



Wednesday, August 31st, 2022

Hello, Bonjour Argyle Families,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We are excited to start another year with such an outstanding community. This newsletter is unusually long as it contains a great deal of important information. We encourage you to keep it handy as a document to reference here at the start of the year. We want to extend a special welcome to all incoming grade 8 students and any new students to Argyle.

This year Argyle will be on a four block per day semester schedule. The schedule includes a daily tutorial time for students to access additional support outside of class time. The block rotation is attached to this email.

The Argyle community has over 1350 students and over 120 staff. Our staff are here to help and are heavily invested in your child's growth and success. Our ongoing mission is to provide students opportunities to learn and grow by fostering resilience, building self-efficacy and developing critical and creative thinking skills. We encourage students to advocate for their own learning and growth as much as possible. Students are also encouraged to get involved in extracurricular activities, be they clubs, athletics, or drama productions. Student involvement plays a significant role in overall student success.

This email contains a number of attachments. Remember too that parents and students can find information regarding the school on our [web page](#). We encourage all families to bookmark the homepage. Argyle is also fortunate to have several parent groups who support our students and programs throughout the school. Please consider any one of these groups when looking to get involved:

- [Argyle Parent Advisory Council](#) (PAC)
- [Argyle Music Association](#) (AMA)
- [Argyle Drama Association](#) (ADA)
- If you are interested in coaching an athletic team, please contact Argyle's athletic director, Mr. Mark Pearce (mpearce@sd44.ca)

We look forward to seeing students next Tuesday. Until then we hope you enjoy some more safe, rejuvenating and rewarding days of summer.

Warmest regards,

Kim Jonat, Principal (gr. 12 & international)

Laura Ames, Vice Principal (gr. 9 & 11)

John Crowley, Vice Principal (gr. 8 & 10)



2022-2023 École Argyle Secondary

Start-up Information

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Opening Day Schedule

Please see the attached schedule for opening day, Tuesday, September 6th.

Daily Schedule

The daily schedule for semester 1 is attached to this email. Students who wish to have a paper copy can pick one up in their homeroom on September 6th. The schedules for semester 1 and 2 are also posted on our website [here](#). Homeroom lists will be posted inside the building next Tuesday; look on the list for the room to go to.

Flex Time

Flex time is from 8:30am to 9:12am. Students are encouraged to access support from their teachers during this time, complete group projects, and have extra time to work in specialized spaces such as the textiles lab, fitness centre, metal shop, art room, and digital media labs. Attendance is not required at tutorials but students are strongly encouraged to access this support.

Year-long Argyle Calendar

The year-long calendar is posted [here](#). Please note events and activities are subject to change. The most up-to-date calendar is on our website [here](#).

Grade 8 Students

Families of grade 8 students should have received a welcome letter by email last Friday. Permission forms for the grade 8 Cheakamus Retreat were mailed to families on Tuesday, August 30th and are posted on the website [here](#).

We look forward to welcoming the Argyle Grads of 2027 next week at our opening assembly at 9:00am. The assembly will take place in the large gym. Senior leadership students will be on site to help students find their way to the gym and welcome them to Argyle. Please see more detailed information in the attached opening day schedule.



Grade 12 Students

Grads and parents/guardians of grads will soon be receiving a graduation newsletter full of information about their grad year. The first priority for grads is to double check that they are on track to meet graduation requirements. Grad information will be posted on the school website as it becomes available under *Students > Grad*.

All grade 12's are enrolled in Career Life Connections 12. Important grad information will also be posted on your teacher's CLC 12 Teams page throughout the year. This course is a graduation requirement.

We look forward to welcoming grads at the grad and staff BBQ next Tuesday followed by the grade 12 assembly and distribution of timetables.

Grade 8 and 12 Parent Nights

We will be hosting a grade 8 parent night on Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00pm (immediately following the Cheakamus Retreat pre-trip meeting) and a Grade 12 parent night on Monday, September 19th at 7:00pm. All parents are encouraged to attend these events for important information. All information shared with parents at these events will be shared with students in our first week grade assemblies.

