



# SOUTH DELTA SECONDARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

### Grade 8 Family Night

We are excited to be hosting a Welcome to SDSS Evening for Grade 8 students and their families on **Wednesday, August 28th at 7:00 pm** in the Theatre. Come and meet the School Administration, the Counsellors, collect your course schedule, explore the school, find your classrooms, check out your locker, and mingle with your new classmates!

### International Student Orientation Day

An orientation for new international students will be held on **Thursday, August 29th**. International students new to South Delta this year should arrive at the school's main office at 9:00 am and expect to stay until 1:30 pm. A pizza lunch will be provided.

### Administration

Mr. Terry Ainge, Principal (Grade 12s)

Mr. Kevin Vasconcelos, Vice-Principal (Grades 8 & 10)

Mr. Tom Inkster, Vice-Principal (Grades 9 & 11)

### Counsellor Assignments

Ms. Kilpatrick, Grade 9 (Gr. 8 R-Z)

Ms. Diomis, Grade 10 (Gr. 8 A-E)

Ms. Sammartino, Grade 11 (Gr. 8 F-K)

Ms. Hayes, Grade 12 (Gr. 8 L-Q)



## 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 approaching their first year of





## Student Course Schedules

Student Course Schedules will be viewable on Student/Parent Connect on August 28th. While every effort is made to design the school timetable to avoid course conflicts, some students, because of their chosen combination of courses, may not have all 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.

Requests for changing courses should be emailed to counsellors who will consider changes as space is available up until Friday, September 13th.

### Let's Connect!

Find us on the web:

<https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca>

Like us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/sdss.sundevils/](http://www.facebook.com/sdss.sundevils/)

Follow us on Twitter:

@SDSSSundevils

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:

- Mr. Tom Inkster (Vice-Principal)
- Ms. Erica Hurley (Home Economics)
- Ms. Gillian Kirke (Life Skills Program)
- Ms. Kiren Morgan (Science)
- Mr. Raymond Ouellette (Sciences Naturelles, French)
- Ms. Michelle Peterson (Spanish)
- Ms. Tegan Servai (Sciences Humaines)
- Ms. Jennifer Thoss (Modified Academics)

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, online interim reports, online report card availability, we also encourage you to engage with us on Twitter (@SDSSSundevils) and Facebook (/sdss.sundevils).

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

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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 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. I hope to see all parents at Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 19th. In the meantime, if you have any comments or questions, please contact me at the school (604-943-7407) or by email, [taininge@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:taininge@deltasd.bc.ca)

## Opening Day Schedule – Tuesday, September 3rd

Grade 8	9:30 am – 10:30 am	Assembly, Block A
Grades 9 & 10	11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Assembly, Block A
Grade 11 & 12	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Assembly, Block A

The first day of classes is a short day. Regular classes begin on Wednesday, September 4th. Students should report to the Theatre at the time designated for their grade. Schedules will be available for viewing on Student/Parent Connect on Wednesday, August 28th.

## International Students – First Day of School Schedule - Tuesday, September 3rd

Please come to South Delta Secondary on the first day of school – Tuesday, September 3rd and meet the International Coordinator, Ms. Sandra Adamson, at the main office.

- Grade 8 and 9's arrive at 9:00 am: Greeters will meet you at the main office and direct you to Room 131.
- Grade 10 arrive at 10:00 am: Greeters will meet you at the main office and direct you to Room 131.
- Grade 11 and 12 arrive at 11:00 am: Greeters will meet you at the main office and direct you to Room 131.

Note: Any international students who are unable to attend the August 29th Orientation must stay on September 3rd from 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm in order to complete their English assessment and ensure that their timetable is okay. Please report to Room 131 at 12:30 pm. Be sure to bring your lunch if you are staying for the whole day.

### 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.

## Reporting Student Absence

To report a student absence please:

1. Contact the school office by phone (604-943-7407) or
2. Notify the school by email [southdelta.sec.cims@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto: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 email from the student system, which will email a message by default.

## Locker Assignments

Locker have been assigned for students who requested a locker during the course selection process. The locker number and combination will be posted to Student Connect prior to the first day of school. For those students who did not request a locker but would like one now, there will be a form available in the office. These lockers will be available on a first come, first serve basis. 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 / 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 2019/2020 school year as well as a daily planning calendar that students are encouraged to use to record homework, assignments, and test dates. Alternatively, students (and parents) may download the SDSS App with the functionality of the agenda book and accessible via a smartphone or tablet. <https://southdelta.schoolapps.online/>

## 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.

## Photographs

All students will have their pictures taken on **Tuesday, September 10th**. Photos are required for Transit ID, yearbooks, and certificates. If you would like to purchase a photo package please logon to [www.artonagroup.com](http://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. Retakes are scheduled for the morning of Thursday, October 3rd at 8:30am.

## **Cafeteria**

SDSS has a wonderful teaching cafeteria program. However, routines and procedures in the teaching kitchen take some time to establish. There will be no cafeteria services available during the first week of school and limited services during the week of September 9th. Regular service will most likely commence the following week.

## **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 administrator 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 students are watching our examples.

## **Parking and Pick Up/Drop off Areas**

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 in 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!

## Grade 8 Spirit Day - Wednesday, September 11, 2019

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

Our annual Spirit Day 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.

A few details: Wednesday, September 11th - All grade 8 students meet in School Cafeteria at 8:00 am

- Breakfast, T-Shirt and Water Bottle distribution
- Walk to Diefenbaker Park
- Team Building activities
- Catered Lunch
- Return to school at 2:30 pm



## Meet the Teacher Event: Thursday, September 19, 2019, 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 19th 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. 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.

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

### **Class of 2020**

We'd like to give a special "welcome back" to the members of this year's graduating class, the class of 2020. 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 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!



### **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.



## **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 – Thursday, September 26th**

Grade 12 is an important and exciting year and we are pleased to welcome all grade 12 parents to an information evening on Thursday, September 26th, at 7pm in the Equinox Theatre. School staff will provide parents with an overview of graduation activities, scholarships and post-secondary applications as well as important timelines. Representatives from 2020'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.

## **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 2019/2020 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 Monday, September 27th. Please note fees are due October 11th. Fees are payable online, cheques (can be post-dated up to December 20, 2019) or cash can be accepted at the school office. In order for your payment to be applied correctly, please include your student's five digit student number.

## **SDSS 2019/2020 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 overnight 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 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 (\$55 approx.) for books ordered after the payment deadline on January 1, 2020.

## Flex Time at SDSS

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 was introduced with a series of lessons on topics like time management, goal setting, self-awareness/self-regulation, and growth-mindset that will help students to productively use their time. There will also be a series of days where students will practice using their Flex Time under the supervision of a regular classroom teacher. Ultimately, students 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 meaningful, productive way. Students who struggle to use their time will be directed to the Learning Space of one of their teachers for supervision/direction.

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### **Important Dates to Note**

Grade 8 Parent and Student Night - Wednesday, August 28th at 7:00 pm

New International Student Orientation - Thursday, August 29th 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

School Opens - Tuesday, September 3rd

School Photos - Tuesday, September 10th

Grade 8 Spirit Day - Wednesday September 11th

Meet the Teacher Night - Thursday, September 19th

Early Dismissal 1:30pm - Thursday, September 19th

Non-Instructional Day - Friday, September 20th

Grade 12 Parent Night - Thursday, September, 26th

For a complete calendar of events, check out the SDSS website: <https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca>

