

South Delta Secondary School Newsletter

AUGUST 2016



South Delta Secondary School
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Greetings from Mr. Ainge, Principal

Summer Greetings!

I hope that this message finds you well and enjoying a long and energizing summer break. And like me, I hope that you too are looking forward to an exciting year of learning at South 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 and 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 achieving 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 South Delta as your school, where your contributions will serve to enhance the excellent culture that exists at SDSS.

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

Principal	Mr. T. Ainge	(Gr. 12)
Vice-Principal	Mrs. S. Hunt	(Gr. 8 & 10)
Vice-Principal	Mr. M. Woloshen	(Gr. 9 & 11)

Mission Statement

At South Delta Secondary, our mission is

- to provide a stimulating environment where passion is ignited and the creative potential in each of us is realized.
- to motivate and challenge today's learners to be actively engaged, inspired, and empowered to become tomorrow's lifelong learners.
- to forge reciprocal connections with our local and global communities by fostering positive and respectful relationships.
- to develop responsible, accountable, open-minded citizens who accept and celebrate the diversity of others.

- Ms. Amber Young (Learning Assistance/Strategies)
- Ms. Sarah Wong (Math)
- Mr. Sean Weymouth (French, Francais Langue)
- Mdme. Luce Turgeon (French, Francais Langue)
- Mr. Bart Choufour (Physical Education)
- Ms. Cimon Fan (Home Economics)
- Mr. Rhett D'Souza (Social Studies)
- Mr. Kieran Butler (Math)
- Ms. Kate Prefontaine (Stagecraft, Social Studies)
- Ms. Harpreet Tatla (Science)

We wish them all the best in the weeks and months ahead as they transition to new assignments.

As well as working with a highly professional and caring teaching and support staff at SDSS, 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. I invite and encourage all parents to be involved.

One way parents can help improve school-home communication is to ensure that the school has your current, correct email address. And while email will continue to be our primary means of communication alerting you to new postings to our website like the monthly newsletter, online interim reports, online report card availability, we also encourage you to engage with us on Twitter ([@SDSSSundevis](https://twitter.com/SDSSSundevis)) and Facebook ([/sdss.sundevis](https://www.facebook.com/sdss.sundevis)).

The Delta School District has streamlined the annual permission forms required for various functions like demographic information, student emergency release, walking field trip permission and the BC Fruit & Veggie Program. All of these important permission forms can be accessed on Parent Connect. Thank you for your assistance in gathering this important information for us at school.

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 make 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;
- Instill 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. I hope to see all parents at **Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 22nd**. In the meantime, if you have any comments or questions, please contact me at the school (604-943-7407) or by email, tainge@deltasd.bc.ca

Sincerely,
Terry Ainge, Principal

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Link Crew Grade 8 Welcome Assembly - Wednesday, August 31st
- ◆ Grade 12 Parent Evening - Wednesday, August 31st
- ◆ International Student Orientation - Thursday, September 1st
- ◆ Grade 12 Parent Info Night (Grad Activities) - Wednesday, September 28th
- ◆ Schools open - Tuesday, September 6th
- ◆ School Photos - Monday, September 12th
- ◆ Grade 8 Parent Night - Thursday, September 15th
- ◆ Grade 8 Spirit Day - Friday, September 16th
- ◆ Early Dismissal 1:30pm - Thursday, September 22nd
- ◆ Meet the Teacher Night - Thursday, September 22nd
- ◆ Non-Instructional Day - Friday, September 23rd
- ◆ School Fees Due - Monday, October 3rd
- ◆ Grad Transition Booklet Part 1 & 2 Due - September 26th & 27th
- ◆ Grade 12 Parent Evening (Post Secondary / Scholarships) - Wednesday, September 28th

COUNSELLORS

Ms. Hayes
Grade 8 and 9

Ms. Kilpatrick
Grade 10 (Gr. 12 L-Z)

Ms. Diomis
Grade 11 (Gr. 12 A-K)

Student Timetable

While every effort is made to design the school timetable to avoid course conflicts, some students, because of their chosen combination of courses, will not have all courses scheduled. The following dates/times have been put in place to address new registrants and students with incomplete schedules. Please note that the times below are for new students and students with incomplete schedules only. **No course changes will be considered at these times.**

Please go to the front office where there will be a sign-up sheet. Students will be seen on a 'first come - first served' basis. Appointments cannot be pre-scheduled.

