



DELTA SECONDARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Summer Greetings!

Student Course Schedules

Student course schedules will be viewable on MyED by 3pm on **Thursday, August 29th**. While every effort is made to design the school timetable to avoid course conflicts, some students, because of combinations of courses, may not have all requested courses scheduled. During the first week of school our counsellors will be assisting new registrants and students with incomplete schedules. Students with incomplete schedules should report to the counselling office during the unassigned block.

Students requesting a course change must complete the Course Change Request Form posted on the DSS website and wait for a response from your counsellor. (Form will be emailed and posted on Aug. 28th) **Students must attend all scheduled courses until they receive a response from their assigned counsellor.**

Welcome Grads of 2029

We are excited to be welcoming our 2029 grads for their first day of high school. Students will attend an assembly, then meet with their A block teachers for orientation. Following A block students can pick up a treat in the cafeteria and explore the school.

Dear DSS Families,

I hope that this message finds you well and enjoying a long, safe and energizing summer break. And like me, I hope you too are looking forward to an exciting year of learning at Delta Secondary School.

A new school year brings an energy, anticipation, and optimism unlike any other time of the year: the opportunity to re-connect with friends, colleagues, to share summer stories and hopes for the year ahead. New beginnings bring possibilities of new connections and new learning, and a fresh commitment to achieve one's personal best.

To our returning students, I encourage you to approach the new school year with determination, focus, and commitment. To our new students, including those who are approaching their first year of high school, I extend a warm welcome. It is our hope that you will soon view DSS as your school, where your contributions will serve to enhance the excellent culture that exists at Delta Secondary.



Grade 8 Parent/Student Night-August 29th

Delta will be holding an information session for our Grade 8 students and families on Thursday, August 29th from 6:00-7:00pm. Families will be provided with information regarding start-up and students in attendance will be provided with their schedules and have an opportunity to explore the school ahead of the first day.

International Student Orientation Day

An in-person orientation for new international students will be held on **Tuesday, August 27th**. We would like to welcome them and are excited to be hosting a large number of international students from all over the world. Please watch your emails for communication from our International Programs.

Administration

Mr. Kevin. Vasconcelos, Principal
(Gr. 12)

Mr. Ian Close, Vice-Principal
(Gr. 8 & 10)

Ms. Joanna Macintosh, Vice- Principal
(Gr. 9 & 11)

Counsellor Assignments

Ms. Kinnis	Last Name	A-De
Ms. Greene.	Last Name	Dh-Lo
Ms. Rohwer	Last Name	Lu-Pa & International
Ms. Gillis	Last Name	Pe-Z

Opening Day Schedule-Tuesday, September 3rd

Grade 9	10:00am-11:30am	Block A, Assembly
Grade 10	10:00am-11:30am	Assembly, Block A
Grade 11	11:30am-1:00pm	Block A, Assembly
Grade 12	11:30am-1:00pm	Assembly, Block A
Grade 8	1:00pm-2:30pm	Assembly, Block

Upon arrival, students in Grade 9-12 should report to the assembly (Genesis Theatre) or A block (Gr. 9 A Block/Assembly, Gr. 10 Assembly/A block, Gr. 11 A Block/Assembly, Gr. 12 Assembly/A block). During the A block classes staff will take attendance, assign student lockers, hand out student agendas (Gr. 8 & 9), review student handbook and our opening week schedule. Gr. 12's with an A block study block will be in the library for their orientation following the assembly. The first day of classes is a short day. Regular classes begin Wednesday, September 4th.

New Staff

As we begin a new school year, we welcome a number of new staff to the team at Delta. New to the school community are the following staff members:

- Mr. Ian Close (Vice-Principal)
- Ms. Erin Conroy (Science)
- Mr. Rob Erickson (Supportive Learning)
- Mr. Alex Harvey (Supportive Learning/Gradquest)
- Ms. Casey Miller (English/Psychology)
- Mr. Jeevan Saran (Math)
- Ms. Rebecca Spencer (Business)
- Mr. Reid Urquhart (Supportive Learning/Gradquest)
- Mr. Kevin Vasconcelos (Principal)
- Mr. Mark Woloshen (English/Social Studies)

Please join me in welcoming our new staff to our Delta Secondary community

A complete list of Delta staff with emails can be found on the [Delta website](#).

