Principal's Message
Welcome Pipers!

On behalf of the staff at Argyle it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2018-2019 school year! I would like to extend a special welcome to grade 8 students, their parents, and those of you joining us for the first time. I hope that all of you have had an enjoyable summer and had time to connect with family and friends. Although the start of the school year means an end to summer holidays, it is also a new beginning. It is a time of new opportunities and new challenges. September brings a host of new routines and structures that help us in our quest for knowledge, skills and attitudes that are part of a life-long journey of learning.

I’m very excited about my new position as Principal of Argyle. I know that the Argyle community (students, staff and parents) is an excellent and caring community to be a part of. I look forward to continuing to build upon the tradition of excellence in all forms of learning. I encourage all students to plan to become involved in the many learning opportunities available to them, both inside and outside the classroom. We are fortunate to be able to offer a large variety of courses, as well as numerous extra-curricular activities.

This September marks the implementation of the new grade 10 curriculum. The new grade 11 & 12 curriculum will officially be launched in September 2019, however many of our staff are already including pieces of the curricula in their
courses. We will continue to work on the implementation of the grade 8 & 9 curriculum which was introduced last year. This redesign is exciting! It emphasizes the importance of developing our students’ competencies in communication, creative/critical thinking as well as personal and social awareness. If you would like to learn more about the new curriculum or grad program, you can visit the Ministry of Education’s website at https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/

As I’m sure you have noticed the construction of the new Argyle Secondary is well underway. A large amount of fencing has gone up around the site. Please do not trespass into the secure, fenced-off areas, nor attempt to climb over or under any fencing. Any personal items lost inside the fencing should be reported to the front office. Also, please be aware that there are areas of the school property no longer accessible due to the fencing, including some trails into the school. Students may have to change their route to and from school.

The targeted completion date for the new school building is Summer 2020 in time for the return of students in the Fall 2020. To learn about Capital Project Updates visit: https://www.sd44.ca/Board/CapitalPlanProjects/CapitalProjectsUpdates/Argyle/Pages/default.aspx

Argyle has a committed Parent Advisory Committee that meets each month. I would like to invite parents out to our first Parent Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 12th at 7pm in the library. PAC meetings are a great way to connect with other parents in the community and find out what is going on in the school.

Finally, I would also like to welcome a few new people to our Argyle staff:

- Ms. Blewman - Learning Support Teacher
- Ms. Chow - Digital Media, Yearbook, Photo Teacher
- Mr. Crowley - Vice Principal
- Ms. Filer - Education Assistant
- Ms. Hurtado-Artiga - Education Assistant
- Ms. Klaussen - Science Teacher
- Ms. Langlois - French Immersion Teacher & Library
- Ms. McIntosh - Social Studies Teacher (returning from leave)
- Ms. Owens - Supervision Aide
- Mr. Sache - French Immersion Teacher
- Ms. Sasges - French Immersion, French, and Socials Teacher

At the time of this newsletter we have one math teacher to hire prior to the start of school.

This newsletter contains important information about opening procedures, attendance procedures, as well as several reminders. Please take a few moments to read through it.

In closing, I know I speak for the entire staff when I convey to you that we are very excited and enthusiastic about the coming year and look forward to working in, and with, the Argyle Learning Community. See you on September 4th.

Sincerely,

Kim Jonat
Principal
**Opening Day Schedule**

On Tuesday, September 4th, students will come to Argyle at various times throughout the morning, and **School Photos** will be on that same day. This will reduce the beginning of the year disruptions to classes that customarily occur on Photo Day.

Students in Grades 9-12 should go directly to the large gym at their assigned time to collect an agenda book, demographic form, locker info, and their timetable. They will then proceed to the small gym for their photo.

The shape of the morning will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Grade 8 Photos in small gym (can also be done after gr. 8 homeroom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Grade 8 Assembly in Large Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Gr. 8 Homerooms, School Photos, Visit Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Gr. 11 Students Arrive in Large Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Gr. 10 Students Arrive in Large Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Gr. 9 Students Arrive in Large Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Gr. 12 Students Arrive in Large Gym</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**School Photos**

School Photos take place on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 4th. While students are not required to purchase photos, they are required to have their picture taken for their School ID. The ID card is necessary for many functions throughout the school year.

This photo identification is official and as such, pictures must be authentic and identifiable. Please be respectful of the Argyle Code of Conduct during this process.

Retakes are scheduled for Monday, October 15th.