NEW REGISTRANTS

Monday, August 29 th	9:00am - 12:00pm
Tuesday, August 30 th	9:00am - 12:00pm
Wednesday, August 31 st (International Students only)	9:00am - 12:00pm

GRADE 8 - 12 STUDENTS WITH COURSE CONFLICTS OR INCOMPLETE SCHEDULES

Monday, August 29 th	1:00 - 3:00pm
Tuesday, August 30 th	1:00 - 3:00pm
Wednesday, August 31 st (International Students only)	1:00 - 3:00pm

General changes will not be made at this time. Course change request forms will be available at the front office September 8th and will be dealt with by counsellors up until Friday, September 16, 2016.

Procedure for Students Who Require a Course Change In September

Since most classes are filled to capacity, the ability to change courses will be quite difficult. Students who desire a course change MUST fill out a Course Change Form available at the Front Office. Leave the form with the receptionist in the Course Change Request container. Counsellors will not be able to consider changes until they have completed registering new students and adjusting incomplete schedules. **Last date for course changes will be Friday, September 16, 2016.** Note: course changes requesting change of teacher and/or block preference will not be considered.

Grade 8 Welcoming Assembly

Our Annual Grade 8 Link Crew Welcoming Assembly is taking place the morning of **Wednesday, August 31st** from **8:30 to 11:30am**. The assembly is organized by The Link Leadership teacher, Mrs. MacGregor, and the Grade 11 and 12 students enrolled in the Link Crew Leadership course. The senior students are looking forward to introducing the new Grade 8s to SDSS, where their classes will be, pointers on meeting new people, and some wisdom about how to face new challenges. Our culture here at SDSS is to help our new members fit into the flow of high school seamlessly and with confidence.

International Student Orientation Day

Orientation Day for new International Students will be held on **Thursday, September 1st** from **9:00 am to 12:00pm**. There will be a school tour, English assessment and fun welcome activities. Please meet at the main office.

Opening Week Procedures

Tuesday, September 6th

Grade 8 & 9	9:30 - 10:30	Assembly Block A
Grades 10 & 11	11:00 - 12:00	Assembly Block A
Grade 12	12:30 - 1:30	Assembly Block A

Students should report to the Theatre at the time designated for their grade. Schedules are available for viewing on Student/Parent Connect Friday, August 26th.

International Students - First Day of School Schedule Tuesday, September 6th

Please come to South Delta Secondary on the first day of school - Tuesday, September 6th and meet the International Coordinator, Sandra Adamson, at the main office.

Grade 8 & 9 students: meet at 9am (plan to stay at school until approximately 10:30am).
Grade 10 & 11 students: meet at 11am (plan to stay at school until approximately 12pm).
Grade 12 students: meet at 12:30pm (plan to stay at school until approximately 1:30pm).

School Fees

Fees are payable in a number of courses in order to cover the costs of various resources. For more information please see the *2016/2017 School and Course Fees* letter near the end of this newsletter. Notification of the fees owed by your son/daughter according to the courses in which he/she is enrolled will be viewable on Parent Connect on **Wednesday, September 21st**. **Please note fees are due October 3rd**. **Cheques (can be post-dated up to December 16, 2016) or cash can be left at the school office.** In order for your payment to be applied correctly, please include your student's five digit student number.

Reporting Student Absence

To report a student absence please:

1. Contact the school office or
2. Notify the school by email
southdelta.sec.cims@deltasd.bc.ca or
3. Send a message through Parent Connect.

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 call-out from the student system, which will call the home phone number by default. **If you would like an alternate number to be used for any absence calls**, such as a cell phone number, please contact Ms. Robertson in the school office. Students must also provide teachers with a note from a parent to explain their absence.

Extended Absences

The purpose of this article is to explain our School's and School District's position regarding extended absences from school for other than medical reasons. These absences occur when parents decide to remove students from school for extended vacations or other family matters.

Schools are not in a position to grant or deny permission to any student to leave school early for family holidays. That decision is the parent's responsibility, however, possible consequences from such a decision should be considered. First, important learning is missed during any absence, and all absent students are at a disadvantage compared to those in regular attendance. Providing assignments for the student to complete while on an extended holiday is for the most part an ineffective substitute for attending classes. Therefore, there can be no guarantees regarding the student's progress and final standing. Tutoring may be necessary to allow the student to catch up with work that has been missed. Parents would be

responsible for the arrangement and cost of such tutoring.

