



ECOLE SECONDAIRE **SENTINEL** SECONDARY SCHOOL  
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August 28, 2024

Dear Sentinel Families,

I want to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to Sentinel for our opening day on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. I would especially like to welcome, on behalf of the staff, all our new families to the Sentinel community for what promises to be another exciting school year. We hope you will enjoy your time with us, and I encourage you to visit the school and get to know us.

There have been several staff changes since the end of last year. Sentinel welcomes Ms. Crystal Tanfara (Vice-Principal) and Ms. Heather Kennedy (Physical Education). We also welcome back either from recent leave or other; Ms. Rebecca Britten (Counselling) and Ms. Mahtab Morvarid (FRIM/FSL).

Our Sentinel staff is a group of dedicated and caring teaching and support personnel who are ready to work in partnership with you, the parents, helping your child to be as successful as they can be at Sentinel.

Students will report to their Day 1 Period 1 class on Tuesday, Sept. 3. They will receive an email on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> indicating this location. Day 1 Period 1 class lists will also be posted by grade in the school for their arrival on Tuesday. For Grade 8 students, more detailed information can be found in our grade 8 letter [Welcome Grade 8's!](#)

Sentinel's student population is full at all grades. As such, there is very limited ability for course changes. More information regarding student timetables and course changes are included in the school bulletin under, Counselling team.

We are excited to host our Grade 12 BBQ on opening day. All grade 12's are encouraged to arrive at 12 noon for a BBQ lunch at the school, followed by a homeroom at 1 pm. A letter to all grade 12 students and their families regarding grad activities is included [Grad Activity Letter](#) I encourage all graduating students and their parents/guardians to please take a moment to read it over.

Sentinel prides itself on its sense of community and culture of innovation. Last year our Student Council, along with support from staff and parents, challenged people to find alternate methods of getting to school. This could be by walking, biking, taking a scooter, carpooling and even bus. In addition to the many benefits to individual's physical/mental health and well-being, improving our environment and building community it also reduces the amount of traffic we have trying to access our site. I have included a safe drop-off [MAP](#) and strongly encourage everyone to do their part in creating the solution. Additionally, the City has indicated that there will be increase By-Law and local Law enforcement presence throughout West Vancouver throughout the month of September.

### **LINEAR SCHEDULE FOR 2024-25**

For the upcoming school year, we will be in a linear timetable system which means that all students will have 8 classes in their timetable that run all year. 4 classes on each day. Day 1 classes on one day and then Day 2 classes the following day. Greater detail will be provided to students during their opening day class.

Academies will take place either in the morning before school, during 1-4 and 2-4 (the afternoon periods) or after school. Your academy will let you know the schedule details.

There will be 50 mins of Flexible Instructional Time (FIT). FIT will take place on **Mondays and Thursdays from 11:00 - 11:50am**. Lunch and Period 4 will begin at the same time each day. Staff collaboration will take place seven (7) times next year. Collaboration days always fall on a Thursday from 8:30 to 9:25. 4 classes will follow with lunch and period 4 beginning at the usual time. Please see the 2024-2025 Bell Schedule [HERE](#) For more details on the Calendar and block rotation schedule please see links in the Bulletin tomorrow.

### **Cell Phones**

The West Vancouver School District has had a policy regarding Personal Digital Devices (PDD) for many years. The recent order provided by the BC Ministry of Education provides the perfect opportunity to revisit and reframe our device policies and practices. As a district that embraces the use of technology, we also share concerns regarding individual's health, well-being, and safety with unregulated use of a PDD. Students in grade 8 – 12 should only be using a device in class if specifically required, by the teacher, for a learning task. Laptops are the preferred device. Cell phones should not be used during instructional time unless directed by the teacher. Please see more information on the use of cell phones here: [Device Infographic](#)

Sentinel PAC, along with Cari Wilson (District Vice-Principal of Innovation and Technology), will be hosting a virtual Parent Education session on the use of cell phones in schools on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. A link will be included in the Sentinel E-Bulletin on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join.

We hope that you will consider being involved with our **Sentinel Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**. Parent involvement at the secondary level is as important as ever and we encourage all parents to participate in these opportunities. Our first scheduled PAC meeting will be held Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am in the student mezzanine at Sentinel. If you have any questions please contact Nora Gambioli, PAC Chair at [sepac@wvschools.ca](mailto:sepac@wvschools.ca)

I look forward to seeing you at one, or more, of the many school events throughout the year. Please feel free to call, e-mail or drop by with any questions, ideas or concerns.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of summer break. We are very excited to see our students back next week.

Kind Regards,

Mike Finch  
Principal