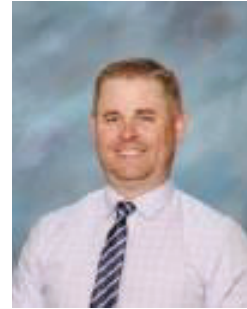


## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025



### Principal's Message



August 2025

Dear SDSS Students, Parents and Caregiver,

Wow! It is hard to believe that summer has almost come to an end, and we are very rapidly approaching another new school year. On behalf of the administrative team, I would like to extend a warm greeting to you and hope this message finds you well. I hope you enjoy the last few days of a relaxing summer break.

We are all looking forward to an enriching year of learning at South Delta Secondary School. A new school year always brings a sense of renewal, 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 along with the potential for new connections and friendship is exciting.

To our returning students, I encourage you to approach the new school year with determination, focus, and commitment, and show myself and others who are new what it means to be a Sun Devil. To our new students, including those who are approaching their first year of high school, I extend a warm welcome and hope you are excited about the possibilities of being in a new school this coming year.

At SDSS, we are fortunate to work with the many supportive, committed and hard-working parents and caregivers in our school community. All parents and

caregivers, including those involved with the Parent Advisory Council, can positively impact our school's tone and direction. I invite and encourage all parents and caregivers to be involved with the school.

One way that parents and caregivers can help improve school-home communication is to ensure that the school has your current, correct email address. While email will continue to be our primary means of communication, we also encourage you to familiarize yourself with Parent Connect, MyEd BC and read the newsletters posted to our website.

The Delta School District has streamlined the annual permission forms required for participation in various activities like demographic information, student emergency release, and walking field trip permissions. All 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 review the contents of this school opening newsletter, highlighting many key dates and details that will help support a successful startup 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 and caregivers can help support their child's education. I think they are always good reminders:

- Set high expectations for your student and encourage them to not accept minimum effort or indifference to quality work;
- Contact teachers directly and promptly when you have a question or concern regarding your student's progress (don't wait until the end of the year);
- 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 sleeping habits.

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy year of learning. If at any time you have any comments or questions, please contact me at the school (604-943-7407) or by email, [bscarr@deltaschools.ca](mailto:bscarr@deltaschools.ca)

Sincerely,

Benjamin Scarr  
Principal  
South Delta Secondary

### **School Hours**

Starting next week, the school will have our usual office operating hours from 8am-4pm.

### **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 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. 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! The location where we will meet in the school is to be determined (either the Theater or the Gymnasium (there will be signs when you arrive!)).

### **International Student Orientation Day**

An orientation for **new** international students will be held on Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. International students new to South Delta this year should arrive at the school's front entrance at 9:30 am and expect to stay until 2:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. We are looking forward to welcoming our new international students to Canada and SDSS!

### **Electric Bikes and Scooters**

It has been brought to our attention that electric kick scooters should not be used by students travelling to school or while on school grounds.

Despite their popularity in our province, electric kick scooters remain illegal for use on public roads, bike lanes and sidewalks across most of B.C., except in a handful of cities that are taking part in a pilot program to test the use of them. The City of Delta is not part of the pilot program. Even in the pilot program cities, it is illegal for a person under 16 years of age to operate an electric kick scooter. You can view the provincial rules here: [Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project Regulation](#).

As we had several students using scooters last year, we felt it was important to share this information with you. We thank you for your attention to this matter.

In B.C., it is illegal for students under 14 years of age to ride e-bikes. Students can operate light e-bikes at age 14 and standard e-bikes at 16. Parents or guardians of students below the minimum age must not knowingly permit them to ride an e-bike. For more information, including the definitions of a light e-bike and a standard e-bike, please visit: [E-Bike Rules of the Road](#)

Please contact the school if you have questions regarding electric scooters or bikes.

