

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

Thursday August 26, 2021

Welcome to a New School Year!

Dear Pacer Families,

Welcome to the 2021 – 2022 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 2022 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. In addition to this letter, information regarding school start-up, student schedules, and general school information can be found on our **school website**: <https://de.deltasd.bc.ca/>

With the announcement from the Ministry of Education and the Public Health Office regarding mandated masks (masks required for all high school students and staff) and other safety protocols for the return of school, a separate communication letter will be coming out soon with details around these Health & Safety Protocols for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

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 Calendar. *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:

- September 2nd Grade 8 & New Student Open House (1:00 – 3:00pm)
- September 7th First Day of School
 - *Grade 9's & 10's Homeroom (10:15am – 11:15am)*
 - *Grade 11's & 12's Homeroom (11:30am – 12:30pm)*
 - *Grade 8 Homeroom & Orientation (1:00pm – 2:45pm)*
 - *New International Students (10:15am – 2:00pm)*
- September 15th First PAC Meeting (7:00pm, DSS Learning Commons)
- September 20th School Photo Day (Artona Photography)
- *September 23rd Meet the Teacher Night *** Tentative more info to come*
- September 30th Non-Instructional Day: BC – Day of Truth & Reconciliation

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School Bell Schedule (Semester Schedule):

Delta Secondary will be implementing a semester schedule for the 2021 – 2022 school year, where students will be taking four classes each day per semester.

- We will offer a Day 1/Day2 format and classes will be 80 minutes in length with a 40-minute lunch break between periods 2 and 3.
- *Every Wednesday, there will be teacher Collaboration Time from 8:30 – 9:25am and classes will start at 9:30am each Wednesday.* Wednesday classes will be 65 minutes in length with a 40-minute lunch break between period 2 and 3.

Sample Daily Bell Schedule:

Period	Time	Day 1's	Day 2's	Wednesday Schedule	
1	8:30 – 9:50am	Block A	Block B	Period 1	9:30 – 10:35am
2	9:55 – 11:15am	Block B	Block A	Period 2	10:40 – 11:45am
Lunch	11:15 – 12:00pm	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	11:45-12:30pm
3	12:00 – 1:20pm	Block C	Block D	Period 3	12:30 – 1:35pm
4	1:25 – 2:45pm	Block D	Block C	Period 4	1:40 – 2:45pm

Opening Day Schedule:

Tuesday September 7th 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:

- *Grade 9's & 10's Homeroom (10:15am – 11:15am)*
- *Grade 11's & 12's Homeroom (11:30am – 12:30pm)*
- *Grade 8 Homeroom & Orientation (1:00pm – 2:45pm)*

Student Schedules & MyED Accounts:

Students will receive their schedules on the first day of school. These will be handed out during their homeroom (Block A) class on September 7th.

Student MyED accounts will be reactivated by the district on Friday September 3rd and students will then be able to view their schedule online. To access student MyED accounts, click on the following link: <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do> *If your child's account is disabled or they don't know the password please click on forget my password. A link to reset the password will be sent to the students @deltalearns.ca email account.*

We are currently working with counsellors to address students with incomplete schedules before the start of the school year. ****If a student has an incomplete schedule, they are asked to use the course change request online form (see next page).*

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Course Change Requests:

Once timetables are released, if you require a course change, please click on the following

- *Course Change Request Link:* <https://forms.gle/uDMH3uMMQmZRJZKK6>

We will be very limited with the number of changes that we can make to a student's schedule due to timetable constraints. We have done our best to balance our semester 1 and semester 2 courses to ensure students have both academic and elective classes in each semester.

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

- Last Name A – E Mr. Lalli (W/R/F) hlalli@deltaschools.ca
- Last Name F– H Ms. Greene sgreene@deltaschools.ca
- Last Name I– Q/International Ms. Rohwer erohwer@deltaschools.ca
- Last Name R – Z Ms. Greene sgreene@deltaschools.ca
 - Ms. Gillis will be returning mid-October to DSS and will work with students with the last name R – Z. (bgillis@deltaschools.ca)

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:

There are a number of permission forms on Parent Connect for you to review and authorize. 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. 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.

Extracurricular Activities:

We are expecting a return to extra-curricular activities for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Shell Thompson is our school's Athletic Director and he will be providing information to students and our community regarding school athletic opportunities.

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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 Ms. Keri Deane. PAC typically does not organize fundraising events and Delta Secondary's PAC meetings take place in the evening, approximately once per month (3rd 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.

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 15th at 7:00pm in our Learning Commons. More information will come out closer to the meeting date.

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

- Set high expectations for your students and encourage them to not accept minimum effort or indifference to quality work;
- Contact teachers directly when you have a question regarding your child'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 student 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 your student to maintain healthy eating (breakfast, lunch, and healthy snacks) and sleeping habits (8+ hours of sleep minimum)

We are excited for the upcoming school year as we slowly work towards a return to the expectations we have experienced before the pandemic but know this year will likely also be different in many ways. We are working as hard as we can to ensure a successful start and a smooth start-up for our school community. We want to thank you for your continued patience and support these past two 18 months. 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

Margaret Callander,
Vice Principal
Grade 8's & 10's

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

Permission Forms Information

The following forms have been posted on **Parent Connect** for you to review and authorize. Please login to your Parent Connect account, review the notices and select the appropriate response to each form. It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded to by your child's parent/guardian by September 30.