Student Schedules

Students will receive their schedule (timetable) on Tuesday, September 6th in their homeroom.

Course Change Requests

The timetable was built based on student course requests made last Spring. Argyle is at capacity and many classes are full so changes are unlikely at this time.

Students wishing to request a change must complete a paper form. The form is available [HERE](#) and copies will also be available on the table outside of counselling. Students can also print this form in the library. Once complete students must drop off the form to the grade appropriate box outside counselling. Students need to continue attending the classes listed on their timetable until a counsellor meets with them and changes are made, if possible. Course change requests may result in changes to student's other courses.

The counselling suite will be closed to drop-ins during the first week. Counsellors will reach out to students who submit paper forms. This may take several days depending on the volume of requests.



Counsellors will not accept course change requests through Teams or by email.

Course requests will be reviewed in order of priority. Highest priority is given to students who are:

1. New students without a timetable
2. Incomplete timetables
3. Timetable does not meet graduation and/or post-secondary requirements (based on requests from last spring).
4. Courses completed at summer school

Lower priority – period changes, course changes not on original course request form last spring. The deadline to change courses for semester 1 is **Wednesday, September 21st**.

Study Blocks

We also realize that students may now wish to request a study block but did not do so last spring. If you wish to have a study block, please complete a course request change form and a study period [application](#) (under programming information). Except in extraordinary situations we do not approve study blocks for grade 8 and 9 students.

Grade Counsellors & Grade Administrators

Counsellors will be available to students at Argyle throughout the year. If your child needs additional social-emotional support, feels anxious about school, or if you are uncertain at this time if your child will return to in-person instruction, please contact your child's counsellor.

Argyle's counsellors can also help students connect with outside services such as the Foundry. Although students may see any counsellor they wish, the school assigns the following grade responsibilities to specific counsellors:

At Argyle the first point of contact is your child's classroom teacher and/or grade counsellor, followed by the grade administrator.

Grade	Counsellor	Grade Administrator
8	Ms. Jessa Peers Jpeers@sd44.ca 604-903-3628	Mr. John Crowley jcrowley@sd44.ca
9	Ms. Erin Malone emalone@sd44.ca 604-903-3617	Mme Laura Ames Lames@sd44.ca



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10	Ms. Vikki Dashkevich vdashkevich@sd44.ca 604-903-3629	Mr. John Crowley jcrowley@sd44.ca
11	Ms. Sarah Gordon sgordon@sd44.ca 604-903-3638	Mme Laura Ames Lames@sd44.ca
12	Ms. Katherine Sigurdsson ksigurdsson@sd44.ca 604-903-3618	Ms. Kim Jonat kjonat@sd44.ca
International students	Ms. Katherine Sigurdsson ksigurdsson@sd44.ca 604-903-3618	Ms. Kim Jonat kjonat@sd44.ca

Attendance Procedures

Please report student absences by email: argyle@sd44.ca. Put the word “absence” in the subject line and your child’s full name and grade in the body of the email. You can also notify the school of a students’ late arrival or early dismissal by email. Students who are late should go directly to their class and not report to the office.

We prefer parents email to report student absences however parents may leave a message at 604-903-3314 to report a student absence. Students cannot call in their own absence; only messages from parents and legal guardians are accepted.

For all absences please include the following information:

- First Name
- Last Name (please spell last name clearly if leaving a voice message)
- Grade
- Date of absence & whether it’s full day or what portion of the day
- Reason for absence (e.g.: ill, appointment, vacation)

What to do if you receive a phone call stating your child was absent for a class:

Have a conversation with your child. If your child says they were in class, they must speak with the teacher who marked them away. Only the classroom teacher can verify and change the attendance.

Leaving school once classes have begun:

If a student is leaving the school for any reason, parent permission is required and students must sign out at the office. Please email argyle@sd44.ca in advance if a student needs to leave early for an appointment.