### **REMINDER – Personal Digital Device Policy**

Last year, the Ministry of Education issued new directions regarding the use of Personal Digital Devices in BC schools that took effect over this summer. Though cellphones, tablets and other technology can enhance the learning experience for

students and are integral parts of our modern world, much research has determined that these technologies, when used in an unsupervised setting, can lead to safety concerns, increased mental health challenges and lower achievement for our youth.

As you may recall, in Secondary schools, Personal Digital Devices (PDDs) are not permitted to be used during instructional time, which includes Flex Time and field trips, except when explicitly required by the teacher for educational purposes. PDDs include (but are not limited to) any personal digital device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, including cellphones, tablets, smart watches, gaming devices, electronic toys, earbuds and headphones. These devices must not be brought to school, or must be stored securely **not on the student's person** during instructional time (in a locker, in a closed bag or in a storage sleeve provided in the classroom). Outside of instructional time (before school, lunch, after school), secondary students may use these devices with parent/caregiver permission.

Other important reminders about the policy:

- Teachers will review expectations and practices regarding PDDs in their classrooms at the start of the year and as needed moving forward.
- Like all elements of the School and District Code of Conduct, progressive discipline and positive interventions will be used to address situations where students are having trouble complying with the new policy.
- Teachers and administrators will continue to use technology with students (where appropriate) and will continue to teach digital literacy and citizenship.
- PDDs are not to be used in settings such as change rooms, washrooms, private counseling rooms, that have the potential to violate a person's reasonable expectation of privacy.
- Students with disabilities, unique learning abilities or health-related requirements will still be able to use personal digital devices in line with their designated support plans and Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
- The school will provide all necessary technology students require to engage in the curriculum. Should a teacher require the use of PDDs for educational

purposes, alternate means to engage in the educational activity will be provided for students who do not have technology.

- Schools will communicate with parents/caregivers should any urgent situations arise.
- If parents/caregivers need to contact their child urgently, they should call the school office.
- The school and District assume no responsibility for the safety, security, loss, repair or replacement of PDDs.

To view the District's PDD policy, please click [here](#).

### **SDSS Track Infield Repairs Update**

Repair work on the track and infield at the SDSS Oval began on Wednesday, June 25. Until September 2025, both the track and the field at SDSS will be closed to complete the repairs and upgrades, with the inner field remaining closed into 2026 to allow the grass to properly seed and grow. We are excited to greatly improve the quality of our field for our Physical Education and Athletics programs and would like to thank the City of Delta for making these upgrades a reality.

### **Opening Day Schedule – Tuesday, September 2**

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday, September 2nd. To accommodate the start of the school year, and assist in our organization students will attend for an introduction to their Block A class as well as an introductory assembly in the Theater. Here is the schedule:

Grade 8s                    9:30 am – 10:40 am students will report directly to their Block A class to start the day.

Grades 9 & 10            11:00 am – 12:10 pm students will report directly to their Block A class to start the day.

Grade 11 & 12      12:30 pm – 1:40 pm students will report directly to their Block A class to start the day.

Students not assigned to a Block A class should report to the Library at the time designated for their grade. The first day of class is a short day for students. Regular classes begin on Wednesday, September 3rd. Schedules will be available for viewing on MyED BC by midday on August 26th.

## **International Students – First Day of School Schedule – Tuesday, September 2nd**

If you attended the new student orientation on August 28<sup>th</sup>, please attend your Block A class at your appropriate grade time as per the schedule for all SDSS students.

Grade 8                      9:30 am – 10:40 am students will report directly to their Block A class to start the day.

Grades 9 & 10              11:00 am – 12:10 pm students will report directly to their Block A class to start the day.

Grade 11 & 12              12:30 pm – 1:40 pm students will report directly to their Block A class to start the day.

If you were NOT able to attend the August 28th orientation, please report to the main office at 10:00 am on September 2nd. You will be directed to Room 131 to meet Mrs. Adamson (the International Student Coordinator) before you attend any classes.