Personal Information Consent Form

In accordance with the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the Board of Education of School District No. 37 is seeking your consent to collect, retain, use and disclose photographs, videos, images and/or names of students and groups of students in a variety of publications and on the School District's website(s) for educational purposes.

Outside Media In Schools

Media (including radio, television, newspapers, and other print and online media) are sometimes permitted or invited to come to the school or to school activities and allowed to take photos/video or conduct interviews with students, for the purposes of promoting public understanding of school programs, building public support for public education, and encouraging student achievement.

Electronic Communications

Canada's new anti-spam legislation requires us to obtain your consent in order to provide you with electronic information about many of the happenings and events occurring at your child's school or within our school district.

Walking Field Trips Permission

During the school year, teachers may take students for excursions in and around our neighborhood. The teacher will provide supervision on these neighborhood trips, with the assistance of parent volunteers, as required. When longer trips involving travel outside our local area are planned, you will be informed in writing and will be asked to sign a separate permission slip for each trip.

B.C. Fruit and Vegetable Program Permission

Our school is involved in a province-wide healthy living initiative sponsored by B.C. Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and ActNowBC. One of the goals is to encourage healthy eating by providing fresh B.C. fruits and vegetables to the students during classroom time. The students will receive picked, washed, and ready to enjoy produce every other week at no charge.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, PLEASE ALSO REVIEW AND VERIFY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON PARENT CONNECT:

Demographic Information

Please take a moment to review your demographic information on Parent Connect. Update as necessary your cell phone number(s), email address(es) and emergency contacts. If you have a change to your address and/or home phone number, please call your school, or send a note to the office.

Student Emergency Release

In the event of an emergency resulting in school closure during the school day, and you are unable to collect your child(ren) from school, you authorize the release of your child(ren) into the custody of temporary adult guardians. The Out-of-Province contact name and telephone number would be used if local telephone service is disrupted.

***IMPORTANT* - ONCE ALL OF THE ABOVE FORMS AND INFORMATION ARE REVIEWED AND/OR UPDATED, PLEASE SELECT THE APPROPRIATE FORM RESPONSE ON PARENT CONNECT.**

To access Parent Connect, go to <http://web.deltasd.bc.ca/content/resources/forparents/parentconnect>
Detailed instructions on using Parent Connect are available by selecting the "Help" button on the Parent Connect Sign In screen.



Delta Secondary School Parent Advisory Committee

c/o 4615 - 51st St., Delta, BC, V4K 2V8

Pacer Partner Fundraising Request 2021-22

As parents, we all want our children to have a great educational experience and develop the habit of lifelong learning. We hope that whatever tools and supports our children need will be available. The DSS Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) objective is to follow the steps laid out in our vision: <http://deltasecondaryschool.wordpress.com/about/> and channel fundraising efforts to ensure that all our children benefit from the work the PAC does.

The Pacer Partner program is the only major fundraising undertaken by the PAC. In the past, Pacer Partner funds have been aimed towards capital projects such as the electronic sign; obtaining new technology (projectors, smartboards, iPad minis); as well as replacing uniforms/equipment for our sports team; and funding field trips, etc. When you donate to the Pacer Partner program, you may indicate which department within the school you would like your donation to go towards or request the PAC to direct your funds where they are needed most. Your voluntary donations above \$25 will be eligible for tax receipts.

Funds donated through this program along with a provincial Gaming Grant are the only funds received by the PAC to support student programs. PAC funds are allocated based on funding requests from staff and parents, and in consultation with our school principal. The budget is approved at the PAC AGM each Spring and revised, if necessary, in the Fall once all funding is finalized. The Dry Grad Committee, which is run separately from the PAC, does fundraising throughout the year to support the annual Red-Carpet Grad Walk and Dry Grad celebration for the Grade 12 students.

All parents have an equal vote at the PAC meetings, so this is where you have the ability to influence the spending priorities. Consider your unique perspective as a valuable resource for your child's school and join us at our PAC meetings. (3rd Wednesday monthly, 7pm in the school library or virtually)

*In order to plan and implement PAC initiatives for the coming school year, we would appreciate receiving donations by **October 31st**. **Cheques should be made payable to "Delta Secondary School"**, not to the PAC. Please drop off the donation form and cheque at the school office. You must complete the attached form to receive a tax receipt by the end of this calendar year. To protect your privacy the PAC does not receive a breakdown of what any individual or family has donated.*

Thank you to everyone who gives of themselves for our children and our school.

The Delta Secondary School Parent Advisory Council

I would like to become a PACER PARTNER and donate to the Delta Secondary School PAC

Title: _____ First name: _____ Last name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal code: _____

Home phone number: _____

Please accept my donation of: \$ _____ Date: _____

Please send this form with a cheque made payable to "Delta Secondary School".

Choose:

I would like my donation to be used where it is most needed

*I would like my donation to be directed to _____
(name of program)*

*Please indicate if you require a tax receipt: YES _____ NO _____
(tax receipts will only be issued for donations of \$25 or more)*

Through the generosity of your donation, the education that our children receive remains at exceptional standards and continues to be enhanced because of your caring and direct support.

Thank you for making the education of our students a priority in your family life.

DSS PAC