

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

Tuesday September 8, 2020

Welcome to a New School Year!

Dear Pacer Families,

On behalf of the Delta Secondary staff, we offer a warm welcome to all of our new and returning students and their families. We hope you all had a restful and relaxing summer. Below is detailed information regarding schedules, processes and procedures associated with the start of school. In our current educational environment, our traditional practices will be different and we need to be flexible to adapt to our current reality. We are doing our best to make the start of the school year as smooth as possible as we transition to a new schedule to keep everyone safe in the COVID-19 pandemic.

As mentioned in our letter from August 28th, all schools are planning to begin the year in Phase 2 of the Ministry of Education's re-start plan. The school is working to maximize face to face learning for students within learning groups as outlined in the Ministry's Five Stage Framework (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school/five-stages-framework>).

By now you should have received the back to school plan for Delta. If you have not already viewed the document, it can be found here: <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/news/information-for-parents-guardians-novel-coronavirus/>

Learning Options Available for Delta Students

At this point for the return to school in September, you have the following options for your child:

- Face to face, in-class instruction at their school
- Distributed learning – Home Quest (K – 9) & Delta Access (Grades 10 -12)
- Home schooling – Parents assume all responsibility for their child's learning.

Please Note: Both Home Quest and home schooling are full year commitments. If parents choose either of these options, the earliest that students would be able to return to their home school is September 2021.

For more information please go to: <https://district.public.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/08/Stage-2-Learning-options.pdf>

School Schedule

Delta Secondary will be implementing a quarter schedule, where students will be taking 2 courses per quarter over a 9-10 period week. Students in Grade's 8-10 will be taking two 120-minute blocks, while most students in Grade 11 and 12 will have one block face to face and one hybrid block utilizing face to face and remote learning.

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The hybrid courses are being used to keep students in learning groups while making best efforts to honour student course requests. Hybrid classes must have a reduced number, physical distancing in place and masks worn. When students are not in class they are in self-directed study for that particular class guided by teacher.

Delta Secondary's Quarter Bell Schedule

BLOCK SCHEDULE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SESSION 1 (F2F – 100% learning group & Hybrid Gr 11-12) 8:30 – 10:30	BLOCK A	BLOCK A	TEACHER COLLABORATION TIME 8:30 – 9:30	BLOCK A	BLOCK A
			Block A 9:40 – 11:10		
10:30 – 11:10	FLEXIBLE LEARNING TIME/ NUTRITION BREAK	FLEXIBLE LEARNING TIME/ NUTRITION BREAK	FLEXIBLE LEARNING TIME/ NUTRITION BREAK 11:10 – 11:40	FLEXIBLE LEARNING TIME/ NUTRITION BREAK	FLEXIBLE LEARNING TIME/ NUTRITION BREAK
SESSION 2 (F2F – 100% learning group) 11:20 – 1:20	BLOCK B	BLOCK B	BLOCK B 11:50 – 1:20	BLOCK B	BLOCK B
SESSION 3 (F2F – 100% learning group & Hybrid Afternoon Classes)	Late Afternoon Session or Block C 1:30 – 3:30	Late Afternoon Session or Block C 1:30 – 3:30	Late Afternoon Session or Block C 1:30-3:30	Late Afternoon Session or Block C 1:30 – 3:30	Late Afternoon Session or Block C 1:30-3:30

Key Points to Delta Secondary's Bell Schedule

- Blocks A & B will be 120-minute blocks of face to face learning within a learning group (cohort of 30 students)
 - Grade 8-10 will take two blocks per day
 - Grade 11-12's will take one hybrid (Block A) and one face to face course (Block B)

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- Senior Students will be informed by their classroom teacher what they students will be attending for their face to face instruction.
- The third block of the day (Block C) will be used for flexible learning throughout the year or for a Linear Class. These linear classes will continue to run in a hybrid environment to allow for physical distancing within multi-grade classes
- Every Wednesday, there will be teacher Collaboration time where students will not be at school and will start their first class at 9:40am. We ask that students stay at home until the start of the first session
- Most students will have 2 scheduled classes in the morning and their formal instruction will end at 1:10pm. For these students the late afternoon session is designated to deliver specialty programs, student support sessions and other program offerings.

Support Classes (LA, LD, ELL, GQ, SL, MA, LS)

The implementation of the quarter schedule does not lend itself to offering support through students in an enrolling class environment. When schedules are released, you will not see these support classes on your child's schedule.