## **Student Course Schedules**

Student schedules will be available for viewing on MyEd BC by midday on August 26th. Please contact the school office after midday on the 26<sup>th</sup> if you are not able to

access your MyED account and you have already tried the account recovery process (see MyED information below).

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 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Bell Schedules**

Our school day runs from 8:30 am until 2:45 pm. Our schedule is an alternating Day 1 (ABCD), Day 2 (EFGH) linear schedule except for Wednesdays (Collaboration Day – 9:30 start for students). Students and parents should follow the My School Day App and the school website for up-to-date schedule information. We will review attributes of our schedule with students at their grade assemblies.

## **Flex Time at SDSS**

Flex Time is instructional time for all students 4 days a week (every day except Wednesday). It allows students to increase their academic success by taking a more pro-active role in their learning. During Flex Time students have 35 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. On Wednesdays, 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:

- be in a designated supervised learning space,
- arrive in their flex class on time and stay in the class for the whole period,
- go to classrooms of teachers with whom they are presently enrolled,
- complete past due work/tests, as requested by their teachers (or other designated learning space such as library, cafeteria or gym), or
- work on school work (either individually or in groups), special interest (passion) projects, or engage in silent reading.
- Stay off Personal Digital Devices unless given permission from the supervising teacher and for the purposes of engaging in their learning.

Flex Time is introduced with a series of lessons on topics like executive functioning, time management, goal setting, self-awareness/self-regulation, and growth-mindset that will help students to productively use their time.

### **Parent and Student Information at SDSS**

Our school uses two separate student information systems, Parent/Student Connect (an application that is unique to Delta) and MyED Parent/Student Portal (the standard system used by BC Schools). Students will also have a DeltaLearns Account which will connect them to Google Classroom and it's various applications.

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

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

Parent/Student Connect is used for:

- Reviewing student schedules (what they are studying and when)
- Review attendance history (daily attendance recorded in MyEd)
- View Report Cards (a copy of the MyEd report is uploaded)
- History of marks/transcripts for all previous years' final marks
- View/pay school fees

- Forms (please especially sign off on the Google Apps form which is used to create a Delta Learns account for your student this requires an overnight upload!)

Please see this link for [SDSS Permission Forms Information](#)

MyEdBC <https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca>

MyEdBC is used for:

- Attendance Reports
- Marks and/or assignment feedback if the teacher publishes their gradebook to the portal
- Contacts
- Course Requests
- Schedule
- Transcript records

Step by step information on how to login, set up new accounts, recover passwords, etc. is posted to the SDSS website. <https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2022/08/New-Student-Information-for-web.pdf>

## **Reporting Student Absences**

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@deltaschools.ca](mailto:southdelta.sec@deltaschools.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 Excused 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.

## **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. During the school year, students often become ill and parents must decide whether their student can or should attend school. The following are some guidelines in determining when a student should not be at school:

- If your student is developing an acute cold or influenza with fever, runny nose and/or eyes, and sore throat
- If your student has a persistent cough
- If your student has a fever over 38 degrees centigrade (100 degrees Fahrenheit)
- If your student has diarrhea or vomiting
- If your student has a communicable disease, e.g. Covid-19, chicken pox, measles, rubella, mumps. If your child contracts a communicable disease, please notify the school so that other families can be alerted.

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

## **Extended Absences**

Our school staff try to provide support to students who are absent due to health reasons. However, schools are not in a position to support students while they are absent for extended vacations or other family matters.

While schools are not able to grant or deny permission to any student to leave school early for family holidays, the consequences of missing classes for an extended period should always be considered.

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. It is important to recognize that the priority for teachers 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. Generally, 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 that selected a locker during course selection will find their locker number and combination posted to Student Connect prior to the first day of school. Any available lockers will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. Lockers can be requested at the office or through the Google Form emailed to students. Students should have their own lock for the PE change rooms to properly secure their belongings. The school is not responsible for the loss of any items from a student's locker in the hallway or in the PE change rooms. Please note that lockers are school property and are therefore subject to search by administration at any time.