Photographs

All students will have their pictures taken on **Thursday, September 12th**. Photos are required for Transit ID, yearbooks, and certificates. If you would like to purchase a photo package, please visit the Artona Website to choose your package and pay for your selection. An email will be sent to families as soon as photos are available to view and purchase. Appropriate attire is required for photographs and hats are not to be worn. Retakes are scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, October 30th.

2024 – 2025 School Calendar & Schedule:

Delta's 2024 -2025 school calendar is viewable on the [school website](#). The calendar outlines days in session, non-instructional days, reporting periods and other important dates for your planning.

The school year will again be running linear at Gr. 8 & 9 and semester at Gr. 10-12. Each day will comprise of four blocks, where students will be attending four 70 minute classes per day with a scheduled 35-minute flex block 4 days per week. On Wednesdays, we will once again have a later start to support the District initiative of Teacher Collaboration Days. Students will begin class at 9:30am on Wednesdays and end at 2:45pm.

Delta's 2024-2025 Bell Schedule:

2024/2025 Bell Schedule (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

Period	Begin	End
Period 1	8:30	9:40
Flex	9:45	10:20
Period 2	10:25	11:35
Lunch	11:35	12:15
Period 3	12:20	1:30
Period 4	1:35	2:45

2024/2025 Wednesday (Late Start) Schedule

Period	Begin	End
Teacher Collaboration	8:30	9:25
Period 1	9:30	10:35
Period 2	10:40	11:45
Lunch	11:45	12:25
Period 3	12:30	1:35
Period 4	1:40	2:45

- **Block Rotation Semester:** Week 1 Day 1 / Day 2 (A, B, C, D)
Week 2 Day 1 / Day 2 (B, A, D, C)
- **Block Rotation Linear:** Week 1 Day 1 (A1, B1, C1, D1) / Day 2 (A2, B2, C2, D2)
Week 2 Day 1 (B1, A1, D1, C1) / Day 2 (B2, A2, D2, C2)

The flex time will be used as instructional time to provide additional support for students within their classes. The time will also be used to provide academic support in our inclusive learning programs (LST, Gradquest, SLP, Modified Academics, Life Skills). As flex time is instructional time, **attendance in flex is mandatory** and staff will be taking attendance every day. Students will attend a set flex during the first two weeks with choice/sign-up flex starting **Thursday, September 12th**.

DSS Events Calendar

For the 2024-2025 school year DSS has created an Events Calendar that is viewable on the [DSS website](#). This calendar will continue to be updated through the year to include all school events that we want to communicate to our school community. Interested families can also subscribe to the calendar so that is is viewable on your personal devices. Instruction for subscribing to the calendar can be found under [Parent Resources-Calendar](#) on our school website.

Restricting Cellphone Usage in Schools

Please be reminded that restrictions on the use of cellphones and other personal digital devices came into effect on July 1, 2024. The district emailed families regarding these changes on June 20. You can read the letter here: <https://district.public.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/06/DS-Letter-home-Personal-Digital-Devices-June-20-2024.pdf>. For more information and frequently asked questions, please also visit: [Secondary school restrictions](#)

Student Attendance and Absences

At Delta, we are committed to educating and supporting our students to help them realize their full potential and live purposeful lives. We recognize that in order to achieve this, we must establish a partnership with our students and their parents or guardians.

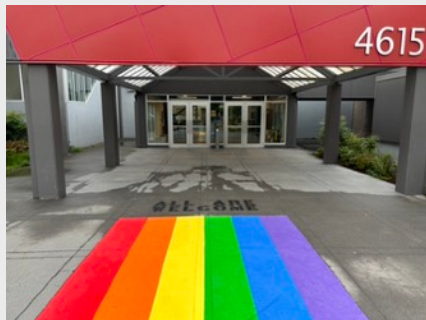
We believe that the essence of our educational programs occurs in classrooms with skilled teachers. Explanations, clarifications, discussions, opportunities for feedback, and group tasks are invaluable components of an effective educational program. This is why our policy regarding attendance is that **students are expected to attend all classes that they are registered in every day**.

Developing effective attendance habits, as well as being to class on time, requires the cooperation of students, parents, the school, and the community. We must work together to promote, carefully monitor, and

All Are Welcome Rainbow Crosswalk

In the fall, students at Delta secondary school will be welcomed back to school by the Pride Progress flag. Students in the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) Club at Delta Secondary School have been successful in advocating and securing funds for the rainbow flag to be placed in prominent location at their school to help foster a sense of inclusivity, belonging and respect among students, with the message "ALL ARE WELCOME"

At DSS, the rainbow flag has been painted on the main walkway leading up to the school.



