

Good afternoon WVSS families and students, I hope that this email finds you still enjoying the last days of summer! We have been working hard to ensure that school start-up is as smooth as possible. We know that this year is going to feel very different in all aspects. Regardless, we are dedicated to ensuring that our students' experience maintains the highest educational standards that we all expect, combined with meeting and exceeding all Health and Safety protocols and guidelines to keep us as safe and healthy as possible while doing so.

In the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry, we will all strive to **Be Calm, Be Kind, and Be Safe** in what promises to be an exceptional and unprecedented year in education.

The purpose of this email is to provide additional information regarding some Health and Safety protocols, the daily schedule, and student orientation. The content of this email is by no means intended to be comprehensive or exhaustive, rather an overview of some of the key and salient points.

All of the following information, and more, will be reviewed with students at their orientation on September 10th or 11th

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|----------------------------------|--|
| September 10 Thursday | Student Orientation & Photos - with 1st Period Teachers 9:00 - 10:30 Grade 8's (First period Class) 11:00 - 12:30 Grade 9 (First period Class) 1:00- 2:30 Grade 10 (First period Class) |
| September 11 Friday | Student Orientation & Photos - with 1st Period Teachers 9:00- 10:30 Grade 11 (First period class) 11:00 -12:30 Grade 12 (First period class) TDB - a session for students with NO first period class (Old Gym) |

DPAC hosted Town Hall meeting at 3pm

Please also be aware of today's (September 2) DPAC hosted Town Hall meeting at 3pm. At this time, Superintendent Chris Kennedy will be discussing our Return to School Plan and many of your questions along with DPAC Chair Kelly Richter, Board Chair Carolyn Broady and Vancouver Coastal Health Deputy Chief Dr. Mark Lysyshyn. The link to the event can be found [HERE](#).

You are encouraged to connect early as the event will begin right at 3pm. If you have technical difficulties with the session please contact info@wvschools.ca.

Health and Safety

General Protocols:

- Staff and students are required to perform a daily self-assessment for [symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19](#). If any symptoms are present, those individuals are not permitted

to enter the building under any circumstance and are encouraged to follow up with a medical appointment

- Upon entry to the building sanitize your hands
- Masks are required while moving about the hallways, or in spaces where physical distancing is not possible (outside of your cohort)
- While moving about in the hallways, stay to the right at all times
- Where possible, use physical distancing (2m) at all times
- Use designated entry and exits to gain access to the building
- Arrive no earlier than 5-10 minutes prior to the start of class and go directly to it
- Students are to leave the building and go home if they have a spare, or a hybrid class – there is no lingering at school

Masks:

Masks must be worn at all times in hallways, stairwells, and common areas where students are outside of their cohort group, or physical distancing is not possible. At the time of this email, masks are not mandatory in the classroom but students should feel comfortable wearing them there if they so choose to.

Students will be provided 2 re-usable masks at their orientation. Students should come to their orientation with a mask brought from home and put it on the moment they enter the building. Should a student forget their mask, a limited number of disposable ones will be available at the main offices at both north and south campus.

Staggered Start Times:

Period 1 classes will be identified as A or B and have a different staggered start time in the morning. This will also stagger the lunch time for both groups, thus reducing student contact.

Lunch and Break:

Students will be expected to eat lunch in their period 1 classroom. They may then go outside and physically distance, or go to their designated common lunch space with their cohort. Students are not permitted to visit a designated lunch space outside of their cohort space. Students will not be permitted to eat in the hallways or stairwells.

There is no cafeteria service during Quarter 1. Students must therefore bring all lunch and snacks themselves. Students are not permitted to share food or beverages with each other. Students are encouraged to bring their own re-fillable water bottle.

If a student has a hybrid class during Period 2 and it is their day to not remain for the class, then they are expected to leave the school to have lunch at home, or elsewhere.

Lockers:

In order to reduce the number of touch and high-touch surfaces, students will not be issued a locker this year.

Washrooms:

Each washroom will have a maximum occupancy sign posted on it. Students are expected to observe these limits.

There is a great deal more information that pertains to Health and Safety that students will learn at their orientation and through their classroom teachers. I hope that the preceding information affords you a greater level of comfort that everything is being done to keep us all healthy.

Timetable and Daily Schedule

Last week you received an email that included the following graphic showing where the different Periods are placed throughout the week:

| Grade 8-12 Timetable Weekly Overview | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Period 1 | Period 1 | Period 1 | Period 1 | Period 1 |
| Break | Break | Break | Break | Break |
| Period 1 | Period 2 | Period 1 | Period 2 | Period 1 |
| Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch |
| Period 2 | X Block | Period 2 | X Block | Period 2 |
| Break | Academies | Break | Academies | Break |
| Period 2 | Semest/Linear | Period 2 | Semest/Linear | Period 2 |

At this time we are able to share with you a more detailed look of the actual times and activities scheduled over the course of a week. Staggered schedules have been implemented to facilitate minimized contact among students and staff.

Below are the Period 1 Group A and Group B schedules for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and the corresponding schedules for the Tuesday and Thursday X-Block days.

The X-Block time is unique to SD45 and will accommodate our exceptional Academy and specialty programs, Pursuit, vulnerable learners, remote instruction, and courses that do not align in a quarterly system including IB, some band, and some choir for example.