Second, if the absence is extended beyond one month, or if the return date is not certain, the student's place in the class or school may be lost. The district endeavours to provide an appropriate educational program for students, but can determine where that will take place. It is important to recognize that the first priority for a teacher is to help those students who are in regular attendance. Teachers are not obliged to provide homework in advance for students to take with them on vacation.

In conclusion, students are expected to make a sincere effort to catch up on learning missed for any reason. If you wish further clarification of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Locker Assignments

Students are assigned a locker and school lock. The locker number and combination will be posted to Student Connect prior to the first day of school. Due to a shortage, grade 12 students will not be assigned a locker. There will be a form available in the office for grade 12 students who wish to have a locker. These lockers will be available on a first come, first serve basis. **Students should have their own 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 / SDSS App

As in the past, students will be offered a Student Agenda during the first week of school. The Agenda contains a calendar of events for the 2016/2017 school year as well as a daily planning calendar that students are encouraged to use to record homework, assignments, and test dates. Alternatively, students will be given information to download a school app with the functionality of the agenda book and accessible via a smartphone or tablet.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

There will be occasions when the school and/or the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) would like to contact parents to communicate information about important events. **Unless we are contacted prior to September 6th, 2016, your name, address, email and phone number will be made available to our PAC, or other school related committees responsible for organizing school related activities.** No personal information is made available for business or commercial purposes or to the general public.

Cafeteria

There will be no cafeteria services available during the first week of school and limited services during the week of September 12th. Regular service will commence the following week.

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. **All outstanding charges and fees for the past school year must be paid prior to students receiving their course schedules and their textbooks for the 2016/2017 school year.**

Photographs

All students will have their pictures taken on **Monday, September 12th**. Photos are required for Transit ID, yearbooks, and certificates. If you would like to purchase a photo package please logon to www.artonagroup.com to choose your package and pay for your selection. Appropriate attire is required for photographs and hats are not to be worn. Students will be accompanied by their classroom teacher. Retakes are scheduled for the morning of **Thursday, October 11th at 8:30am.**

Protocol for Parent Concerns at South 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 with 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 the vice-principal of your child's grade. If there is still an outstanding concern, contact the principal.

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 South 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 round about 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 children are watching our examples.

Parking and Pick Up/Drop off Areas

Please
avoid
blocking
the Staff
Parking
lot
access

With nearly 1,500 students and staff coming to South Delta Secondary School every day, the traffic before 8:30am and after 2:50pm is quite congested. To ensure the safety of all when traffic is busy, please use the designated areas when dropping off or picking up your son/daughter from SDSS. The preferred place to pick up or drop off students is the parking lot off of 8A Avenue. It is not the closest to the school, but the lot has the most area to ensure everyone is safe. Please do not enter the staff parking lot. Happy safe driving!

Guidelines For Student Illness At School

School is a place where students come to actively participate in learning, to engage in physical activities and to socialize. In the course of the school year, children often become ill and then parents must make a decision as to whether their child can or should attend school. The following are some guidelines in determining when a child should not be at school:

- If your child is developing an acute cold or influenza with fever, runny nose and/or eyes, and sore throat
- If your child has a persistent cough
- If your child has a fever over 38 degrees centigrade (100 degrees Fahrenheit)
- If your child has diarrhea or vomiting
- If your child has a communicable disease, e.g. Chicken pox, measles, rubella, mumps. If your child contracts a communicable disease, please notify the school so that other families can be alerted.

Children who have a fever, vomiting or diarrhea should be free of these symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school.

Student Accident Insurance

The District would like to draw your attention to Optional Student Accident Insurance that is again available to all students registered with the Delta School District. This insurance is inexpensive and provides three different plan options.

Parents are reminded that the District's insurance coverage does not include coverage for students who have been injured in an accident.

Please take a moment to determine if the insurance offered by IAP Kids Plus Accident Insurance meets the needs of your family.

You can learn more by:

- Visiting the IAP website: www.iapkidsplus.com

ATTENTION

The Delta School District does not provide student accident insurance.

Please consider your family's requirements carefully.