"This rainbow walkway was five years in the making," said teachers Anna Munns, Jasmine Jassal and Lauren Sortome, who help run the GSA Club. "We are excited to see students' vision finally come to life."



encourage regular attendance and good work habits. A review of our data from previous years clearly indicates that poor attendance is linked to poor achievement.

To report a student absence please:

1. Contact the school office by phone (604-946-4194) or
2. Notify the school by email delta.sec@deltaschools



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, which will email a message by default.

Locker Assignments

Lockers and locks will be assigned to students during block A on the first day of class (September 3rd). The locker number and combination will be posted to Student Connect once the information has been collected by staff. Students should have their own additional lock for the PE change rooms in order to properly secure their belongings. The school is not responsible for the loss of any items from their locker in the hallway or in the PE change rooms.



Student Agendas/My School Day App

Grade 8/9 and inclusive learning students will be provided with a print copy of the school agenda.

Students in grade 10-12 and all parents are encouraged to download the MY SCHOOL DAY APP! The app is now available on both the iOS and Google Play App stores by searching for "MY SCHOOL DAY". All students and parents are encouraged to download and use the MY SCHOOL DAY APP. The app contains the student handbook, bell schedule and rotation, digital agenda and will be used to send out notifications.

Communication with Families

Most of our communication with families is done electronically through our website, email, school app and Parent Connect. Please ensure you have provided us a current email address, updated contact information and you are able to log into Parent Connect and MYED. Please visit the [DSS website-Parent Community](#) for more information or contact the DSS office if you require assistance.

Medical Alerts

Parents of students with medical conditions must complete a Medical Alert Card, which will be kept on file in the Office. Medical Alert Cards are available at the front desk in the Office. These cards should be updated by the parent/guardian each September and as the need arises.

Class of 2025

We'd like to give a special "welcome back" to the members of this year's graduating class, the class of 2025. For most of you (and your parents), this year has arrived very quickly. This is clearly an exciting and important time in your life, and if you apply yourself and commit to maintaining a healthy balance in your life and in your schooling, you will be rewarded. At the completion of this school year, you will have completed an important part of your development and be moving on to post-secondary studies and/or the world of work. It is important, therefore, that each of you have as successful a year as you can. By doing your best, you will be able to put yourself in a good position for next year and be able to keep many options open.

As the graduating class, you also have a key role to play in the life of Delta Secondary School. You can, and should, provide both leadership and a sense of purpose to the rest of the student body. Make this year a positive one!

As individuals, and as a collective, you have tremendous potential. Set goals for yourselves, and, with the help of your teachers and parents, go after them. Have a great senior year!



Graduation Requirements

It is the responsibility of the students to ensure that graduation requirements are met. Please refer to the Course Planning Guide or check with your counsellor regarding graduation requirements. For post secondary requirements, it is absolutely necessary to check your program with your counsellor or our Career Advisor, Ms. Jew. More information is available on our [Career Website](#).

Career Life Connections and Capstone

All Grade 12 students will be enrolled in CLC 12 and complete a graduating capstone project as part of their graduation requirements. Information on CLC and Capstone were provided to students last year and students and families will receive more information from our CLC coordinator, Ms. Paige Hansen. Students should ensure they are aware of all assignments and keep up with the posted deadlines throughout the year. If you have any questions regarding CLC/Capstone, please email Ms. Hansen at phansen@deltaschools.ca.

Extended Absences-Vacation During School Time

Over the past few years we have noticed an increase in the number of families scheduling extended family trips during the school year. This has led to pressure on both students and staff and in a number of cases students were unsuccessful in meeting the learning outcomes in some courses due to the missed learning opportunities. Please see below for Delta's policy regarding 'Vacation During School Time':

"At Delta Secondary, we are not in a position to grant or deny permission for any student to miss school for an extended holiday. Those are parent/guardian decisions. However, we do not endorse students missing school time for vacation.

Teachers cannot duplicate valuable class time for students who are on extended vacations. It is not unusual for students to see a significant decline in marks following an extended absence.

Teachers are not required to provide assignments for students before or after their vacation. Teachers have the discretion in determining how and when assessments are made up so students can demonstrate learning. Arrangements must be made directly with the student's individual teacher well before a student leaves."