Health Awareness

Health awareness reduces the likelihood of a person coming to school when they are sick. This includes checking regularly for symptoms of illness to make sure you or your child do not come to school while sick. **Please help us keep everyone safe & healthy!**

Students, staff and other adults should follow [public health guidance](#) and the recommendations of their health care provider when they are sick. Health information is also available from [Healthlink BC](#) or by calling [8-1-1](#).

The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for everyone. People can choose to continue to wear a mask throughout the day or during specific activities. This choice will be supported and treated with respect.

If your student develops symptoms of illness they need to let their teacher know and then report to the office immediately. Office staff will then contact parents/guardians to come and pick up their student.

Parent Access

Staff are busy working with your students throughout the day and teachers are generally not able to meet with parents during instructional hours. Please make an appointment with staff prior to coming to the school. NOTE: all visitors must sign in at the main office during instructional time. Parents/guardians are welcome to spectate at athletic games, concerts, and other performances open to the public. Please note that parking is very limited on site and visitors must use the designated spots. Additional parking is also now available on the upper lot.

SCHOOL STARTUP INFORMATION

School Start-up Forms

You should have received an email from the NVSD with instructions on completing the online forms through School Cash Online. Please fill these out as soon as possible. If you have any questions about these forms, please call our office at 604-903-3300.

These forms do not require any payment. School Cash Online is simply the platform the school district uses to collect this information.

Demographic Changes

If any of your demographic information changes during the year please contact our office so we can update our records. This could be a change in address, phone number, parent/guardian contacts, email, or emergency contacts.



Life-threatening Medical Conditions including Allergies

If your child has an anaphylactic allergy and keeps an epi-pen in the office, please ensure you provide an updated one to the office as soon as possible.

If your child has a life-threatening medical condition, please contact the office to confirm/update the current information on file.

Allergy Awareness

If your child has an allergy, we encourage you to have a conversation with your child about how to keep themselves safe at school.

We have several students with severe allergies at Argyle including food allergies. Please remind your child not to share their food with anyone at school, to wash their hands frequently and to clean up after eating.

MyEd Parent & Student Portal

The parent and student portal are currently closed. Parents & students will be notified when the portal reopens. Report cards are published to the portal 4 times a year.

Argyle's Code of Conduct

All students and parents are requested to review the [Argyle Code of Conduct](#) published in the student agenda and on the school's website.

Bee Project

This year, we are abuzz welcoming a few thousand new Pipers to Argyle! We have a new bee colony installed at the top of the main staircase. The hive is enclosed inside and connected to the outside by tubes so bees can travel in and out directly. It features two glass observation panels made of break-resistance glass and is mounted to the ground so cannot be moved.

This same model has been in place in a number of schools across the Lower Mainland over the past few years with great success. These hives have not led to an increase in stings on school grounds, nor bees entering the building. Students can look forward to learning more about the bees and their lifecycles over the course of the year. We hope this will be an important learning tool in the coming years as we continue our dedication to sustainable development and education. We encourage you to go watch the bees and see if you can spot the Queen! She has a bright yellow spot on her head.



If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact your grade administrator. This hive has been provided to Argyle through a UBC grant and we acknowledge the support of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Nous remercions le Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada (CRSNG) de son soutien.



SCHOOL SERVICES

School Photos

Argyle's school photos will be taken on Friday, September 9th by GradsBC. Students will be called to the small gym to have their photo taken.

Please note that one of the start-up forms on School Cash Online is required to have your child's photo included in the school yearbook.

Cafeteria Services & Lunch

We are pleased to share that Canuel Caterers is preparing to open the cafeteria early this fall. We will share the opening date once confirmed. Until then please send students with lunch. Students who leave campus during lunch time are responsible for returning in time for the start of their period 4 class.