The [SDSS Newsletter](http://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/content/newsletters) is only available on the school web site at <http://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/content/newsletters> If you would like to receive notification of upcoming events and a reminder that the newsletter has been posted, please ensure that your e-mail address is updated in Parent Connect. Newsletters are not published in September and January.

The Aboriginal Program at SDSS

The Aboriginal Educational Program assists Aboriginal students (Metis, First Nation, Inuit, “Indian” Status, and Non Status, including any portion of ancestry) achieve greater success in school. This is accomplished by providing Aboriginal Support Workers along with Aboriginal community members, who are familiar with and sensitive to the values, beliefs, and needs of the Aboriginal community. It is this cultural sensitivity and awareness that acts as a bridge between the two cultures, necessary in assisting Aboriginal students maintain academic success. By raising cultural issues, a bridge can be built to assist Aboriginal students in being successful participants in school. Registration forms are available at the office. Students who sign

Parent Connect <https://cimsweb.deltasd.bc.ca/schoolconnect/parentsignon.aspx>

Parent Connect is a web-based product for parents to view their student’s demographics, attendance, schedules, Parent/Teacher Conference times and Principal’s List, Honour Roll and G Club status. Parents are able to change phone numbers, contacts and email addresses, but not home addresses. Interim reports and report cards will be available electronically only, viewed and/or printed directly from Parent Connect. Teachers will be using Parent Connect to post course assignments throughout the school year. Parent Connect can be accessed by either your student’s PEN or your email address. If you have more than one student attending SDSS, you can use your email address to sign in to bring up all students. (Siblings are linked by the same email address.)

Student Connect <https://cimsweb.deltasd.bc.ca/schoolconnect/stuconsignon.aspx>

Student Connect gives students view-only access to the above information.

International Students at SDSS

Submitted by Mrs. Adamson

Did you know that the Delta District hosts international students from 25 different countries? We are pleased to welcome over 100 international students to our school. SDSS will be the school most will graduate from while others are here for short stints to gain cultural and language experiences in an English-speaking country. This influx of students with diverse cultural backgrounds is a win-win situation for our own home-grown students as they, too, benefit from this cross-cultural exposure.

SDSS students of all grades are encouraged to become international Student Mentors who will help organize and run special events for and with our international students. Please listen to announcements for meeting times or see Mrs. Adamson in Room 131.

15th Annual Grade 8 Spirit Day ~ Friday, September 16th, 2016

South Delta Secondary is very proud and excited to provide a Grade 8 transition program to its new students. Our Grade 8 Orientation is a team building event, which brings together our new grade eights, teachers, and parent volunteers.

Our annual Grade 8 Orientation aims to accomplish three objectives:

1. To provide a comforting and constructive bridge between grade seven and eight.
2. To assist the grade eights in understanding our shared expectations for all students and staff.
3. To give our new students an orientation to the resources and activities available to them at the school.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

GRADE 8 PARENTS' NIGHT - 7PM THEATRE

Meet parents, PAC representatives, administrators, and the grade eight counsellor. Find out about school policies, day to day procedures, communications and how to get involved.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th

GRADE 8 STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENT VOLUNTEERS

- Breakfast hosted by the Students' Council
- T-Shirt distribution and Group Photo
- Barbeque lunch followed by various activities

Grade 8 Spirit Day Parent Volunteers

We are actively encouraging grade 8 parents to sign up and assist with our Grade 8 Spirit Day on September 16th. If you have not signed on to help and would like to be involved or have any questions, contact Volunteer Parent Chairperson, Tina Klassen at sdss2021@gmail.com. This is a great opportunity for you to be involved in the school, meet the staff, and get to know other Grade 8 parents.

Meet the Teacher Event: Thursday, September 22, 2016, 6:30 PM



We are pleased to invite parents to South Delta Secondary School's "Meet the Teacher Night" on the evening of **Thursday, September 22nd starting at 6:30pm.** At this time parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's teachers to gain a sense of the curriculum, assessment procedures and activities in each of their courses. This is an excellent chance for parents to learn something about what's being taught, how it's being taught and how it's being evaluated, and also to get a sense of who that person is who's working with your child for 100 plus hours throughout the school year!

Please note, that this will not be the time for parents to talk about their individual child with the teacher.

The evening will begin in the theatre with a brief welcome from the school administration. Student representatives from a variety of SD's student service groups and clubs will inform the audience about volunteer and fun extra-curricular opportunities for our students.