We will be offering a support model that will include scheduled support, pull out sessions, additional teachers or Educational Assistance in classroom and virtual support using zoom or Google classroom. Your child's program teacher will provide more detailed information in the next week or two.

Nutrition Breaks

Between Block A and Block B, there will be a 30-minute nutrition break. During nutrition breaks, students will remain in their first block classrooms. For safety reasons we cannot allow students to be in the hallways or the cafeteria. The cafeteria will not be providing food service to start the year, but plans will be developed for food service later in quarter 1.

Students should bring their own lunch, snacks and other required items with them when they arrive at school. Food should be in their own containers and they should take those containers home with them at the end of the day. To maintain physical distancing and minimize contact with others, parents are asked to not drop off student lunches/supplies during the school day. Food, drink items, dishes, and cutlery are not to be shared. The only exception is manufacturer-wrapped food products.

Student Timetables

With the new quarter system and learning groups, we have needed to develop an entirely new timetable with learning groups and students in mind. This is complex and time consuming as there are so many variables to consider.

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Normally, your schedule would have been posted in Student and Parent Connect by this time, however we are unable to do so this year. Schedules will be available when students arrive on Sept. 10th or 11th.

Course Change Requests

We are going to be *very limited in the number of changes that we can make to a students' schedule due to learning group restrictions and timetable limitations*. Academic Courses have been paired with electives to make learning group cohorts and we will only be looking at requests where students are missing or have a duplicate academic course. Once a quarter starts and you have attended a learning group we cannot make a change in that quarter. Students cannot swap a learning group within a quarter. As a safety precaution, we recommend students wear a mask on orientation day to provide us the flexibility if we require a change to your Quarter 1 schedule prior to classes commencing on Monday, Sept. 14th.

Once timetables are released, if you require a course change, please email the counsellor your request—do not show up to meet your counsellor in person.

- Last Names A – Ba & R – Z contact Ms. Gillis. (bgillis@deltasd.bc.ca)
- Last Names Be – Bu & M – Q contact Ms. Rowher (erohwer@deltasd.bc.ca)
- Last Names C -L contact Ms. Colls (hcolls@deltasd.bc.ca)
- * Mr. Lalli (Last Names A – D) is starting the year on a leave

For grades 8-10, timetables are fixed due to learning groups and students may not receive the electives they requested. For grades 11 & 12, there will be limited opportunities to adjust schedules. Grade 12 students will be a priority to ensure they have the courses they require to graduate and for post-secondary options.

First Week of School (September 10th & 11th)

As announced by the Ministry of Education on August 12th, to ensure schools are ready to welcome students into the classroom, there will be a gradual restart to allow extra time to orientate students and staff on the new health and safety measures in place. Below is Delta Secondary's Orientation schedule for September 10th & 11th:

Orientation Week:	September 10 th	Grade 10	9:00 – 10:30am (Block A teacher)
		Grade 9	11:00 – 12:30pm (Block A teacher)
		Grade 8	1:00 – 2:30pm (Block A teacher)
	September 11 th	Grade 11	9:00 – 10:30am (Block B teacher)
		Grade 12	11:00 – 12:30pm (Block B teacher)

When students arrive at school, they are to report to the oval, where there will be check in tables (organized alpha by last name). From there students will be directed to meet their learning group teacher, who will then bring them into the school through their designated entrance.

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Once inside classrooms, students will receive their schedules and teachers will review our new bell schedule, school safety procedures, and other information to prepare students for the start of the school year.

Daily Health Checks (Required)

All families are **required to complete the “Daily Health Check” form on Parent Connect before your child can be permitted into school.** It is required that you acknowledge you have read this form before sending your child back to school. More importantly, it is imperative that families monitor their child’s health daily and keep students at home if they exhibit symptoms that are cold or flu-like that include coughing, sneezing, a sore throat. Fever or any other cold or flu-like symptoms. If your child is experiencing these symptoms, please have them see a doctor.

Safety Considerations

To keep our community safe in this return to school phase, everyone must take personal responsibility to follow the health and safety requirements outlined by the Ministry of Health. We must share the responsibility to keep everyone safe.