**What to Bring the First Week**

- General supplies for getting started include:
  - Three ring binders and dividers (*D-ring binders are preferred)
  - 3-hole lined paper
  - Pencil case with: several pens and pencils, eraser, ruler
  - Calculator for math and science (see teacher for specifications)
  - Athletic clothing, running shoes & gym lock for Physical & Health Education class

- Subject teachers will announce any special supplies required for courses during the first week.
**Course Changes & Course Change Deadline**

Staffing and building the 2018-19 timetable was based on student course requests from last Spring. Students were strongly advised to choose their courses wisely. Students were also given ample opportunity to make course changes last Spring and need to be aware that course changes now are unlikely. Changes will be made in the following priority order:

1. Scheduling new students
2. Resolving incomplete timetables and timetable errors
3. Addressing requests for timetable changes

- Requests for course changes will likely not be dealt with until late in the first week or early in the second week of school.
- Changes can be made only within the parameters of the NVTA/Board Collective Agreement.
- Students are required to attend and work in all classes listed on their timetable until a counsellor has made an official change and a new timetable has been produced.

Students should not expect to make course changes after two weeks from the start of classes.

It is expected that Argyle students be enrolled in a full-time program. This means that they take a minimum load as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8, 9 and 10</td>
<td>8 courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>7 courses (with an approved study block)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>7 courses (includes Planning 12 and with an approved study block)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade 11 & 12 students were given an opportunity to apply for a study block last Spring. It is very important that grade 11 and 12 students review post-secondary admission requirements and graduation requirements prior to requesting any course changes.

**Grade Counsellor & Administrator Assignments**

Although students may see any counsellor they wish, the school assigns the following grade responsibilities to specific counsellors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Counsellor</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Grade Administrator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 8</td>
<td>Ms. Katherine Sigurdsson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ksigurdsson@sd44.ca">ksigurdsson@sd44.ca</a></td>
<td>Mr. John Crowley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9</td>
<td>Mr. Paul Ruben</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pruben@sd44.ca">pruben@sd44.ca</a></td>
<td>Ms. Caren Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10</td>
<td>Ms. Erin Malone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:emalone@sd44.ca">emalone@sd44.ca</a></td>
<td>Mr. John Crowley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 11</td>
<td>Ms. Vikki Dashkevich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ydashkevich@sd44.ca">ydashkevich@sd44.ca</a></td>
<td>Ms. Caren Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>Ms. Shawn White</td>
<td><a href="mailto:swhite@sd44.ca">swhite@sd44.ca</a></td>
<td>Ms. Kim Jonat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Mr. Paul Ruben</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pruben@sd44.ca">pruben@sd44.ca</a></td>
<td>Ms. Kim Jonat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**School Timetable**

Regular classes start at 8:35am and the school day ends at 3pm. There is a warning bell at 8:30am. Students should aim to be at the school by 8:25am. Students with early morning or after school classes should check in with their teacher on the first day of school.

**Late Starts:**
There are 5 late start Wednesdays during the year. Classes will begin at 9:55am on these days and classes will be 60 minutes in length. Classes will conclude at 3:00pm. This schedule change provides collaborative time for staff from 8:35am to 9:50am. This is consistent across secondary schools in the District.
**School Calendar**

Attached to this email is a PDF of the school calendar. The calendar on the school’s website will be updated regularly. We recommend bookmarking the school’s website on your devices and subscribing to Argyle’s calendar by clicking on Subscribe.

**Student Forms**

All students will receive a demographic form on the first day of school, except grade 8 students who will receive it in their welcome package mailed home. Please review, sign, and make changes directly on the form and have your child return it to the main office. If all the information is complete and correct you do not need to return the form.

All other school start-up forms will be available on the School Cash Online website in early September. It is important that you log-on and complete these forms as soon as possible.

**Attendance Matters**

Why is attendance so important? Does it really matter if my child misses a few days of school? Yes, attendance does matter, even if it is only a few days. Research has shown that students who attend less that 90% of the time (this is the equivalent to ½ day per week; students who miss several consecutive days are even more at risk) have greater academic struggles, disengage from school, and are at risk for not graduating.

Absenteeism is the most significant predictor of academic underachievement, disengagement from school and failure to graduate. Studies have linked absenteeism with mental health issues, maladjustment, substance abuse, delinquency and future unemployment. School attendance is improved when there are:

- supportive school environments
- positive student-teacher relationships
- appropriate community supports
- supports for complex family circumstances

To read more about how you can promote regular attendance as well as supports available to parents and students please check out the NVSD “Attendance Matters” information pamphlet.

