

# SANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL

*“Home of the Scorpions”*

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## Principal's Message

I hope you and your family enjoyed a safe and relaxing summer. Whether you travelled, camped, worked, volunteered, attended summer school or simply enjoyed the outdoors, I'm sure it was full of learning. As we approach the end of August and see 'back to school' advertisements popping up, it signals that the new school year is right around the corner. Our new Grade 8 students are anxiously looking forward to entering high school and our Grads of 2018 are excited for their grad year. This newsletter provides important information regarding school startup. Additional information can be found on our website under 'School Start 2017'. On behalf of the entire staff at Sands Secondary, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students and families.

### **Good-Bye Ms. Stowe**

When we return to school in September you will no longer hear Ms. Stowe's familiar voice on the other end of the phone or see her in the office. Over the summer, Ms. Stowe retired. On behalf of the entire Sands community, I'd like to thank Ms. Stowe for all she has given to the school district and wish her all the best in her retirement! We will definitely miss you!

## Welcome New Scorpion Staff

I'm excited to announce that when we return to school, some new staff members will be joining us. Please join me in welcoming the following new and returning staff members.

Ms. Tome - Social Studies, Learning Assistance  
Ms. Aujla - Senior Supportive Learning  
Ms. Woudzia - Math, Science  
Ms. Pankevich - Science  
Ms. MacDonald - Educational Assistant  
Ms. Kirby - Educational Assistant  
Ms. Stevens - Administrative Assistant

## First Week of School

### Opening Day - Tuesday, September 5

Grade 8: 9:15 - 10:45am (Assembly & Block A)  
Grade 9-12: 11:30am - 12:15pm (Block A)



Students will report to their 'Block A Class' on their schedule. Please check Student/Parent Connect to find out a student's Block A Class, his/her teachers and the assigned room to report to on Opening Day. Block A classes will also be posted on the front window of the school on Tuesday, September 5th.

During Block A, students will receive their schedules and various forms. Lockers will be assigned and students will have the option of purchasing a lock for \$5. Grade 8 students will participate in 'welcome' activities led by a student mentor. A Grade 8 class photo will be taken following Block A.

### Wednesday, Sept 6 - Day 1

9:30-9:45am	Block A (Attendance & Startup Information)
9:50-10:55am	Block A
11:00-11:55am	Block B
11:55am-12:30pm	Lunch
12:35-1:30pm	Block C
1:35-2:30pm	Block D

### Thursday, Sept 7 - Day 2

#### \*Student Photo Day

8:30-8:45am	Block A
8:50-9:50am	Block E
9:55-10:35am	Flex
10:40-11:40am	Block F
11:40am-12:20pm	Lunch
12:25-1:25pm	Block G
1:30-2:30pm	Block H

### Friday, Sept 8 - Day 3

8:30-8:55am	Block A
9:00-9:55am	Block B
10:00-10:40am	Flex
10:45-11:40am	Block A
11:40am-12:15pm	Lunch
12:20-1:15pm	Block D
1:20-2:15pm	Block C
2:20-2:45pm	Grade 8 & Mentorship Activities

\*Regular Bell Schedule begins on Monday, September 11

### Timetable and Bell Schedule

Sands operates on a linear timetable (Day 1, 2, 3, 4) in which students rotate through eight different classes over two days. Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, students also attend Flex Time in between Periods 1 and 2.

#### Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri Bell Schedule

		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
8:30-9:39am	Period 1	A	E	B	F
9:43-10:25am	<i>Flex Time</i>				
10:30-11:39am	Period 2	B	F	A	E
11:39am-12:17pm	Lunch				
12:22-1:31pm	Period 3	C	G	D	H
1:36-2:45pm	Period 4	D	H	C	G



### Collaboration Days

Each Wednesday, Sands has embedded regular Collaboration Time into the school calendar so staff can engage in collaborative professional learning about effective practice. Students begin the day at 9:30am. There is no Flex Time on Wednesdays.

#### Wed Bell Schedule

8:25-9:25am	Collaboration Time
9:30-10:35am	Period 1
10:40-11:47am	Period 2
11:47am-12:25pm	Lunch
12:30-1:35pm	Period 3
1:40-2:45pm	Period 4



Although classes begin at 9:30am on Collaboration Days, students who arrive early will be able to gather in the Canteen.

