



September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Hello, Bonjour Argyle Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We are excited to have students back next week for full-time, in person instruction. This is our first full year in the new Argyle school building. The demolition of the original Argyle building is now complete and construction of the sports court and artificial turf field are underway. The expected completion date is next Fall. Throughout the summer, finishing work continued in the new Argyle with the installation of many items, notably a screen in the theatre, the gym score clock, and our new Welcome Figure. The Welcome Figure will be unveiled at the official school opening this Fall.

This year Argyle will be on a two block per day semester schedule. Details of this schedule are linked later in this newsletter. The schedule includes a daily tutorial time for students to access additional support outside of class time.

The Argyle community has grown and we now have just over 1350 students including 284 new grade 8s and 92 international students. We also have over 120 staff.

Health and safety remain a top priority this year. Please ensure you have read Superintendent Pearmain's [Update to the NVSD Community](#) (Aug. 31) as it contains important information on COVID-19 guidelines for K-12 schools.

Most importantly:

- Students and staff must complete a daily health check and stay home when feeling sick.
- Visitors must have an appointment, complete the daily health check, and sign in at the office. A new scan code for visitors will be posted later this week.
- Argyle's ventilation system includes MERV-13 filters, and 100% outside air intake.
- Masks are required in all indoor spaces except when eating/drinking, and when engaging in high-intensity physical activity.
- Physical distancing is encouraged but not required.
- Students should not share food or drink.



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To start the year our parent events will be virtual and spectators will be limited to outside athletic activities. In time we hope to gradually open our doors to the community but need time to operationalize this. Our focus remains on the health, safety and learning of your children. We look forward to a successful first full year in our new building.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Jonat', followed by a stylized flourish.

Kim Jonat, Principal (gr. 12 & international)

John Crowley, Vice Principal (gr. 9 & 11)

Laura Stewart, Vice Principal (gr. 8 & 10)



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# 2021-2022 École Argyle Secondary

## *Start-up Information*

### SCHOOL PROCEDURES

#### Opening Day Schedule

Please see the attached schedule for opening day, Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### Daily Schedule

The daily schedule for semester 1 is attached to this email. Students will be provided with a copy in their homeroom on September 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 your room.

#### Tutorial Time

New to this year's schedule is a daily tutorial time from 8:30am to 9:11am. Students are encouraged to access support from their teachers during this time. Subject area learning communities will be shared with students during the first week and posted around the school. 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, and a start-up package by email on September 1<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to welcoming the Argyle Grads of 2026 next week.

#### Student Schedules

Students will receive their schedule (timetable) on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in their homeroom.



## Course Change Requests

The timetable was built based on student course requests last Spring. Please note that many sections are full and changes may not be possible. Students wishing to request a course change must email their grade counsellor and Cc their parent in the email. We will not be doing paper forms for course request changes this year. It is helpful if students can include “Course change request” in the email subject line.

## 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 email your counsellor directly and include:

1. Which course you requested but now wish to replace with a study block.
2. The reason for a study block.

## Grade Counsellors & Grade Administrators

Counsellors will be available to students at Argyle. Students may also contact counsellors through Microsoft Teams.

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. Erin Malone <a href="mailto:emalone@sd44.ca">emalone@sd44.ca</a> <a href="tel:604-903-3617">604-903-3617</a>	Mme Laura Stewart <a href="mailto:lstewart@sd44.ca">lstewart@sd44.ca</a>
9	Ms. Vikki Dashkevich <a href="mailto:vdashkevich@sd44.ca">vdashkevich@sd44.ca</a> <a href="tel:604-903-3629">604-903-3629</a>	Mr. John Crowley <a href="mailto:jcrowley@sd44.ca">jcrowley@sd44.ca</a>
10	Ms. Sarah Gordon <a href="mailto:sgordon@sd44.ca">sgordon@sd44.ca</a> <a href="tel:604-903-3638">604-903-3638</a>	Mme Laura Stewart <a href="mailto:lstewart@sd44.ca">lstewart@sd44.ca</a>



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11	Ms. Katherine Sigurdsson <a href="mailto:ksigurdsson@sd44.ca">ksigurdsson@sd44.ca</a> 604-903-3618	Mr. John Crowley <a href="mailto:jcrowley@sd44.ca">jcrowley@sd44.ca</a>
12	Ms. Shawn White <a href="mailto:Swhite@sd44.ca">Swhite@sd44.ca</a> 604-903-3628	Ms. Kim Jonat <a href="mailto:kjonat@sd44.ca">kjonat@sd44.ca</a>
International	Ms. Katherine Sigurdsson <a href="mailto:ksigurdsson@sd44.ca">ksigurdsson@sd44.ca</a> 604-903-3618	Ms. Kim Jonat <a href="mailto:kjonat@sd44.ca">kjonat@sd44.ca</a>

### Attendance Procedures

Please report student absences by email: [argyle@sd44.ca](mailto:argyle@sd44.ca). Please ensure the word “absence” appears in the subject line and please put 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. Students who are late should go directly to their class not the office.

