

January 8, 2021

Dear Families and Students,

I hope that you all had a great winter break. Different, for sure. There are certainly some things to look forward to during this calendar year, including the wide scale roll out of vaccines, graduation and getting back to some semblance of what life was like pre-COVID. We will be forever changed, in our outlooks and the way we do things. Hopefully we can find the positives as we move forward and remain healthy. Take care.

January 4 started the last four weeks of classes for Quarter 2. I know it was like last year but if you have not read your student's report card please do so. They can be viewed on both MyEd and Parent Connect. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the teachers directly via email. The end of the Quarter is Feb 2. Also, encourage your student to make use of the Block C student support time. This can be booked using Student Connect. Some teachers will have open drop in times instead of flex sign up. If your student misses a class or they are struggling, please get them to make use of this time.

**Contact numbers for Fraser Health for questions/advise specific to COVID and schools**

**\* Fraser Health COVID Hotline 604-918-7532**

**\* COVID SCHOOL HUB Hotline 604-587-4769**

With the large number of positive cases of COVID-19 in the Lower Mainland currently, I can't stress enough that we, collectively and individually, need to follow all of the safety protocols as set by our Provincial Health Officer and Fraser Health, including the latest province-wide restrictions:

- Complete the daily health check: <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/09/BCCDC-Daily-Health-Check-Sept-11-2020.pdf>
- Stay home if you are sick
- Try to keep at least 2 metres from people outside of your household
- Wear masks
- Wash and sanitize your hands often
- Avoid gatherings that are beyond your immediate family
- For medical advice call 811 or see your doctor
- Ensure your student knows that they must not gather with other students before and after school

### **Upcoming Events**

- Jan 11 - Lock Down Drill – 9am
- Jan 19 - PAC meeting
- Jan 20 - Online session: Parents as Career and Education Coaches at 7pm. Register here: <https://rb.gy/mphdae>

- Jan 21 – Next Year’s Grade 8’s Parent Night Course Planning - Zoom
- Jan 22 - Pro D
- Jan 25-29 - Cohorted Numeracy Assessment
- Jan 25 – Feb 1 – Mental Health Literacy Grade 8/9
- Feb 1 – last day of regular Q2 and Semester 1 classes
- Feb 1 – registration and applications accepted for the 2021-22 school year
- Feb 2 – 1 day for Q2 and Semester 1 classes
- Feb 2 – Next Year’s Grade 9 and 10 Parent Night - Zoom
- Feb 3 – First Day of Q3 classes
- Feb 4 – Next Year’s Grade 11 and 12 Parent Night - Zoom

### **Attendance**

Student attendance continues to be viewable in Parent Connect and families will receive emails if their child has an unexcused absence. Starting on January 7<sup>th</sup> the school will now be posting “O” (Off-Site) for students scheduled in a hybrid class. Students are marked as ‘off-site’ on the day that they do not attend their hybrid class. If you have any questions regarding attendance please contact the Delview office.

### **Course Planning**

It is that time of the year for us to start getting organized for what course your student would like to take next year. While there is much discussion about what system we will be in, nothing has been solidified yet. We will be planning cohorted and non-cohorted timetables so that we will be ready for September 2021. There are a few parent nights coming up and we will provide as much information as we can and answer questions. Students will be asked to pick courses in February-March and counsellors will be making class visits to help them with this. Picking courses and making thoughtful choices is an integral part of scheduling for the following school year. Please look at the course selection booklet to discuss meaningful choices with your student. Course selection will guide how cohorts are determined. the Course selection will be done in the student MyEd portal. If you have any questions specific to your student you might want to contact one of the counsellors for information or look at the course planning booklet that will be published shortly.

- Jan 21 – Next Year’s Grade 8’s Parent Night Course Planning - Zoom
- Feb 2 – Next Year’s Grade 9 and 10 Parent Night - Zoom
- Feb 4 – Next Year’s Grade 11 and 12 Parent Night – Zoom
- \* Note: Invites to these online Zoom events will be emailed directly to parents. In addition, we will record these sessions and make them available for families afterwards.