Students will be informed at their Student Orientation on September 10th or 11th, which Period 1 Group their class has been assigned.

Detailed Weekly Timetable with Stagger

| | MWF - A | | MWF - B | | T/Th - A | | T/Th-B |
|-------|---------------|-------|--------------------|--|---------------------|-------|---------------|
| 8:30 | Period One 70 | | Staggered Start 15 | | 8:30 Period One 90 | 8:45 | Period One 75 |
| 9:40 | Break 15 | 8:45 | Period One 80 | | 10:00 Break | 10:00 | Break |
| 9:55 | Period One 90 | 10:05 | Break 15 | | 10:15 Period Two 90 | 10:15 | Period Two 90 |
| 11:25 | Lunch 45 | 10:20 | Period One 80 | | 11:45 Lunch 45 | 11:45 | Lunch 45 |
| 11:55 | | 11:40 | Lunch 30 +15 | | 12:25 X Block 70 | 12:25 | X Block 70 |
| 12:10 | Period Two 70 | 12:10 | Period Two 90 | | 1:35 Break | 1:35 | Break |
| 1:20 | Break 15 | 1:40 | Break 15 | | 1:50 X Block 75 | 1:50 | X Block 75 |
| 1:35 | Period Two 90 | 1:55 | Period Two 70 | | 3:05 End of Day | 3:05 | End of Day |
| 3:05 | End of Day | 3:05 | End of Day | | | | |

ALL grade 8 and 9 students will have a face to face Period 1 and Period 2 class at school with their cohort class and teacher.

At grade 10-12, where a cohort is able to be preserved, some students will have a Period 2 class that is face to face with up to 30 students, from the same Period 1 cohort.

At grade 10-12 where a cohort is unable to be preserved due to elective choices, some students will have a Hybrid class during Period 2. This means that 50% of the time they will remain at school for a face to face class with half of their Period 2 class, and 50% of the time they will head home during Period 2 to work on their Period 2 class remotely (online). On Mondays only, all Period 2 Hybrid classes will be remote.

All teachers will be maintaining a Google classroom that will support the face to face learning. The Google classroom by no means replaces the face to face component, and students should not expect/plan to be able to successfully pass a course by only completing the remote learning component.

Students will be informed by email whether they in group A or B for Period 2 if they are in a hybrid class.

Course Changes:

We will be unable to consider any course change requests this year due to the need to preserve student cohorts that are established on the first day. To the highest degree possible, most students will find themselves in the courses that they selected in February. The only changes that will be considered, and prior to September 14, will be those situations where a student has already taken the course in Summer Learning or online for example, or it is required for graduation and/or post-secondary admissions. Last week we emailed all students asking that they contact their counselor immediately if their situation has changed in either of these two regards.

Quarter System Dates:

The following start and end dates for each quarter have been confirmed.

Quarter 1: Monday September 14 – Tuesday November 17

Quarter 2 – Wednesday November 18 – Monday February 1

Quarter 3 – Tuesday February 2 – Thursday April 22

Quarter 4 – Friday April 23 – Thursday June 24

It should be noted that Academy courses will run for the entire year on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Students participating in Academies or District Programs will have received an email from Diane Nelson and/or their coach/teacher providing further details.

Student Orientation Days

Student Orientation days are on September 10th and 11th. Students will be invited in on the following days and times, by grade, to meet with their Period 1 teacher and class. During this meeting they will receive a detailed presentation on Health and Safety protocols, the timetable and daily schedule, as well as receive their masks, student calendar, and other school start-up information and materials.

In some instances where a student is in a mixed grade Period 1 class (ie Foods 11/12), they will receive a personal email from their teacher inviting them to attend one of the grade level orientations only so that they are with their entire Period 1 class. For example, if I am a grade 11 student in a Foods 11/12 class, I may be asked to attend the grade 12 Orientation time slot so that I am with all of my Period 1 classmates in the Foods 11/12 class.

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All students will have their school picture taken on this day as well!

We continue to work on the timetable to ensure that all students have the courses they require to graduate, and, to the highest degree possible, the electives that they selected last year. We anticipate sending our student timetables by email and on the MyED Portal by the end of this week, or Monday at the latest. This information will inform students what Period 1 class they have and where to report to

for their orientation. Additional information regarding the entrance and exit to use to gain access to that classroom will be included at that time.

I can appreciate that this is a lot of information to take in and understand all at once. In addition, many of you will have questions that we have not yet answered. We will strive to continue to share information and update you as it is finalized. Our focus right now is to ensure that we have a smooth school start up under conditions that none of us have ever experienced before.

On behalf of the staff and administration we sincerely appreciate your patience, understanding, support, confidence, and kindness in the goals that we are collectively trying to achieve. WVSS is an exceptional place to go to school, and to come to work – we are genuinely appreciative of all of our students and their families.

Please click on the following link to view a video broadcast from myself reviewing many of the points in this email as well as a few additional ones. Click [HERE!](#)

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

With regard,

Steve Rauh
Principal
West Vancouver Secondary School
604.981.1100

*I acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional territory of the *skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish), *selílwitulh* (Tseil-Waututh), and *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam) nations.*