

September 18, 2020

And then the show began.

The first week of classes has been awesome. We are welcoming around 660 students each day and they are following the safety protocols and moving through the school in safe ways. Things are running pretty smoothly and I would like to thank the families and the students for their cooperation and trust in the school. It means a lot to the staff and administration. I recognize that there was some (maybe a lot) stress for families, students and staff to have that many people at school together. It is working and we are doing our very best to make school safe for everyone and to provide an excellent learning experience. Sands is being flexible and adapting to changes ~~and errors~~ as they come up. As the amount of new ~~updates~~ ~~news~~ slows down you will begin to see fewer newsletters from me. **However, if you have a question or are looking for information, please don't hesitate to call the school or check out our website.**

I would like to share with you some important information that is new **as well as** some reminders.

If your student needs to meet with a Counsellor, Youth Care Worker or Career and Post-Secondary Advisor (<https://sandscarecentre.weebly.com/>) please email them for an appointment using their deltallearns account. We are not accepting drop ins. If there is an emergency and your student needs to see a Counsellor or Youth **Care Worker, please have them** see our receptionist at the office.

Mr. A. Randhawa – Counsellor (arandhawa@deltallearns.ca)

Ms. K. Mcphedran – Counsellor (kmcphehdran@deltallearns.ca)

Ms. K. Watters – Youth Care Worker (kwatters@deltallearns.ca)

Ms. J. Sansregret – Career and Post-Secondary Advisor (jsansregret@deltallearns.ca)

We are working through the schedule for students in Q2-4 and fixing errors that we have discovered. We think that the schedule should be available in Parent/Student Connect by September 25. We will notify you when this has happened. It will be at this time that we will start to entertain requests for course selection changes in Q2-4. Students/Families will need to email the counsellor for that request. We are going to be limited in the changes we can make because of learning groups and what courses are coupled with. Please be patient as we work through this.

If your child is sick or not feeling well, please make sure they stay at home. Please refer to the attached Daily Health Checklist. You can also find it online [here](#). If you have not gone onto Parent Connect and completed the permission forms, please do so ASAP. The most important one to complete, at this time, is the Daily Health Checklist.

We will welcome students into Sands starting at 8:20 **am** on non-collaboration days. On collaboration days (every Wednesday) doors will open at 9:30 **am**. We ask that students enter the school using the doors closest to their first classroom.

The entrance doors are: Main office, by **the** Wood shop, by the Library, and by **the** basketball court

When students are done for the day, we are asking that students leave the building as quickly as possible. We would like to ask that students do not congregate in groups on the school property (or anywhere!), especially if they are not wearing masks, and return home ASAP.

Most students have classes in Block A and B. This means that most students are done school at 12:55 pm unless they are coming to Block C for support. I would like to remind families and students that teachers are available to support students' learning in the afternoons after lunch starting at 1:30 pm. Teachers will set up office hours, a flex style signup or by appointment. Once Student/Parent Connect opens students will be able to book times to work with teachers. Whether a student attends this support is based on their needs and should be a conversation between students and families. There will be some situation where teachers will encourage students to attend.

LA/LD/Grad Quest and Supportive Learning teachers are available each day from 1:30 pm to support students. For these students they may be required to attend some last afternoon sessions to receive help as needed. This is an enrolling credit course. Support teachers will work with students to build a support system designed for them. Students in these support classes should also be seeking help from their individual class teachers when needed.

Student fees and deposits will be assessed sometime in October once Q2-4 classes have been settled. Some fees are being reduced to reflect the reality of COVID and that some opportunities will not be available to students.

Friday, September 25 is a Professional day. School is not in session.

As always, if you need support or are seeking answers, please contact teachers, counsellors, admin or contact the office. We are here to help families and students.

Take care, be safe and healthy.

Mark Robinson
Principal

Joanna Macintosh
Vice Principal