

4615 - 51 Street, Delta, BC V4K2V8 604.946.4194 deltasd.bc.ca/de

Friday September 8, 2023

Dear Pacer Families,

It was amazing to see our students back in the school this past week. There is a good buzz in our classrooms and hallways as our first week comes to a close. Mr. Annandale and Mrs. Macintosh had the privilege of speaking to each grade at our grade assemblies about the importance of getting involved in school, setting goals and managing our time, reaching out to adults for support, and reviewing the expectations we have for students with regards to attendance, cell phones, academic achievement and student behaviours. I look forward to supporting our students as they find their passions and their purpose this school year. I am sure the upcoming weekend will be well deserved for many as our bodies readjust to full-day schedules and in-person instruction.

In addition to this letter, general school information can be found on our **school website**: <https://de.deltasd.bc.ca/> . Please see the important information items below:

Important Dates:

- September 11th Pacer Bistro (Cafeteria) Opens for student lunches
- September 13th Grade 8 Photo in the East Gym
- September 14th School Photo Day
- September 20th DSS PAC Meeting at 7:00pm, Learning Commons (Library)
- September 22nd Non-Instructional Day (Professional Development Day)
- September 26 – 28th DSS Club Days

Flexible Learning Time:

Starting Monday September 11th, we will be implementing **Flexible Learning Time** or “FLEX Block” as it is referred to by students. **Flex Block is a 35-minute block of instructional time** built into our schedule between period 1 and period 2 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. **Students are required to be in a Flexible Learning Block.**

Reasons for Flexible Learning:

- Complete assignments and reduce homework
- Receive additional help from their teacher(s)
- Catch up on missed work due to absence/illness
- Review and study for upcoming assessments
- Practice or review to build foundational skills
- Extend the learning and inquiry in a particular subject

We will be prescribing Flex Time for the month of September in order to assist students in learning how to sign-up for their Flex Block using Student Connect.

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As we transition into Flex Blocks, we will also be providing mini-lessons around goal setting, time management, and effective strategies to maximize the use of Flexible Learning Time to support students.

DSS Bell Schedule – Regular Bell Schedule

Starting Monday September 11th, we will return to our regular bell schedule. You will notice that **every Wednesday is a 9:30am start time to support teacher collaboration**. Below is a copy of our bell schedule for the 2023 – 2024 school year. A copy of the bell schedule (Day 1 & Day 2) can also be found on the My School Day App available on iTunes or Google Play Store.

Regular Bell Schedule:

Period	Time	Week 1's	Week 2's	Wednesday Schedule	
1	8:30 – 9:40am	Block A	Block B	8:30 – 9:30am	Teacher Collaboration
FLEX	9:45 – 10:20am	FLEX Block	FLEX Block	Period 1	9:30 – 10:35am
2	10:25 – 11:35am	Block B	Block A	Period 2	10:40 – 11:45am
Lunch	11:35 – 12:15pm	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	11:45- 12:25pm
3	12:20 – 1:30pm	Block C	Block D	Period 3	12:30 – 1:35pm
4	1:35 – 2:45pm	Block D	Block C	Period 4	1:40 – 2:45pm

*** September 11th is a Week 2 and the block order will be B, A, D, C for the week

Course Change Requests:

Counsellors have been busy all week trying to accommodate student requests for course changes as well as helping students fill incomplete timetables. **We are limited on the course changes we can make due to timetable constraints and class size limits and students will be placed on a waitlist for courses that are full.** If you require a course change, please click on the following **Course Change Request Link:** <https://forms.gle/Fg4rn6w7JxFxdHyN6>

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For all other inquiries (not course requests) please contact your child's counsellor:

- **Last Name A – Che** **Mr. Lalli * on leave**
 - *Last Name A – Bal* see Ms. Gillis until the vacancy is filled
 - *Last Name Ban – Bo* see Ms. Rohwer until the vacancy is filled
 - *Last Name Br -Che* see Ms. Greene until the vacancy is filled
- **Last Name Cli - Lei** **Ms. Greene** sgreene@deltaschools.ca
- **Last Name Leo – Or & International** **Ms. Rohwer** erohwer@deltaschools.ca
- **Last Name Os – Z** **Ms. Gillis** bgillis@deltaschools.ca

Grade 12's – CLC & Capstone

Grade 12 students will be invited to enroll in a google classroom later next week to begin their Career Life Connection 12 Course and Capstone Project. This year's CLC/Capstone Coordinator is Mrs. Paige Hansen. Any inquiries can be directed to her via email phansen@deltaschools.ca or phansen@deltalearns.ca.

Study Blocks:

The expectation is that students will be enrolled with a full-time schedule (8 courses). **An in-school study block is a privilege and reserved for grade 11 & 12 students who have ample credits, a challenging academic course load, and a history of good attendance and academic success.**

Delta Secondary offers a rich variety of courses and believes that students should take advantage of the opportunity for a full and comprehensive educational experience. We encourage students to explore and try courses that they may have limited knowledge or experience in as a means of exploration, inquiry and possible opportunities for future study, career or personal pursuit. Students may meet with their counsellors next week to pick up a study block application form and inquire about if they meet the criteria for a study block. Study blocks will be reviewed by Mr. Pavão and decided on by the end of September. **NOT all students who apply receive a study block and therefore students need to continue to attend all their classes.**

Communications with Families:

Most of our communication will be done electronically through our website, monthly newsletters, emails and Parent Connect. **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.

Permission Forms:

Thank you to those families who have already completed the various permission forms on Parent Connect. For those who have not, we ask that you **please login to Parent Connect, review the notices and select the appropriate response for each form. It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded by each student's parent/guardian by September 30th.**

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PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

Our first PAC meeting will take place Wednesday September 20th at 7:00pm in our Learning Commons. PAC meets approximately once per month (3rd Wednesday of each month in our learning commons). This year's PAC Chair is Ms. Allison Day. School PACs provide feedback and input to the school administration and play an integral role in supporting extracurricular programs and student led legacy projects and initiatives.

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/>

Delta Secondary Safety Protocols:

At our grade assemblies we talked about our collective responsibility to ensure everyone is doing their part to keep our school community safe 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 want to thank you for your continued patience and support during our opening week as we worked through school start-up, student schedules, and the many tasks associated with the start of a school year. If you continue to have questions as to which option is best for your child(ren), please do not hesitate to contact us at the school. Have a restful, safe and well-deserved weekend.

Sincerely,

John Pavão,
Principal
Grade 12's

Mike Annandale,
Vice Principal
Grade 9 & 11's

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