### **My School Day App**

The SDSS App is a school communication and organizer app available to students and parents. The app provides access to important school information, a calendar of events, push notifications, school news and announcements, subscribed channels as well as a daily planning calendar that students are encouraged to use to record homework, assignments, and test dates. The app can be set up on a smartphone or tablet. You can download the app free through the App Store.

<https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2022/08/MySchoolDay1Page-app.pdf>

### **Textbooks**

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

## **Photographs**

SDSS students will have their photographs taken on Tuesday, September 9th. 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 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **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 first few weeks of September. Regular service will likely commence before the end of September.

## **Protocol for Parent Concerns at South Delta Secondary**

If parents have concerns about general school procedures or issues stemming from their student'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 through 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 student's counsellor.

If your concern is not addressed to your satisfaction after the counsellor has intervened, then please contact the administrator of your student'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 an inclusive community that supports student learning and nurtures the hearts of students 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 sideline 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 just before 8:30am and after 2:45pm 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 student(s) 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!

### **Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)**

The staff of South Delta Secondary School strongly believes in the importance of Academic Integrity and wants families to know our beliefs and protocols regarding

plagiarism. 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. A common misconception is that rewriting something is not plagiarism because the student is “putting it in their own words”; however, the majority of plagiarism is a result of text manipulation. Plagiarism is dishonest, against the School’s Code of Conduct and is antithetical to the goals of an educational program.

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

- 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. This includes the use of generative A.I. or A.I. agents such as ChatGPT and similar programs.
- 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 the original source.

### **Appropriate Dress for School**

Clothing worn at school should be appropriate for a learning environment. SDSS recognizes the importance many students place on their clothing styles and appearance. However, students must recognize that clothing styles worn at schools need to respect the professional and orderly nature of schools where inclusion and safety are core values.

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. 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 2026**

We'd like to give a special welcome to the members of this year's graduating class, the class of 2026. This is 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. You're also exercising your "learning muscles" and developing the habits that you will need in post-secondary. So don't shy away from challenges!

As the graduating class you also have a key role to play in the life of South Delta Secondary School. You can be expected to 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 \$45.00 "Grad Fee". This fee goes towards the cost of the Commencement Ceremony Event and covers cap and gown, venue costs and other costs associated with Commencement. There will be additional costs for various events and activities throughout the 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 the most up to date post-secondary requirements it is absolutely necessary to check your program with a counsellor or the Career Information Advisor. Make sure to check in with your counselor to make sure you are on track!

## **Career Life Connections**

Career Life Connections is a non-enrolling course required for graduation. The course includes an online component and a Capstone Project that is a significant requirement of the grad plan. All Grade 12s will be invited to join the CLC Google Classroom with Mx. Caveberry. It is very important that students do not leave this graduation requirement to the last minute as there is a significant commitment required to complete the course.

## **Respectful Behaviour**

In the past 5 years, there have been concerns regarding anti-social behaviour from some youth in Tsawwassen, particularly at the start of the school year and on Halloween. I'm happy to share that behaviour last school year was very good for the most part, and I encourage our student body to continue to engage in positive, respectful behaviour this coming school year. By being good citizens in our community and at school, we help create a welcoming supportive place for all students, maintain good relationships within our community, and refrain from having to expend the time and resources of Delta Police and the City of Delta. I encourage and expect all members of the South Delta school community to continue to demonstrate positive respectful behaviour at our school and in our community.

We would appreciate all parents/guardians having regular conversations with their child(ren) regarding the need to respect our community and to remind them that

actions have consequences, even as a bystander. Vandalizing property, setting fires, fighting, underage drinking and more, can have serious and potentially lifelong consequences including suspension from school, criminal charges, a criminal record, and injury, not to mention the financial cost for those who are forced to clean up. We would also request that parents/guardians don't enable students to engage in such behaviour, for example, by hosting social events for students that involve alcohol.