Students may eat in the multipurpose space, in learning communities, in student breakout rooms, in hallways, and outside. Students may not eat in the library, or classrooms without teacher permission. We ask all students to use the appropriate bins to recycle or dispose of waste. Class transitions are 4 minutes and students will not have an opportunity to leave campus between classes. Students are strongly recommended to pack snacks to eat between classes.

Argyle's Library

Argyle's Teacher Librarian, Ms. Black, loves helping students with research, projects, bibliographies, and finding the perfect book. Students are encouraged to view the [Argyle Library webpage](#) and [online catalogue](#). Grade 8 students will receive a library orientation in the first few weeks of school. Ms. Black can be reached at kblack@sd44.ca. Ms. Cargill is the library assistant.



Lockers

Grade 8 students will be assigned a locker. They will receive their locker location and locker combination on September 6th. Grade 9 to 12 students can request a locker until September 14th by filling out the form found [here](#). Students will need to sign in using their MS Teams login info. Gym lockers are available in the PE change rooms for day use only for students in PHE. Students must bring their own lock and remove it by the end of the day. Any locks that remain on the lockers will be cut and contents removed from the locker.

Agenda Books

Students will receive an Argyle agenda book in their homeroom on September 6th. Students are encouraged to use their agenda book to write down assignments, extracurricular activities, work/volunteer schedules, family commitments, and due dates. Regular agenda use helps students develop their time management and organization skills.

School Supplies

Students should have a:

- binder with dividers
- 3-hole lined paper
- pencil case or box with pens, pencils, an eraser, & a ruler
- calculator for math and science (see teacher for specifications)
- athletic clothing, running shoes, & gym lock for PHE class
- water bottle
- mask, hand sanitizer (optional)

Students should **label supplies with their first and last name**. Subject teachers will communicate any additional supplies required for their class during the first week.

Athletics

Are you interested in joining an Argyle team? Our Fall athletics program begins immediately so it is important to sign up for a team as soon as possible. The teams we offer depend on student interest and availability of coaches and sponsors.

Students should check the Athletic notice board for team sign-up and information. Most teams are determined in the first two weeks of school so it is imperative to sign up as soon as possible.

If you have questions, please see our Athletic Director, Mr. Pearce. His Athletics office is by the boys PE change room near the gym, or send him an email at mpearce@sd44.ca. Listen for daily announcements about practices and meetings! Check out the Athletics bulletin board in the flex space at the top of the main staircase.



Fall sports at Argyle are:

- Girls' volleyball – see tryout info below
- Football – Junior (gr. 9-10) & Senior (gr. 11-12) (gr 8 is in the spring)
- Boys' soccer – Jr (gr. 8-10) & Sr (gr. 11-12)
- Girls field hockey – Jr (gr. 8-10) & Sr (gr. 11-12)
- Grade 8 rugby
- Cheer – all grades (runs through to the spring)
- Cross country running – all grades
- Swimming – all grades

Girls' Volleyball

Tryouts run the first week of school Tuesday, September 6 to Friday, September 9.

- 3:00-5:00pm - Grade 8s (Bantam) - Tuesday to Thurs
- 5:00-7:00pm - Grade 9s (Juvenile) - Tuesday to Thurs
- 7:00-9:00pm - Grade 10s (Juniors) - Tuesday to Thurs, Fri TBD
- 7:00- 9:00pm Gr 11/12 (Seniors) - Wed & Thurs, and Fri morning 7:30am.

For questions about girls' volleyball please contact Ms. Almeida (jalmeida@sd44.ca)

For more information including what sports are offered in the winter and spring seasons check out the Athletics page on our website [HERE](#).

Clubs

Argyle has a number of clubs that are open to all students. For more information on up to date clubs, you can look at our school website [HERE](#). Be sure to listen to the daily announcements for information on club meeting locations and events. Students looking to start a new club should start by looking at the Club Application Package for Students on the Club page of the website.