After this, parents will then follow their child's Day 1 and Day 2 schedule, spending 8 minutes in the classroom of each of their child's teachers, with a 4 minute break to move between each class. Student volunteers will be available to assist parents in finding their way to the classrooms. At approximately 8:15pm parents will return to the theatre for a demonstration of how to log in to Parent Connect, an important tool with which parents can track their child's assignment completion. The evening will end at approximately 8:30pm.

We encourage all parents to be a part of this evening to help ensure you have a working knowledge of what lies ahead for your children. Please join us for this informational evening.

REMEMBER TO PRINT OFF YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL SCHEDULE FROM PARENT CONNECT PRIOR TO JOINING US FOR THE EVENING.



To commemorate the 36th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run, all SDSS students will be participating in a run/walk around Tsawwassen on **Friday, September 30th**. Students will be asked to donate a loonie to support cancer research. Pledge forms will be available in the first week of school for students who are interested in raising additional funds.

"If you've given a dollar, you are part of the Marathon of Hope" - Terry Fox, 1980

An Important Message for Students and Parents Regarding Plagiarism

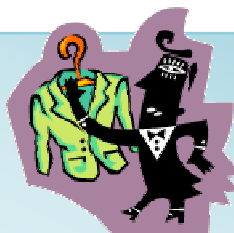
The staff of South Delta Secondary School shares a concern about plagiarism in various assignments and projects that have been handed in by students. A common misconception by students is that rewriting something is not plagiarism because they are "putting it in their own words"; however, the majority of plagiarism is a result of text manipulation. Plagiarism, according to the *American College Dictionary* is "copying or imitating the language, ideas and thoughts of another author, and passing off the same as one's own original work." If the source is not officially acknowledged, it is plagiarism. Plagiarism is dishonest.

The following is the policy of South Delta Secondary School concerning plagiarism:

1. Whenever students use any idea derived substantially and directly from a published work, from a fellow student, or from any other source, they must explicitly acknowledge the nature and extent of the indebtedness.
2. Whenever students borrow three or more words, an original term, or a distinctive turn of phrase from a published work, from a fellow student or from any other source, they must enclose the borrowed element in quotation marks and explicitly acknowledge their indebtedness.

At the teacher's discretion, a student may receive a zero on a paper or assignment for plagiarism.

Appropriate Dress for School



SDSS recognizes the importance of teenage clothing styles and understands that not all of the current styles are appropriate attire to wear to school.

Our school is not unlike a place of business, where there are appropriate standards of dress that communicate respect for self and others. At all times, we expect that students will avoid wearing clothing that is too revealing and informal. When students wear revealing clothing, it is uncomfortable for staff and other students. We ask students to be mindful of others and respectful of their sensitivities. Delta School District is obligated to provide a safe and comfortable work environment for all its employees and a suitable learning environment for all students. We ask parents and students for their support. Please speak with your student(s) about the necessity of wearing work-appropriate clothing to school. If you wish further clarification of this matter, please contact the school at 604-943-7407.

Class of 2017



We'd like to give a special "welcome back" to the members of this year's graduating class, the class of 2017. 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 be moving on to post-secondary studies or to careers in 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 South 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!

Grad Fees

At the beginning of the school year the grade 12's are assessed a **\$40.00 "Grad Fee"**. This fee goes towards the cost of the **Valedictory Event**. There will be additional costs for the Grad Dinner and Dance and the Dry Grad After Party.

Grade 12 Parent Evening - Wednesday, August 31st

Grade 12 is an important and exciting year and we are pleased to welcome all grade 12 parents to an information evening on **Wednesday, August 31st**, at 7pm in the Equinox Theatre. School staff will provide parents with an overview of graduation activities and important timelines. Representatives from 2017's Dry Grad Committee will also be on hand to talk to parents about Dry Grad. Grade 12 students are welcome and encouraged to attend with their parents.

A separate information evening for parents, regarding scholarships and post-secondary applications will be held on **Wednesday, September 28th**.

Graduation Transitions

The Graduation Transitions Program is a graduation requirement for all BC secondary school students. All Grade 10, 11, and 12 students are required to meet prescribed learning outcomes in three areas:

- ❖ Personal Health
- ❖ Community Connections
- ❖ Career and Life

Completion of these learning outcomes will be noted on their transcripts as “RM” (Requirement Met) for Graduation Transitions, and students will be awarded four credits. Generally, the Personal Health section requires 80 hours of moderate physical activity, the Community Connections section requires 30 hours of volunteer or paid work, and the Career and Life section requires the completion of a Transition Plan from high school to post-secondary study or work.