### **Numeracy Assessment**

Grade 10 and 11 students have been registered to write in the January sitting of the Numeracy 10 assessment. The Numeracy 10 Assessment assesses mathematical concepts learned throughout a student's years at school. Students will be writing by cohorts in the week of January 25-29. Students who are learning online are invited to write on January 25, at 9:00am in the library. Schedules have been posted throughout the school. As well, students and families have been emailed the schedule as well. Links to sample assessments and information from the Ministry of

Education about the numeracy assessment is posted on our website and was included in the email home.

### **MDI**

This year, the Delta School District is participating in UBC's MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument) survey. The purpose of this survey is to gather information about the health and wellbeing of children in BC ages 10-13. All Grade 8s have the opportunity to participate in this survey. Information was sent to Grade 8 families this week. Families who do not wish for their student to participate are asked to contact the school.

### **Mental Health Literacy**

Students in Grade 8 and 9 who are currently taking PE will be learning about mental health literacy in their PE courses Jan 25 – Feb 1. Just as we know it is important to take care of our physical health, we know it is important to take care of our mental health. This is why we are implementing a mental health literacy program at Sands. More information for parents can be found at [teenmentalhealth.org](http://teenmentalhealth.org)

### **Registration and Applications for the 2021-2022 School Year**

As part of our movement to the next school year, the registration and application process will begin on February 1. Due to the pandemic, schools will not be accepting any face-to-face registration and applications this year. All applications must be submitted online.

#### Registration: for Sands Catchment Students Only

- For registration please email Michelle Chow ([mchow@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:mchow@deltasd.bc.ca)), Sands data coordinator, with all of the information required after February 1 for the 2021-22 school year.
- If your student attends Gray Elementary or Brooke Elementary you do not need to do anything. Your student will be automatically transferred to Sands for Grade 8.
- If you live in the Sands Catchment and attend a Delta School please let the office know of your current school and that you would like your child to attend Sands for the next school year.
- If you live in the Sands catchment and don't attend a Delta School you will need to register.
- Priority is given to students who reside in the Sands Catchment.

#### Applications: for those students that don't reside in the Sands Catchment

- Non-catchment – this means you reside outside of the Sands catchment at the time of the application
- Non-District – this means you reside outside of Delta at the time of the application
- For application forms and more information, please visit the following pages on the district's website:

Registration information - <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/student-registration/>

Application information

Non-Catchment - <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/student-registration/non-catchment/>

Non district - <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/student-registration/non-district/>

Application forms will be available on the district website as of **8:30am on Monday, February 1.**

### **Grad Information**

- Grad Photos – Feb 9-14. Book at <https://artona.com/schools/SNDS/programs/graduation>. Artona will bring a photo shoot trailer to Sands and will have safety protocols in place.
- This is a reminder for you to set up your Student Transcript Service accounts. **You need to do this if you are planning on attending a post-secondary institution (PSI) next fall.** If this is not done, your chosen PSI will not receive your marks and will therefore be unable to offer you admission.
- Reminder, Transcripts ONLY included classes that there is a FINAL mark for. Courses you are currently registered in, but have not completed yet, will not show up. If there is a missing course that you have finished and have a final mark for, please see Mr. Randhawa. We can get it added.
- The Sands Career Centre website, <https://sandscareercentre.weebly.com/>, is a source of information for you and our students. Ms. Sansregrets updates this site frequently so please check it on a regular basis. In addition to providing information on post-secondary education and scholarships, you will find registration links for information sessions hosted by various post-secondary institutions. Please note that at this time all information sessions are virtual. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Ms. Sansregrets can be reached by email at: [jsansregret@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:jsansregret@deltasd.bc.ca) or by phone at 604-594-3474 Local 249.

### **Family and Student support**

If there are supports that Sands can help with please contact me ([mrobinson@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:mrobinson@deltasd.bc.ca)), Ms. Macintosh ([jmacintosh@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:jmacintosh@deltasd.bc.ca)), Mr. Randhawa ([arandhawa@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:arandhawa@deltasd.bc.ca)) or Ms. McPhedran ([kmcphehdan@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:kmcphehdan@deltasd.bc.ca)). We are here to help.

Take care and remember we are here to help in any way we can.

Mark Robinson, Principal

Joanna Macintosh, Vice Principal