School Fees

Fees are payable in a number of courses in order to cover the costs of various resources. Fees include a basic student fee, an emergency preparedness fee, a locker rental fee, and in some cases, students may be assessed a 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. If you choose not to purchase a yearbook the fee will be removed after the deadline to purchase.



Notification of the fees owed by your child according to the courses in which he/she is enrolled will be viewable on Parent Connect at the end of September. Fees are payable online using Parent Connect or paid by cheque, cash or card at the Delta office. If paying by cash or cheque at the office, please include your student's five digit student number.

Delta's 2024/2025 School and Course Fees

No fees will be charged for regular courses or programs. However, legislation has clarified areas where school fees may be charged. Fees must be paid in advance of participation in extra-curricular activities including field trips or grad events. In accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines, fees will be charged in certain courses for various activities and/or materials as outlined below:

Student Activity fees: All students are required to pay their student fee which covers the cost of the Student Agenda App and helps with Athletics, Student Council, Assemblies, Guest Speakers, Awards and Earthquake Preparedness.

Grad Fee: Grade 12 students will be required to pay a Graduation Fee (\$40) to help defray costs associated with the purchase of caps, tassels, gowns and facility rental for Valedictory. There will be additional costs for the Grad Boat Cruise, Grad Dinner and Dance and the Dry Grad After Party.

Athletics: Students playing on any school athletic team will be expected to pay a sport specific athletic fee to help offset the cost of transportation, officials, registration, etc. Fees may vary according to the expenses incurred by the particular sport and league.

Enhancement Fees: No fees will be charged for any projects/assignments in Grade 8; however, in Grades 9 - 12 students in art and woodwork will be charged a course fee to cover the cost of materials for any take-home projects and/or where enhanced materials are selected (e.g. higher grade of wood from the basic quality supplied by the school).

Physical and Health Education: In PHE 11 and 12 courses, students may have the opportunity to participate in off campus field trips and activities at cost.

Work Books: No fees will be charged for any textbooks; however, in some courses students will be offered the option of purchasing a supplemental student workbook. These books may be taken home, written in, and used at the student's discretion. School copies of the workbook will be available to students not wishing to purchase their own, but students must not write in them and must return them at the end of the school year in good condition. In some cases a deposit will be collected for school supplied work books.

Field Trips: Throughout the year, in various courses, students will be invited to participate in course related field trips at cost. Although these trips are designed to enrich students' learning experiences, participation will be optional.

Yearbook: Optional purchase. A \$50 optional yearbook fee will be charged to all students at the start of the year. Students wishing to purchase a yearbook must pay the 'optional fee' before the yearbooks are ordered. Reminder emails will be sent to families throughout the year. Reminder that all fees must be paid prior to students picking up their yearbook in June.

Accommodating Hardship: where economic hardship is a barrier to participation, the school will work with parents and students to find alternate means to allow the student to participate. Questions regarding this process should be addressed to the Principal or your child's counsellor.

Permission Forms

There are several forms on Parent Connect for you to review and authorize. Please login to Parent Connect, (<https://cimsweb.deltasd.bc.ca/schoolconnect/parentsignon.aspx>) 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, Permission for Google Classroom, Outside Media in Schools, Electronic Communications, Walking Field Trips Permission, BC Fruits and Vegetables Program Permission, Demographic Information, and Student Emergency Release.

Information on logging in or creating a new account for Parent Connect is available on the [DSS Website](#). If you require assistance logging into Parent Connect please contact the office.

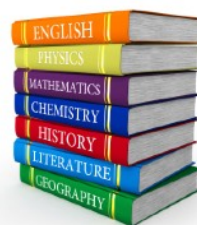
School Supplies

Students do not need to bring in their school supplies on Tuesday but are welcome to bring in some items to get their assigned lockers setup. Students should have writing materials (paper, pencils, pens) ready for our first full day, Wednesday, September 4th. Teachers will provide students with a course outline that will include any required materials for individual courses.

Students with PHE scheduled in first semester should have a change of clothes and be prepared for gym on Wednesday.

Textbooks

The school lends textbooks to students for use during the school year. Students are held responsible for their textbooks and are required to pay replacement costs for lost texts and repair costs for damaged texts.