GUIDELINES TO COMPLETING GRAD TRANSITIONS - @ SOUTH DELTA SECONDARY

All students must complete the required Ministry of Education course, Graduation Transitions 12, worth four (4) credits in order to receive the Dogwood Certification of High School Graduation from British Columbia.

Grad transitions (GT) advisors will be visiting all grade 12s in their scheduled English 12 classes to track the students' progress. Following the timeline laid out in the **Grad Transitions booklet** available on our school website (<http://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/content/grad-transitions>), Grade 12 students will have completed this required course by **November 22, 2016**. However, we encourage all grade 12s to work on the contents during this summer vacation with the aim of completing it before September.

Everyone must have a **half-inch binder** in which to put their printed copy of the Graduation Transitions booklet and the completed answers for each section. Everything must be **typed**. Photocopies of **supporting documents** must be included in the binder. Using **sheet protectors** to contain these copies is a good idea.

Remember to collect all required **signatures** on the required pages (DPA, counsellor review of credits, work experience or community service verification, parent signature page). You will also need to book an appointment with Ms. Foster, Career Advisor, to discuss your plan and you will also need to get her signature.

On **September 26th** and **27th**, your GT advisor will be visiting classes to track your progress as **Part I and II** of the package are due on that date. **Part III** is due **October 14th** and **Parts IV and V** are due **November 7th**. Exit interviews with one of the GT advisors will take place **November 21st** and **22nd**. All grade 12s must be prepared with Grad Transitions binder and be able to articulate post-graduation plans.

Both the grad boat cruise and the grad Christmas dance ticket sales will be permitted to those students who have met the required deadlines.

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 a counsellor or the Career Information Advisor.

Why do we need to recycle organics?



Because more than one-third of all non-recycled waste disposed in the Metro Vancouver region is actually compostable organics! That's right - 35% of the garbage in our landfills could be composted instead of taking up space in our limited waste disposal system.

By undertaking organics recycling in our schools we can help to divert 35% of waste away from landfills to instead be composted into rich soil that can be used for valuable purposes such as local farming.

Overall, Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Challenge is a mandated goal of diverting 80% of waste from landfills by 2020 via recycling, including organics recycling. In the Delta School District we have embraced this challenge because it not only upholds our District Vision that includes a commitment to environmental sustainability, but we also believe in proper stewardship of all of our resources.

As parents and students we need your help!

Starting on January 1, 2015, Metro Vancouver has been imposing a 50% surcharge on contaminated loads going to the landfill - this includes organics waste. We need everyone's help to ensure all waste in our schools is put into the proper bin for disposal. No longer will it be acceptable to just throw everything into the waste bin. Anything that can be recycled needs to be sorted and put into the correct bins.

The Delta School District strongly encourages litter less lunches. By packing lunches in re-usable containers and not including items that have disposal packaging we can have a very positive impact on the environment. If an item is not re-usable then it should at least be recyclable. Let's make the lunchbox popular again! We want to see this happening in our all schools throughout our District.

Litter less lunches, along with the new organics recycling means we can reach our Zero Waste Challenge goal!!! We can only reach this goal with your help and we thank you in advance for your support.

HOMESTAY HOST FAMILY OPPORTUNITY

The Delta School District International Student Program is seeking families in Tsawwassen area who are interested in providing homestays for its international students.

Students are in grades 8 to 11 and come from a variety of countries for short terms of 1 month up to a full year.

Homestay fees are \$900 per student per month.

For more information contact:

Tracey Teixeira 604 612-4020
tteixeira@GoDelta.



SDSS 2016/2017 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 overnight in overnight field trips of 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 will be required to pay their student fee which covers the cost of the Student Agenda 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 to help defray costs associated with the purchase of caps, tassels, gowns and facility rental for Valedictory.

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.

Technical Education: No fees will be charged for any projects in Grade 8, however, in Grades 9 - 12 students will be charged 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).