We encourage you to monitor and discuss your child’s attendance with them throughout the year. You can view your child’s attendance on the MyEd Parent Portal.
**Attendance Reporting Procedures**

Parents are reminded to call the school at **604-903-3314** to report a student absence, late arrival or early dismissal. Students are not to call in their own absence; only messages from parents and legal guardians are accepted.

In the event of an emergency our attendance records are crucial so ALL students are reminded to check in and out at the main office if arriving late or leaving school early.

**Format when reporting an absence:** (604-903-3314)

- First Name
- Last Name (please spell the last name clearly)
- Grade
- Date of absence (whole day or state the portion of the day)
- Explanation for absence (“excused”, “ill”, “appointment”, “vacation”). It is critical that student absence explanations are specific.

* It is not necessary to provide your telephone number, as it is in our system already, and it is not necessary to repeat the information.

**Examples of what NOT to say:**

“Hopefully will be in...”, “might be away...”, “may be there...maybe not...”

**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. Please note: only that 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 in and/or out at the office that day.

**Lockers**

All students have been assigned a locker. Students wishing to use a locker during the year can pick up their locker card on Tuesday, September 4th. All students who take a locker card are expected to return their lock at the end of the year. The fee for a lock not returned on that day is $5.00.

Students are not to change lockers or share their lock combinations with friends. Although lockers do provide a reasonable level of security, students should not bring valuables to school nor leave them in lockers. Please note that the school is not liable, nor responsible, for property loss. Lockers are school property and may be inspected by administration without the permission of the student.

Day use lockers are available on the 300 level. Students must supply their own lock for day-use lockers and lockers in the gym change rooms. Locks must be removed each day. Students are not to leave unsecured clothing or valuables in the change room or other areas of the school.
**Textbooks and Resources**
The care and return of textbooks, resources, and other school property assigned to students is the responsibility of the student. Textbooks, in particular, are expensive items and students are encouraged to be diligent in the handling and care of them. If there is any damage to a text at the start of the year students must notify their teacher so they can record it.

At the end of the school year, students will be assessed for lost or damaged textbooks and other school equipment. The school retains the right to withhold certain privileges and/or items until outstanding assessments are addressed, i.e. extra-curricular activities, yearbook, etc.

**At the end of the last school year there was more than $8,000 in resources not returned.** Please check around your home for any textbooks from last year. If you find any please return them to the main office as soon as possible, or if you have been assessed a fee for a missing text from last year please go on the School Cash Online website to pay the fee. We would welcome back any resources as this is a significant cost to the school.

**Fee Collection in October – School Cash Online System**
Supplemental fees will be added to student accounts in early October. For info on how to register for a School Cash Online account click here. For more information about Student Fees including a list of all supplemental course fees click here.

**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.

**Acceptable Use of Technology**
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.

**Traffic Safety**
Each year as we get back into school mode we encounter traffic and safety problems as more than 1200 students converge on Argyle Secondary. Your child’s safety is our first concern. Please abide by the 30km/hr school zone, parking and traffic signs.

Pickup and drop off can be done on Frederick Rd (south side only) or Fromme Ave. Please take extra caution at the start and end of the school day.

Students bringing cars to school must park in the lot off of Frederick Road by the gym foyer. Any vehicles blocking fire access or parked in reserved spaces will be towed at the owner’s expense. Please note: student parking is very limited and, where possible, students should make alternate travel arrangements (transit, cycle, walk, carpool, etc.)

**Thank you for being exceedingly aware of pedestrian traffic and keeping our students safe!**
**Bikes & Skateboards**

We encourage students to walk, bike or take transit to school. Bike racks are provided for students. Students need to lock their bikes while at school.

Students who travel on skateboards to school are asked not to ride boards on school property. They are also asked not to ride their boards on Frederick Road during break and lunch. There are skateboard racks beside the vending machines in the cafeteria. Students need to bring their own lock.

**Be Mindful of the Neighbours**

Argyle students enjoy an excellent reputation with our neighbours. They have achieved that reputation because the vast majority of students here are polite, respectful and cooperative. In order to maintain that reputation, students are reminded not to gather on the neighbours’ property. **Please don’t leave any garbage around when walking through the neighbourhood and don’t gather on the street.**

**Argyle is Smoke Free**

All persons are prohibited from smoking or vaping on any school property in accordance with policy North Vancouver School District Board policy and Section 2.2 of the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act. This policy applies to the use of tobacco products as well as e-cigarettes, electronic smoking products, and any related products. This ban extends to all school property 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, regardless of whether or not school is in session. The ban also includes parking lots, sports fields, driveways, courtyards and private vehicles parked on school property. Students who choose to smoke off site should be a minimum of 2 blocks off-site and walking. Please do not congregate in the neighbourhood.