At the start of each school year, we remind students of the expectations included in the [District](#) and School Code of Conduct <https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/our-school/sdss-code-of-conduct/>, and the importance of reporting concerns to a trusted adult and/or by using the anonymous online [ERASE Reporting](#) website. We encourage all parents/guardians to review these Codes of Conduct with their child(ren).

Students who are unable to meet the District and School Codes of Conduct may be subject to a range of repercussions, including:

- Loss of privileges to participate in school-initiated events and activities, for example,
  - school sports teams
  - musical productions
  - field trips or other experiential learning opportunities
  - school events such as dances or conferences
  - Grad Events such as Red Carpet and Grad Banquet
- In or out of school suspension
- Criminal charges

Please note: These repercussions apply to student conduct while at school, and also to student conduct in the wider community where it negatively impacts the school.

To help ensure a safe, positive environment, we are asking students and their parents/guardians to read the information below. In addition, before the new school year begins, the *Expectations for Students* below will be added to the documents on Parent Connect for you to review and acknowledge.

## Expectations for Students

- Abide by the School and District Code of Conduct.
- Regular attendance in all classes.
- No involvement in the harm or discrimination of others based on: race, religion, gender, physical or intellectual disability, sexual orientation, age, etc.
- No involvement with drugs, alcohol, smoking, vaping or restricted substances during the school day or during participation in or spectating any school-sponsored events, activities or field trips.
- No involvement in threatening, bullying, harassing, intimidating or interfering with the emotional and physical well-being of others, including by electronic means.
- No involvement in physical violence or gang-related behaviours.
- No involvement in theft or damage to school property or the property of others.
- No possession of dangerous articles or items that could be used as a weapon.
- No involvement in any activity deemed a “prank” in the school or community that jeopardizes the safety, well-being, security of others and/or property.  
This could include:
  - Damage to school property or to property in the community.
  - Actions that result in a financial cost to individuals, the District or businesses in the community.
  - Behaviours that damage the school’s reputation.
  - Actions that negatively impact the physical or emotional well-being of students, staff and/or the community.
  - Actions that disrupt the teaching and learning environment.

I hope that you will take the time to talk with your child about making responsible choices. We are all part of this amazing community of Delta, and we all share a responsibility in keeping property and each other safe.

## **SDSS 2025/2026 School and Course Fees**

Notification of the fees owed by your student according to the courses in which he/she is enrolled will be viewable on Parent Connect in early October. Fees are payable online or in-person at the school office. In order for your payment to be applied correctly, please include your student's five digit student number.

As per Ministry of Education guidelines, no fees will be charged for the base costs related to accessing a particular educational program or curricular course. However, legislation has clarified that fees can be charged for course enhancements, for field experiences that are desirable but not mandatory for completion of a course, for certain consumables and for extracurricular events or activities the school is involved or organizes. Fees must be paid in advance of participation in extra-curricular activities including overnight field trips or grad events.

All school and course fees for each school are reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees and the Principal prior to the start of the school year. A complete schedule of school and course fees will be published on our website by early September. In accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines, general fees will be charged as outlined below:

**Student Activity Fee:** All students are required to pay their student fee which covers the cost of the My School Day App and agendas for grade 8 students, and helps with Athletics, Student Council, Assemblies, Guest Speakers, Awards, Locks, and various events such as Gr. 7 Barbecue, Grade 8 and 12 breakfast, etc.

**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 Commencement.

**Emergency Preparedness Fee:** Two years ago, the school district introduced an annual \$10 Emergency Preparedness Fee to help ensure every school is equipped with essential emergency supplies - such as food, water, and first aid items - in the event of a major incident like an earthquake ([see letter from May 2024](#)). As of last

June, the District has collected more than \$125,000, which is already being used to ensure each school is stocked with emergency food and water reserves.