Home Economics: No fees will be charged for any projects in Grade 8 or ingredients for any Foods and Nutrition class meals. However, in Grades 9 - 12 students will be charged the cost of fabric for any take home projects and/or where enhanced materials are selected (e.g. student selects and purchases their own fabric). Due to the differences in thread qualities which can affect proper sewing machine function, a \$20 fee is charged for bulk purchase of consumables like thread, needles, snaps, etc. Students wishing to participate in the optional "Gifts from the Kitchen" Christmas baking will be expected to pay for costs of the ingredients.

Art: No fees will be charged for any projects except where students choose to paint on canvas rather than paper. Students in some courses will be expected to have a sketchbook, which are available through the school at cost.

Music: Guitar students have the option of bringing in their own or paying \$20.00 for the rental and use of in-house, school-supplied guitars. Rental fee also includes one set of strings and a pick. Choir students have the option of purchasing a music folder and/or black shirt at cost.

Physical Education: Particularly in P.E. 11 and 12, students will have the opportunity to participate in off campus field trips and activities at cost. Students will be given the opportunity to complete the *Emergency First Aid* certification at cost. In accordance with Ministry guidelines, a fee will be charged for Superfit.

Cook Training: In accordance with Ministry guidelines, students are charged \$25.00 to pay for the cost of purchasing a uniform/apron and having it freshly laundered each day. Impeccable laundry hygiene must be adhered to in order to prevent food contamination from day to day.

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 students' discretion. School copies of the workbook will be available to students not wishing to purchase their own, but student 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 experience, participation will be optional.

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.

Yearbook: Optional purchase. All other schools fees much be paid before a yearbook can be purchased. A \$15 charge will be added to the original cost of the yearbook (\$45) for books ordered after the payment deadline on January 1, 2017.



2016/2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

South Delta Secondary School
604-943-7407

Days in Session	187
Hours of Instruction in School Week	26.5 hrs.
Number of Days of Instruction	179
Minutes of Instruction in School Day	318 min.
Number of Non-Instructional Days	7 (District Wide)
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Grade 8 Welcoming Assembly	Wednesday , August 31
Grade 12 Parent Evening (7 pm)	Wednesday, August 31
International Student Orientation	Thursday, September 1
Schools Open	Tuesday, September 6
School Photos	Monday, September 12
Grade 8 Parent Night	Thursday, September 15
Grade 8 Spirit Day	Friday, September 16
Early Dismissal 1:30pm Meet the Teacher (6:30-8pm)	Thursday, September 22
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)	Friday, September 23
Grad Transition Booklet Part 1 & 2	September 26 & 27
Grade 12 Parent Night (Scholarships and Post-Secondary Information)	Wednesday, September 28
French Immersion Parent Night	Thursday, October 6
School Photo Retakes	Tuesday, October 11
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10
Grad Transition Booklet Part 3 Due	Friday October 14
UBC Evening (7:00pm)	Tuesday, October 18
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)	Friday, October 21
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)	Monday, October 24
Take Our Kids to Work – Grade 9's only	Wednesday, November 2
Post-Secondary Institutes Evening (6:30-7:00)	Wednesday, November 3



**2016/2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

**South Delta Secondary School
604-943-7407**

Interim Reports on Parent Connect	Friday, November 4
Grad Transition Booklet Part 4 & 5 Due	Monday, November 7
Remembrance Day Assemblies	Thursday November 10
Remembrance Day	Friday, November 11
Grad Transition Presentations	November 21 & 22
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide) Day in lieu of Collaboration	Monday, December 5
Report Card #1 on Parent Connect	Wednesday December 14
Schools Close for Winter Vacation	Friday, December 16
Winter Vacation Period	December 19-January 2
Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation	Tuesday, January 3
Parent Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal – 12:06 p.m.)	Wednesday, January 25 (1-3 & 5-7:30)
Grad Photos	January 25-31 (Artona Mobile Studio on site)
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)	Monday, January 30
Interim Reports on Parent Connect	Friday, February 3
Family Day	Monday, February 13
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)	Friday, February 24
Report Card #2 on Parent Connect	Wednesday, March 8
Spring Vacation Period	March 13 – March 24
Schools Reopen	Monday, March 27
Good Friday	Friday, April 14
Easter Monday	Monday, April 17
Interim Reports	Friday, May 12
Non-Instructional Day (District Wide) Day in lieu of September 1 Pro-D	Friday, May 19
Victoria Day	Monday, May 22



