

August 29, 2024

Dear Seycove Families,

Tl'iknumut, Bienvenue, and Welcome! I wanted to reach out personally and introduce myself and share a few updates, now that I am officially at Seycove and so excited to be a part of this amazing school community. I am truly looking forward to a great start up and to the opportunity to meet students and families in the coming weeks as I start in my new role as principal.

I come to Seycove at an exciting time as this year, we are introducing new initiatives, policy, staff, students, and a new timetable. I know with these changes comes questions, but we are all in this together and believe wholeheartedly that these shifts will support student well-being, learning, and engagement. We will plan to share resources over the course of the year specifically around our relationship with technology and the digital world.

One of the biggest shifts for schools in BC this year is our new Personal Device Policy. At the start of 2024 the Provincial Government announced measures regarding the restriction of digital devices in schools. A Personal Digital Device (PDD) is any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the Internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet. For the safety and well-being of students and to create a more focused learning environment, the Ministry of Education requires all schools in the province to restrict student use of cell phones and other personal digital devices while at school. This policy change, in addition to other school and district community agreements, are reflected in the NVSD's new Code of Conduct: [NVSD Code of Conduct \(sd44.ca\)](https://www.sd44.ca/nvscoc).

As previously communicated by the Superintendent of Schools, the North Vancouver School District (NVSD) is focused on "devices off, learning on." The following guidelines will be in place for September and part of Seycove's Code of Conduct:

All students in the school community are expected to leave personal digital devices at home, in their bag/backpack, and/or in their locker during instructional time. Allowances may be made by the staff for instructional purposes, digital literacy, appropriate use based on age and developmental stage, accommodations within a student's Individualized Education Plan, accessibility, medical and health needs, and/or equitable support for learning outcomes.

Beginning this school year, across all NVSD secondary schools, access to and use of personal digital devices will not be permitted during instructional time. At the teacher's discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instructional planning. As referred to in the above guidelines, students with specific educational or medical needs outlined in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Learning Support Plan (LSP) will continue to use PDD to support their educational or medical needs. If you have any questions, please contact your child's case manager.

If you need to contact your child during the day, please call 604 903 3666 to speak to our office staff so that they may direct you to the appropriate staff member or course of action. The Seycove staff are committed to enabling focused instructional time, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we strive to create the best possible educational environment for all students.



604.903.3666



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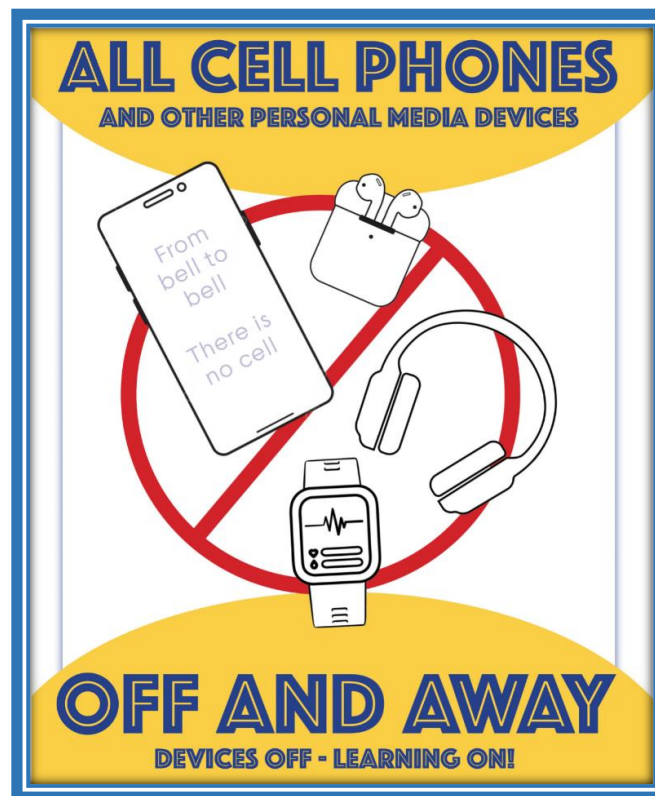


seycove.ca

We look to parents, families and community members to also model, support and educate students on what it means to be a responsible digital citizen. Please find listed below some resources that may be helpful for continued conversations about the safe and responsible use of technology:

- [Digital media: Promoting healthy screen use in school-aged children and adolescents | Canadian Paediatric Society \(cps.ca\)](https://cps.ca)
- [Online safety - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://gov.bc.ca)
- [Welcome to MediaSmarts | MediaSmarts](https://mediasmarts.ca)

We hope that students will understand and engage in the new rules around devices – and start to see the benefits of becoming more digitally aware. If students face hiccups along the way as we shift our thinking and practice, we see these as learning opportunities where school staff can connect with students and families and engage in conversations around the WHY.



