model the importance of life-long learning and inquiry;
- Encourage a strong work ethic and promote good time management skills;
- Encourage regular review and application of learning to develop foundational skills;
- Encourage your child(ren) to maintain healthy eating (breakfast, lunch, and healthy snacks) and sleeping habits (8+ hours of sleep minimum)

### Communicable Disease Plan:

To continue to ensure we are collectively doing our part to keep our school community safe from communicable disease we are going to ask that students and families continue to do the following this year:

- **Complete a Daily Health Check and stay home when your child is sick**
  - **Do NOT come to school if you are ill, have symptoms or not able to participate fully in routine activities**
- **Respiratory etiquette and respect the personal space of others**
- **Good hand hygiene - wash and sanitize your hands often**
- **Remember to "Be kind, be calm, be safe" to others.**

We are excited for the upcoming school year and looking forward to welcoming back all of our returning students as well as making connections with our new students. We are working as hard as we can to ensure a successful start and a smooth start-up for our school community. If you continue to have questions that need further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school.

Sincerely,

John Pavão,  
Principal  
Grade 12's

Joanna Macintosh,  
Vice Principal  
Grade 8's & 10's

Mike Annandale,  
Vice Principal  
Grade 9's & 11's