OTHER INFORMATION

Transportation & Parking

Your child's health and safety is our first priority. Please abide by the 30km/hr school zone, and all parking and traffic signs. Exercise extreme caution if driving through the parking lot, and on roads surrounding the school.

Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school. There are many bike racks on school grounds for student use.



Student parking is limited to the spots parallel to Frederick Road, and the upper parking lot near the gyms. Students who would like to park at school must display a parking decal. Decals can be requested from the main office. A decal does not guarantee parking on site; when student spots are full, students must park in neighbouring streets. Cars on school grounds not displaying a staff or student decal may be towed at owner's expense.

There are a few visitor parking spots near the front entrance but these are not for student use. EV charging stations are for staff and student use active charging only; students needing to charge a vehicle must report to the office to register their vehicle.

Any vehicles blocking fire access or parked in reserved spaces will be towed at the owner's expense.

Vancouver Coastal Health Public Health Nurse Info

Argyle's public health nurse contact is Madeline Stewart. madeline.stewart@vch.ca
For information on all public health services for children and youth please visit the school health manual online at: www.vch.ca/schoolhealth/ns.

Argyle's annual grade 9 immunization clinics will be on October 18th, with a follow-up clinic on April 19th. Details about each clinic will be sent by VCH directly to the parents/guardians of grade 9 students closer to clinic date. Families who would prefer to have their child immunized outside of the school setting can book an appointment with the VHC team at www.northshorepublichealth.janeapp.com



Questions/Need Assistance: 604-983-6700

TECHNOLOGY

Microsoft Teams

Teachers will be creating an MS Teams channel for each of their classes. While some classes may use additional sites such as MyBlueprint for aspects of their class, all classes will use MS Teams as their primary platform.



Using their student login students have access to a suite of applications in Office 365 including Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. If you are new to Teams or need a refresher, please see our [student technology support page](#).

Technology - Student Laptops/Devices, WIFI

Students are welcome to bring devices to school but must abide by their teacher's expectations for their use in class. The school is not responsible for lost/stolen items.

We have several Chromebooks available to loan to students in financial need. Please contact your child's grade administrator to request one. These will be issued on a first come first served basis.

There are also laptops available for student use in the library. All students may access the wireless network with their own personal electronic devices as long as they accept and abide by the conditions outlined in the Student Agenda in the section entitled Argyle Technology Agreement. Please note that in all cases, students must have permission from the teacher prior to using their electronic devices during a class. At the start of the year, all students and parents must complete the "Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement" form on the School Cash online site.

COMMUNICATION

Argyle's Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

First Argyle PAC Meeting – 7pm Wednesday, September 14th in the Argyle Library

The Argyle Parent Advisory Council is the voice of parents at our school. Members include parents and guardians of all Argyle students. The Argyle PAC promotes a positive partnership between home and school and works to enhance the educational experiences and resources for our students and foster the well-being of students and families in our Argyle community. The PAC has regular meetings to connect parents to what is going on at Argyle.

Funding for the Argyle PAC is two-fold: we receive provincial gaming money, which may be used to support extracurricular equipment and activities; and we also reach out to parents for financial contributions for specific fundraising campaigns.

To learn more about the Argyle PAC, please visit the [website here](#).

Thank you for your support of the Argyle Community.

School Communication

The school shares information with students and their families through:

1. Argyle Secondary's website - www.argylesecondary.ca
2. Daily Announcements – read to students over the PA and posted on the homepage under Quick Links.



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3. School Connects - used for emails and/or phone messages sent by the school or district. If your phone number or email address changes during the year please email us at argyle@sd44.ca School newsletters are sent approximately every two weeks.
4. Twitter @argyleschool

The best way to contact the school with questions or absence notifications is to email argyle@sd44.ca

Main Office & Contact Information

Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday when school is in session.

Argyle general e-mail: argyle@sd44.ca

Argyle phone number: 604-903-3300

Attendance Reporting: Email argyle@sd44.ca (or 604-903-3314)

Staff e-mails can be found on the website under *Staff Info* [HERE](#).