Our ultimate goal is to maintain at least a **three-day supply of food and water for every student**. This annual fee, due at the beginning of each school year, plays a vital role in helping us meet that goal and allows us to replace supplies as they expire.

**Workbooks in various courses:** 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 students must not write in them and must return them at the end of the school year in good condition. In some cases, a deposit will be collected for school supplied workbooks.

**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.

**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 vary according to the expenses incurred by the particular sport and league. Please note that any fundraising for athletic teams is a separate item and is optional for families to participate in.

**Yearbook:** Optional purchase. All other schools fees must be paid before a yearbook can be purchased.

### **Accommodating Financial Hardship**

The District is committed to ensuring that no student of school age will be denied an educational program due to financial hardship and that charges will not be a barrier to student participation in school activities. At this time, we are requesting

that families reach out to Ben Scarr, Principal, [bscarr@deltaschools.ca](mailto:bscarr@deltaschools.ca), or another administrator or counsellor if you are in need of assistance with school supplies, fees or other school-related costs. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need in order to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

### **Important Dates to Note**

Grade 8 Parent and Student Night – Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm

New International Student Orientation – Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

School Opens – Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>

School Photos – Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>

Meet the Teacher Evening – Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm

Non-Instructional Day – Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

For a complete calendar of events, check out the SDSS website:

<https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2025/06/CALENDAR-APPENDIX-II-SD-25-26-Parent-Version.pdf>

### **Contacts**

#### **Administration**

Mr. Ben Scarr, Principal (Grade 12s) – [bscarr@deltaschools.ca](mailto:bscarr@deltaschools.ca)

Mr. Kevin Dalgetty, Vice-Principal (Grades 9 & 11) – [kdalgetty@deltaschools.ca](mailto:kdalgetty@deltaschools.ca)

Mr. Ryan Birt, Vice-Principal (Grades 8 & 10) – [rbirt@deltaschools.ca](mailto:rbirt@deltaschools.ca)

**Counsellor Assignments – please note there are some staffing changes occurring within our counseling department through the next week. We anticipate the following Counseling Assignments, but these may change in September.**

Ms. Kristy Abel – Grade 9 and Grade 8 (E-K) – [kabel@deltaschools.ca](mailto:kabel@deltaschools.ca)

Ms. Elisa Glennon – Grade 10 and Grade 8 (L-Q) – [eglennon@deltaschools.ca](mailto:eglennon@deltaschools.ca)

Ms. Karen Kilpatrick – Grade 11 and Grade 8 (R-Z) – [kkilpatrick@deltaschools.ca](mailto:kkilpatrick@deltaschools.ca)

Ms. Andrea Burns – Grade 12 and Grade 8 (A-D) – [aburns@deltaschools.ca](mailto:aburns@deltaschools.ca)

[Click here](#) for a complete SDSS staff directory.

## **Mental Wellness Resources**

From time to time, we all need additional support. Students are encouraged to contact their counsellor for support and/or access the resources below:

### **CRISIS HOTLINES**

- [BC CRISIS CENTRE](#) – 1-800-784-2433 or 310-6789 no area code needed
- [CRISIS SERVICES CANADA](#) – 1-833-456-4566 or text 45645
- [First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line](#) – 1-855-242-3310
- [Canada Drug Rehab Addiction Services Directory](#) – 1-877-746-1963
- [National Eating Disorder Information Centre](#) – 1-866-633-4220

## **RESOURCES**

- [Bell Let's Talk](#)
- [Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention](#) – 613-702-4446 (not a crisis line)
- [Canadian Mental Health Association](#) – 416-646-5557
- [Canadian Psychological Association](#) – 613-237-2144 or 1-888-472-0657
- [Mood Disorders Society of Canada](#) – 613-921-5565
- [Schizophrenia Society of Canada](#) – 1-204-320-3188
- [Mental Health Commission](#) – 613-683-3755

Parents are also encouraged to access the [Teen Mental Health Parent Resources](#)