



Seycove Secondary Community School

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August 28, 2020

Dear Students & Parents:

My apologies for intruding on your last weeks of summer; I know how precious these days are. I hope that you have all been able to bank lots of rest and relaxation in preparation for the start of another exciting and very “unique” year.

In the lead-up to school re-opening here has been a great deal of information in the media, and I felt it important to reach out directly to our community. More updates with specifics will follow next week, but I wanted to start the conversation today through a Seycove lens.

With all of the constant change we have faced, it is nice to be able to say that Seycove’s admin team remains the same this year. We will be able to continue to utilise the experience we gained last year as we continue through our Covid journey. Vice Principle Desai and I are both confident, as we anticipate 2020-2021 and all of the challenges it will certainly bring, that we will succeed in providing our students with the best supports possible.

This will be the third time in just 6 months that we are re-welcoming everyone back into the building; each time we have had to adjust and regroup, and find a way to move forward together. September’s start will again be unique for everyone, for as you know we will be embracing yet another number of significant changes. The great news is that we will finally have a school full of students and all of the wonderful energy that that brings!

On Wednesday (Aug. 26th) all NVSD44 families received an email from Mark Pearmain, Superintendent of Schools, with a detailed explanation of what school restart will look like, and links to all of the school restart information that is posted on the district website. ([CLICK HERE](#))

Staff and Student safety is paramount. As described in Superintendent Pearmain’s letter, we will all be returning to in-class learning by following a plan that includes significant new health and safety measures. It was developed under the direction and guidance provided by the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Officer, and prioritizes the health and safety of students and staff, while also maximizing in-class

instructional time. Please take the time to review the measures that are being put into place.

I want to reassure everyone that there has been a great deal of careful discussion and planning in preparation for our return. District staff and school-based admin have been meeting since the first week of August, discussing a long list of topics, including the safe use of facilities, the revision of instructional models and design, Occupational Health and Safety concerns, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and mental health.

In order to safely accommodate all of our students and staff, the Secondary School timetable has been revised. ([CLICK HERE](#))

Specific details about Seycove (such as daily start-end times, first-day attendance, student schedules) are still being finalized, and will be emailed to families next week (August 31-Sept 4). As with last spring, I humbly ask for your continued patience as we continue to work to finalize plans. Our landscape continues to shift, and we should all expect the need to adapt as we move forward.

I will close with an excerpt from my final letter to you in July ...

We can all look forward to returning in September knowing that we are already very familiar with the challenges of the “Covid Journey” and that as a community, we have now proven that together we can successfully guide our students to the finish line.

We will continue to regroup and improve, and as we did this year, we will celebrate the strength, courage, perseverance, ingenuity, and accomplishments of all of our staff and students. We will succeed.

More next week ...

Sincerely,

Mr. Rob McLeod
Principal
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