## **Student Timetables and Course Changes**

Student timetables will be posted on Student/Parent Connect during the week prior to opening day. Instructions for logging into Parent Connect can be found on the website under the 'Parents' tab. Parents/guardians who are logging in for the first time should contact the school office to receive a temporary password. *Students who completed a course(s) at Summer School or online over the summer should contact the school from Aug 28 - Sept 1 to ensure their schedule reflects the completion of this course(s).*

Course change requests made for the following reasons will be given priority:

- a student has an incomplete timetable (less than 8 courses)
- a student has already completed a course listed on his/her timetable
- a student's courses do not satisfy graduation requirements

### **Course changes requested for any other reasons will not be made until Wed, Sept 6.**

A student requesting a course change must:

- have a signed letter from a parent stating the course change request and the rationale for the request.
- drop the letter off in the main office or to the administration.
- attend his or her scheduled classes and wait for a counsellor/administrator to contact him/her regarding the request.

*(Please note, it is unlikely that the administration will approve course changes due to class size limitations)*

## **Permission Forms**

The forms listed below have been posted to Parent Connect for you to review and authorize. Please login to Parent Connect, review the notices and select the appropriate response to each form. It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded to by each student's parent/guardian by Sept 30. *Personal Information Consent Form, Outside Media in Schools, Electronic Communications, Walking Field Trips Permission, BC Fruits and Vegetables Program Permission, Demographic Information, Student Emergency Release*

## **Communication with Families**

Throughout the school year, we do not usually send out newsletters. Most of our communication with families is done electronically through our website, email and Parent Connect. **Please ensure you have provided us a current email address, updated contact information and you are able to log into Parent Connect.**

## **Student Fees**

Student fees are assessed at the end of September once class changes have been made. Fees can be viewed on Student/Parent Connect. Fees include a basic student fee, an Emergency Preparedness fee and in some cases, students may be assessed a course fee to cover the cost of consumable materials. Students may also choose to purchase optional 'enhancements' that support a course but are not required for course completion. Yearbook and lock(s) fees will be assessed to students who choose to purchase them.

## Student Mentorship Program

All Grade 8 students will be assigned to a Grade 11 or 12 student mentor. Mentors will play a significant role in welcoming Grade 8 students during the first week of school. Throughout the year, they will continue to assist Grade 8 students in their transition to high school.



## Grade 8 Student & Family Welcome Evening

All Grade 8 students and their families are invited to join us for a 'Welcome Evening' on Thursday, August 31 from 5:30-7:30pm. Students will pick up their timetables, explore the school and have the chance to learn about extracurricular opportunities. The administration will provide a short welcome address at 6:15pm. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

## Grade 8 Breakfast & Retreat

Grade 8 students will participate in a full-day retreat in late September at Sunbury Park. Students will engage in fun team-building activities led by teachers and Grade 11/12 students. There is no charge to students to participate in the retreat. Prior to the retreat, Grade 8 students and their parents are invited to join us for breakfast in the Canteen.



## Grad BBQ

Grade 12 students are invited to a Grad BBQ following Block A on Tues, Sept 6. Join us as we look forward to an exciting year ahead!

## Sands App

Students and parents are encouraged to download the SANDS SECONDARY APP! The app is now available on both the iOS and Google Play App stores by searching for "Sands Secondary". The Android version can also be downloaded from <http://honeygarlic.ca/download.php> for users with Blackberry 10 devices or Android phones without Google Play.



## School Photos

School photographs will be taken on Thurs, Sept 7. Retakes will be taken on Fri, Oct 6. Photos are free and will be used for Student ID Cards and the Yearbook. Families may purchase photo packages from Mountain West Photography. Formal Grad photos will be taken Jan 23-26 after school in the Library. Grade 12 students will book their grad photo sitting time online directly through Mountain West Photography.



## **Grad Transitions**

Grad Transitions is a graduation requirement for all Grade 12 students. Students entering Grade 12 received a booklet in June and were encouraged to begin working on it in advance in order to meet the completion dates listed below. A copy of the booklet can be found on the school website (<http://sa.deltasd.bc.ca/content/grad-transitions-booklet-2017-2018>).

Sept 25:	Part 1 & 2 complete
Oct 3:	Part 3 complete
Oct 17:	Parts 1 - 5 complete
Nov 2-3:	Grad Transitions Interviews

## **Student Accident Insurance**

Optional Student Accident Insurance is available to all students through the IAP Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program. Please note that the District's insurance coverage does not include coverage for students who have been injured in an accident. For further information, please visit the IAP website (<http://www.kidsplus.ca>).

## **Engaging as a Parent/Guardian**

We urge parents/guardians to stay engaged with their child's progress at school. Parents can use Parent Connect to monitor student attendance and view report cards. We encourage parents to contact the school when they have questions.

## **PAC (Parent Advisory Council)**

Sands PAC meets eight times throughout the school year on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7pm. The PAC provides feedback and input to the administration, and applies for and allocates gaming funds to support extracurricular programs throughout the school. The PAC typically does not organize fundraising events. All parents, especially new Grade 8 parents are invited to join the PAC, meet other interested parents and learn more about the school and recent changes in education in BC. Please stay tuned for the date of the first PAC Meeting of the year.