**Accidents & Insurance**

The School District does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities. This includes participation in Argyle athletic teams and events. The School District provides the opportunity for families to voluntarily purchase private accident insurance through the IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance Program at [www.kidsplus.ca](http://www.kidsplus.ca)

**Getting Involved**

Extra-curricular activities are an extremely important part of a well-rounded educational experience, and an excellent way for students to connect to our school community.

Argyle has many opportunities to get involved including a variety of clubs, sports, fine & performing arts, coaching, and volunteering at events.
**Athletics Update**

Argyle has an outstanding athletics program thanks in part to the dedicated and talented athletes, as well as the staff sponsors, and staff and community coaches who volunteer countless hours to the program.

Fall sports will be starting up the first week of September. Info will be announced daily on the PA announcements and posted on the website under the Daily Announcements in the Quick Links section. For a full list of teams offered each season please visit: https://www.sd44.ca/school/argyle/ProgramsServices/Athletics/Teams/Pages/default.aspx

We are looking for Girls’ Volleyball and Field Hockey coaches for the Fall season. If interested, please contact Alex Kelsch.

For questions about athletics please contact Argyle’s Athletic Coordinator, Mr. Alex Kelsch at akelsch@sd44.ca

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**Grad Update**

A detailed grad newsletter will be sent to all families of grade 12 students early in the Fall. Please make note of the **Grad 12 Parent Info Night at 7pm on Monday, September 17th**.

Grads, it is critical that you ensure you have not only met Graduation Requirements but also Admission Requirements. Do not confuse satisfaction of Graduation requirements with Admission requirements to a particular university, college, or technical institute. If you have questions ask your Grade 12 counsellor, Ms. White, or any other Argyle counsellor who will be happy to help you. We wish you a very successful graduation year!

**School Sanctioned vs Non-Sanctioned Events:**

As Graduation approaches a number of events will be planned to celebrate and mark this tremendous milestone. There are two types of events – school sanctioned grad events and non-sanctioned events. The sanctioned events are:

- Grad Guys’ Dance
- Grad Girls’ Dance
- Grad Banquet
- Grad Ceremony

Argyle staff plan, attend, and supervise these events. They are referred to as School Sponsored Events and occur within the full expectations of the School Code of Conduct. In the past, students have planned activities AFTER these events or ON OTHER DATES. These are non-sanctioned events in which Argyle staff is not involved in any way.

We wish to make it clear that the School Board has forbidden any "unauthorized events" such as campouts or sleepovers on or around school property, with the warning of disciplinary action including RCMP intervention and suspension. We encourage parents to ensure that Argyle students do not participate in any unauthorized activities, so our school can continue to offer safe and enjoyable student activities throughout the year. If parents have questions about school sponsored activities, please contact the school administration.
Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

First Argyle PAC Meeting – 7pm on Wednesday, September 12th

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’s 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 our website: https://www.sd44.ca/school/argyle/Parents/PAC/Pages/default.aspx

Parent volunteers are invaluable! Athletics, music, drama, and other school activities would not be able to happen without your support. Thank you for your participation in all areas of the education of Argyle students!

PAC Meeting Schedule: All PAC meetings are held in the Argyle school library at 7pm.

- Wednesday, September 12th
- Wednesday, October 17th (AGM)
- Wednesday, November 14th
- Wednesday, January 16th
- Wednesday, February 20th
- Wednesday, April 10th
- Wednesday, May 15th

Communication

The school uses several means of communication to communicate with students and their families. These include:

1. Argyle Secondary’s website - https://www.sd44.ca/school/argyle/Pages/default.aspx Daily Announcements are posted on the right under Quick Links.
2. Sangha - New Parent Communication Tool (replacing School Connects) : emails and/or phone messages sent by the school or district. - If there are changes to your phone number or email address, please contact Argyle’s main office at 604-903-3300. Link to more info. on Sangha.
3. Twitter: @argyleschool
Useful Links:

- Argyle Website
- Argyle Athletics
- Argyle Library
- NVSD Website
- Provincial Exams and Assessments
- Transcripts
- BC’s New Curriculum – For details about the new Graduation program click on the Graduation top tab.

Main Office & Contact Information

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

Argyle phone number: 604-903-3300

Attendance (24 hour voicemail): 604-903-3314

Argyle general e-mail: argyle@sd44.ca

Staff e-mails: click here for link

THANK-YOU to all the parents and community members who volunteer to help coach teams, work on PAC, assist at various events, support the fine & performing arts departments, provide work placements for our work experience program students, and attend events to support the Argyle school community!

Merci!