Parking and Pick Up/Drop off Areas

There are two main parking lots at the school. The one in front of the main office/entrance is for staff only. Because of the congestions in the morning and after school we ask that parents, who are dropping off their children at those times, please observe the **"No Drop Off"** and **"No Parking"** signs. When this does not happen we often end up with situations that are dangerous to our students and very difficult for our buses to get to their appointed pick up areas.

The second lot is located at the north end of the school and can be used by students, staff and visitors. It also has a drop off lane for parents bringing their children to school. Please use that when possible,

however, this lane is not suitable for pick ups at the end of the school day and we ask parents to either pull into a parking spot or arrange to pick up away from the school.

The Delta Police have asked us to remind drivers that the “No Parking” signs on 51st across from the front of the school also mean “No Stopping”. At the order of the Fire Marshall, we have painted some of the curbs yellow to indicate no parking as well. This is to ensure that emergency vehicles have access to the school when needed and applies mainly to “Night School” students. Please drive carefully and patiently around the school – especially in the morning between 8:00-8:40 and in the afternoon between 2:50-3:20. Thank you for your cooperation.



PAC

As well as working with a highly professional and caring teaching and support staff at Delta, I also look forward to working with the many committed and hard-working parents of our school community. Our Parent Advisory Council have the opportunity to positively impact the tone and direction of our school. The DSS PAC meets once a month during the school year (typically the third Wednesday). All parents are invited to attend the next meeting on Wednesday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Check out the DSS PAC Website: <https://deltasecondaryschool.wordpress.com/about/>

If you would like to receive regular PAC updates by email (including the minutes of PAC meetings), please contact PAC directly.

PAC Executive & Committee Chairs (Contact any one of the PAC executive by email at dsspac@live.ca)

Cafeteria Food Service

Delta students and staff are looking forward to having daily food service available through our Pacer Bistro. Cafeteria service will be available with a limited menu starting Monday, September 9th and will return with their full menu by September 11th. . Weekly menu offerings will be published on the school website and on the hallway TV's.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Delta Secondary offers a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities in the areas of athletics, student clubs and performing arts, which are open to students in all grades. We encourage all students to get involved in the extra-curricular life of the school. A “Club Week” will be held the week of September 23rd to showcase activities that are available for students.

Mr. Andrew Robson and Ms. Kayla Jow are the DSS Athletic Directors and 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 at arobson@deltaschools.ca.

Student participation in all extra curricular 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 extra curricular events. More information will come out over the course of the year.

Protocol for Parent Concerns at Delta Secondary

If parents 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 a phone call, email, or by making 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 come directly to one of the school administrators.

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 Delta 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 when difficulties arise. Sharing difficulties in more roundabout 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.

Setting Students Up For Success

Please take the time to review the contents of this newsletter, highlighting many of the key dates and details that will assist in supporting a successful start up for your student. It's also a good idea to monitor the school website for changes and additional start-up information.

In the days and weeks ahead, I encourage you to help your student create a mental picture of their success this year, to listen and offer advice as they draw up a strategy to achieve their goals and support them as they put their plan into action over the course of the school year.



In the past, we've offered this advice on how parents can help support their child's education. I think they are good reminders:

- 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.

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy year of learning. In the meantime, if you have any comments or questions, please contact me at the school (604-946-4194) or by email, kvasconcelos@deltaschools.ca

Message From Translink- 609 Ladner Exchange

Starting September 2, TransLink is implementing its Fall Service Changes which includes an extension of bus route 609 to Ladner Exchange from its current terminus in Tsawwassen First Nation. Service frequencies on the 609 will also be increasing throughout the week. With this extension, the 609 will provide easy access to Delta Secondary, Ladner Elementary, and Ladner Town Centre.

Also, with this change the northbound route, formerly the 609 Tsawwassen First Nation, will become the 609 Ladner Exchange. The southbound route will remain the 609 South Delta Exchange.

To find out more, please visit <https://www.translink.ca/servicechanges>.



Important Dates to Note

Student Schedules Released- Thursday, August 29th

Grade 8 Open House- Thursday, August 29th

School Opens - Tuesday, September 3rd

School Photos - Thursday, September 12th

PAC Meeting- Wednesday, September 18th

Terry Fox Run- Tuesday, September 19th

Non-Instructional Day - Friday, September 20th

Grad Boat Cruise- Tuesday, September 24th

BC Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Schools Closed) - Monday, September 30th

For a complete calendar of events, check out the DSS website: <https://de.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/>



Kevin Vasconcelos

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