Parents may also leave a message at 604-903-3314 to report a student absence, late arrival or early dismissal. Students cannot call in their own absence; only messages from parents and legal guardians are accepted. We prefer you email this information to the school whenever possible.

#### **Format when reporting an absence:**

- First Name
- Last Name (please spell the last name clearly)
- Grade
- Date of absence (full day or state the 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:**

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, parental permission is required and they must sign out at the office.

### **Daily Health Check**

All students must complete a daily health check before coming to school. Students are unwell and/or have symptoms of COVID-19, even if mild, are required to stay home.

Please review the BC Centre of Disease Control ["Symptoms of COVID-19"](#) and use the [K-12 Daily Health Check App](#).

### **Parent Access**

Parents may enter the school for a pre-arranged appointment with a staff member. Please use the main front doors, use the visitor sign-in (QR code) and proceed to the main office. A mask must be worn at all times while indoors. Currently we are not able to welcome parents to indoor school events including sports games and assemblies.

## **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.

### **Demographic Changes**

If your demographic information changes please contact our office to update our records. This could be a change in address, phone number, 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 Portal**

The parent portal is currently closed. Parents will be notified when the portal reopens.

### **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.

## **SCHOOL SERVICES**

### **School Photos**

Argyle's school photos will be taken on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> by GradsBC. Students will be called by class to the small gym to have their photo taken. Please ensure you complete the forms on School Cash Online, as parent/ guardian permission is required to have your child's photo included in the school yearbook.

### **Cafeteria Services**

The NVSD has a new cafeteria service provider and cafeteria services will open later in the Fall. We will communicate directly with students and families when it opens.

### **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](mailto:kblack@sd44.ca). Ms. Cargill is the library assistant.



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## Lockers

Grade 8 students will be assigned a locker. They will receive their locker location and locker combination on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Grade 9 to 12 students can request a locker until September 13<sup>th</sup> 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 changerooms for day use only for students in PE.

## Agenda Books

Students will receive an Argyle agenda book in their homeroom on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Students are encouraged to use their agenda book to write down assignments, extracurricular activities, 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
- **at least one mask with a resealable bag to store it in**
- it is recommended that students bring a small bottle of hand sanitizer for personal use

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

## Athletics & Clubs

Are you interested in joining an Argyle team? Our Fall athletics program will start right away and many teams will start practicing the first week of classes, so it is important to complete the Argyle Fall Sports survey and MS Teams sign-up as soon as possible. The teams we offer depend on student interest and availability of coaches and sponsors.

**Sign up for Argyle Fall Athletics [HERE](#)** or scan the QR code below. NOTE: students will need to sign into their NVSD44 school account that is used for MS TEAMS and the portal





If you have questions, please see our Athletic Director, Mr. Kelsch. His Athletics office is by the boys PE changeroom near the gym, or send him an email at [akelsch@sd44.ca](mailto:akelsch@sd44.ca) Listen for daily announcements about practices and meetings!

We are excited to return to sports this fall. Football has already started and we look forward to all our Piper teams returning ASAP. We will be implementing protocols as more information becomes available. At this time, spectators will not be permitted in the school, however, spectators can attend outdoor sports events.

Clubs will also be resuming this fall. We encourage students to join a club and connect with their peers. Listen to announcements for club meeting times and start-up.

### **Transportation & Parking**

Your child's health and safety are our first concern. Please abide by the 30km/hr school zone, parking and traffic signs, and exercise additional caution on the roadways around the school. Students are encouraged to walk or ride to school. There are many bike racks on school grounds for student use.

Parking space is at a premium and student parking is limited to the spots parallel to Frederick Road. If these spots are full students must find street parking. There are a few visitor parking spots near the front entrance but these are not for student use. EV charging stations are for student and staff use only; students needing to charge a vehicle must register their vehicle with the office. Additional student parking will become available once the side parking lot off Frederick is reconstructed and reopened.

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



## TECHNOLOGY

### Microsoft Teams

Like last year 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. 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 Virtual Meeting – 7pm on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**

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](#). Information on how to join the virtual meeting will be shared prior to the first PAC meeting. Thank you for your support of the Argyle Community.

### School Communication

The school uses several means of communication to share information with students and their families.

These include:

1. Argyle Secondary's website - [www.argylesecondary.ca](http://www.argylesecondary.ca)
  - Daily Announcements are posted on the right under Quick Links.
2. School Connects is 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](mailto:argyle@sd44.ca)
3. Twitter: @argyleschool

The best way to contact the school with questions or absence notifications is to email [argyle@sd44.ca](mailto:argyle@sd44.ca)

### Main Office & Contact Information

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



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Argyle general e-mail: [argyle@sd44.ca](mailto:argyle@sd44.ca)

Argyle phone number: 604-903-3300

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

Staff e-mails can be found on the website under *Staff Info*: [click here for link](#)