2016/2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

South Delta Secondary School
604-943-7407

Grad Banquet & Dance	Friday, June 9
Valedictory 2017	Wednesday, June 21
Report Card #3 on Parent Connect	Thursday, June 29
Last Day for Students	Thursday, June 29
Schools Closed/Administrative Day	Friday, June 30

Flex Time at SDSS

The staff at SDSS is excited about a new learning opportunity for students starting in the 2016-17 school year. It is called Flex Time. Flex Time is instructional time available to all students 4 days a week (every day except Wednesday). It allows students to enjoy greater academic success by taking a more pro-active role in their learning. It provides them with 40 minutes of time to access curricula, teachers, peers and facilities. Flex Time allows students to determine their priorities for learning and to act on these in a timely fashion. The goals for students during Flex Time include improving time management and student responsibility as well as encouraging self-regulation and the pursuit of passions. Each Wednesday of the year, students will start school at 9:30 providing collaboration, preparation and administration time for staff between 8:30 and 9:30.

During Flex Time students are expected to:

1. be in a designated learning space,
2. arrive in their flex class on time and stay in the class for the whole period,
3. go to classrooms of teachers with whom they are presently enrolled,
4. complete past due work/tests, as requested by their teachers (or other designated learning space such as library, cafeteria or gym), or
5. work on school work (either individually or in groups), special interest (passion) projects, or silent reading during Flex Time.

Students cannot use Flex Time for:

1. socializing,
2. using electronic devices for time-wasting entertainment,
3. walking around the halls/visiting/going for a snack,
4. leaving the school for lunch/appointments/breaks/jobs,
5. going to unsupervised areas, or
6. regular classes, practices, rehearsals or club meetings.

Flex Time will be introduced to the students in September 2016 with a series of lessons on topics like time management, goal setting, self-awareness/self-regulation, and growth-mindset that will help them productively use their time. There will also be a number of days where students will practice using their Flex Time under the supervision of their first period teacher. In late September/early October when students have demonstrated competency in these cornerstone skills, they will be able to choose what learning space they would like to use for their Flex Time. Administration and staff will monitor halls and Learning Spaces carefully to ensure that students are engaged in their learning in a meaning, productive way. Students who struggle to use their time will be directed to the Learning Space of one of their teachers for supervision/direction.

SDSS Daily Schedule

Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Instruction Hours:

BELL TIMES (M, T, Th, F)	DAY 1	DAY 2
8:30-9:39	A	E
Flex Time 9:45 - 10:25	Flex Time	Flex Time
10:31 - 11:40	B	F
11:40 - 12:20	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:25 - 1:35	C	G
1:41 - 2:50	D	H

BELL TIMES (W)	DAY 1	DAY 2
8:30 - 9:29	Collaboration Time/Prep Time	
9:35 - 10:40	A	E
10:46 - 11:51	B	F
11:51 - 12:29	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:34 - 1:39	C	G
1:45 - 2:50	D	H

The PAC Executive would like to welcome you to SDSS!

We know this is a whole new stage of life for some of you and there is a lot of excitement and anxiety among parents and students as they enter the next phase of their school careers. Some of you have older children who can help with the transition but for others, this is all brand new.

We'd like to introduce ourselves and let you know that we are here if you have questions from a parent/student perspective. If, as you get closer to the beginning of the school year, you realise you have some questions but you don't know where to turn, please feel free to reach out to one of us and we will be happy to try to answer your questions or find someone who can.

If you are interested in joining the PAC you will probably be happy to know we do no fundraising! Our first general meeting of the year is scheduled for Thursday, October 6 at 7:00 pm in the library and we'd love to meet you in person.

Trudi Rondeau
Marni MacGillivray
Brenda Woods
Elaine Campbell
Nancy Willborn
Sue Gordon
Tami Oudendijk

Vice-Chair - trondou@telus.net
Past Chair - marnimacg@gmail.com
Treasurer - brenda4551@hotmail.com
Secretary - elainejc79@yahoo.com
Member at Large - watson_n@hotmail.com
Member at Large - sng2629@gmail.com
DPAC rep and Parent Ed. - toudendIjk@gmail.com



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 30th.** (Homestay families, please note International Programs has approved all forms for international students.)

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. All parents who had children in a Delta School before July 1, 2014 will have their CEM Consent automatically set to "YES" and parents can change their CEM Consent at any time through Parent Connect.

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