Students are expected to wear a non-medical mask when they enter Delta Secondary and are in common areas of our facility (hallways, library, cafeteria, etc.). Also, students need to wear a mask when they are with a group of students outside their learning group and cannot remain at least 2 metres from others. While in classrooms within their learning groups, masks are optional. Students in Hybrid classes will be required to maintain 2m physical distance from others that are outside of their learning group. Where this is not possible, they will need to wear a mask. Sanitizing hands and not handling other student’s property are also important safety measures.

Any student or other person entering Delta Secondary must stay home and self-isolate if they:

- are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 OR
- have travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days OR
- have been identified by public health as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak must stay home and self-isolate, including children of essential service workers.

Any students, staff, or other person within the school who has cold, influenza, or COVID-like symptoms should not return to school until an assessment by a health-care provider and their symptoms have resolved.

Students may still attend school if a member of their household has cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, provided the student/staff is not actively experiencing symptoms. It is expected that the symptomatic household member is seeking assessment by a health-care provider.

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Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

If parents or caregivers need to contact the school principal or their student's teachers, they should be directed to do so by phone or email. In-person visits should be for specific purposes and arranged in advance by appointment. Visitors must be aware of and follow safety protocols and be limited in their access to necessary spaces only.

In line with the Public Health Officer's guidance, within a learning group, minimized physical contact will be strongly encouraged, however physical distancing does not need to be maintained, if not practical. Outside of a learning group, physical distancing of 2 metres remains the expectation for secondary students and for all staff.

Those that choose to wear non-medical masks, face coverings or face shields must still seek to maintain physical distance from people outside of their learning group. There must be no crowding, gathering or congregating of people from different learning groups, even if non-medical masks are worn.

For more specific details on safety plans please see the District Safety Plan.

<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/08/District-37-COVID-19-SAFETY-PLAN-August-20-2020.pdf>

Face Masks

Within the learning groups, masks are not required, but masks and the practice of physical distancing are required when students are in common areas like hallways, washrooms, Library, Cafeteria and whenever students are in contact with students outside of their learning group. More information will be shared next week regarding face mask protocols.

Hallways and Staircases

In common areas, like hallways and staircases, we will be having directional markers in place throughout the building to help with the flow of student traffic. We need students to follow the directional markers to get to their classes or to leave the building. This measure will be an added precaution to help reduce the possible transmission of infection in common areas.

Locks and Lockers

For safety reasons students will not be assigned a locker. It is expected that students will bring with them all they need for the day in a bag or backpack. Students taking Physical Education classes will be required to have a lock to secure their personal items when they are in the gym areas. Locks will be available for purchase in the school office.

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Collaboration Days

Each Wednesday, Delta Secondary has embedded regular Collaboration Time into the school calendar so staff can engage in collaborative professional learning about effective practice. Students begin the day at 9:40 am.

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

- Set high expectations for your student and encourage them to not accept minimum effort or indifference to quality work;
- Contact teachers 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 good time management skills;
- Encourage your student to maintain healthy eating and sleep habits.

Communication with Families

Most of our communication with families is done electronically through our website, email and Parent Connect. Please ensure you have provided us a current email address, updated all contact information and you are able to log into Parent Connect. Please contact the office if you require assistance.

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, and Student Emergency Release.

Student Fees

Student fees are assessed during Quarter 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 on-line using Parent Connect.

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PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

This year's PAC Chair is Ms. Keri Deane. Delta Secondary's PAC meetings take place in the evening, approximately once per month (3rd Wednesday of the month). 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. For more information, please visit the DSS PAC website:

<https://deltasecondaryschool.wordpress.com/>

Our first PAC Meeting will take place on Wednesday September 16th at 7:00pm. A Zoom link will be shared out to families closer to the meeting date.

Extra-curricular Activities

Student participation in extra-curricular activities is an important part of a student's school experience. Unfortunately, the limitations of large groups and close contact has created an environment where these activities cannot function in meeting the safety requirements. Extra-curricular activities, like Athletics, will be paused until further notice. Many of our extra-curricular activities will be paused until we can safely conduct them.

This is going to be a different year. We are working as hard as we can to get things up and running for a successful start. We want to thank you for your continued patience and support during these times. If you continue to have questions as to which option is best for your child(ren), please do not hesitate to contact us at 604-946-4194.

Sincerely,

John Pavão,
Principal
Grade 12's

Mike Annandale,
Vice Principal
Grade 8 & 10's

Margaret Callendar,
Principal
Grade 9 & 11's