In a related development, and to help improve access to the school district internet for students and staff, the application TikTok will no longer be accessible via the NVSD network for personal devices. This change was developed through the district ICT Advisory Committee which includes representatives from stakeholder groups including students, staff, and parents, and was fully supported by all members of the committee. We hope this measure will help improve the network experience for users making appropriate use of the internet for educational purposes.



As a final technology update, a reminder that secondary student passwords expire at the start of the school year and need to be changed annually to provide an extra layer of security and help protect students from potential unauthorized access to their accounts. Students will need to reset their password when they first log in to email, Microsoft Teams, OneDrive, NVSD Portal or a school device.

Students are advised to reset their password via <https://tscd.sd44.ca/updatepassword> before the start of the school year. For additional information, please visit [Student District Login FAQ](#). District IT staff will be at the school on September 4th and 5th to provide support to students using school devices and school staff can reset a password if the student can no longer remember their old password.

Thank you to all our families in advance for your support with all the measures being taken around technology use, and for supporting your students as we work towards maintaining positive mental health, healthy tech habits, and a high degree of engagement in our classes.

Our timetable this year will shift back to a linear model – the block rotation schedule can be found online [here](#). We have included Staff Collaboration (Late Start) dates and times on this timetable. We ask that you please add these to your calendar so that students are aware of which days they should come to school at 9:50am.

		Week 1					Week 2					SEYCOVE SECONDARY Pn: 604.903.3666 Fax: 604.903.3667 seycove@sd44.ca	
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Late Start Wednesday	
Tutorial Time 8:30-9:10 AM												Staff Collaboration 8:30-9:50 AM	
9:10-10:21 AM		1	5	2	6	3	7	1	5	2	6	2 or 5 9:50-10:51 AM	
Transition												Transition	
10:25-11:35 AM		2	6	3	7	1	5	2	6	3	7	3 or 6 10:55-11:55 PM	
Transition												Transition	
11:40-12:50 PM		3	7	1	5	2	6	3	7	1	5	1 or 7 12:00-1:00 PM	
12:50-1:50 PM		LUNCH					LUNCH					LUNCH 1:00-2:00 PM	
1:50-3:00 PM		4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	4 or 8 2:00-3:00 PM	
Late Start Wednesday Dates: (4 per year)		September 25, 2024	October 30, 2024	February 26, 2025	April 30, 2025	5,6,7,8	2,3,1,4	5,6,7,8	2,3,1,4				
2024-2025													

As in previous years, Seycove teachers will be available for drop-in Tutorial Time from 8:30am to 9:10am on scheduled days. We will post teacher tutorial schedules to the Seycove Website as early as possible and have asked staff to post availability outside of their classrooms to start the year. I encourage all our students to make the most of this time by connecting with their teachers each morning to utilize this excellent support.

I would like to extend a special acknowledgement to our Grade 12 students: the Class of 2025. I am extremely excited and honoured to be working with our graduating class as the incoming Principal. I'd ask that you please keep an eye on your inboxes and Teams page as grade counsellors, grad sponsors, and I will be sending out some important information in the coming weeks with respect to Graduation 2025. Grade 12 is a year filled with many memorable occasions, and we want to ensure that your last year as a Seyhawk is filled with fun, but most of all is a safe one. Please note that all school-sanctioned event information will be sent from Seycove through school messenger.

We encourage all families to read the bi-monthly Seycove School Newsletter – the first one will be sent out Friday, September 6th and will contain important information and dates for our school community. As well, we ask that you please check the [Seycove Website](#) regularly to stay in the loop. We update information daily. On Tuesday, students will receive their schedules, locker info, and other key information about the school start up. They will also bring home student verification forms and information about signing into [School Cash Online](#) to complete all of the required start up permission forms. We ask that you please complete these forms ASAP.

Finally, and on a personal note, having spent this past two years as vice-principal at Handsworth, and before that for four years as VP at Sutherland, I am very excited to now get to know the Seycove community better and to serve the students, staff, and families with as much heart and care as Sarah Best has done. It is not my first time as an educator at Seycove – I started my career here as a student teacher many years ago – so, I am fortunate to have this lovely feeling of familiarity and 'homecoming' walking back into the school this week. Returning now, in this role, I have already received such a warm welcome, and it is immediately apparent to me what tight-knit and caring school community this is. I am immensely humbled and honoured to have the opportunity to lead Seycove into its next chapter. It is a privilege to welcome students to the building each day and to care for and nurture their social and intellectual growth and well-being.

I look forward to supporting all our families and invite you to contact me at any time with your concerns, hopes or highlights. Seycove maintains a reputation as a welcoming and inclusive school, and I am excited to build upon that strong tradition in the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,



Meghan Downie
Principal
Seycove Secondary

