



Seycove Secondary School

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September 4th, 2020

Dear Grade 8 Parents and brand new Grade 8 Seyhawks!

Welcome to Seycove!! What a remarkable time to start your high school journey!

As a new grade 8 student, I'll bet that you are going through so many different emotions right now!

I am sure you are excited, a bit worried or nervous, maybe even a bit impatient ... We are all feeling a bit different than we did last September. All the feelings that you are experiencing are being felt by the whole school, staff and students alike. It is normal ... maybe that is what they mean by "the new normal." The most important thing to remember is that we are all going through it together. It is by working together as a Seycove community, and supporting each other, that we are going to make this year an incredible success.

You may not know it yet, but many of the most important lessons that you all learned last year as grade 7s actually had little to do with books, and homework, and tests. You also learned to deal with new challenges, to take risks and try new ways to get things done. You learned not to give up and to be more independent problem solvers. You learned to ask for help, and gained the confidence to help others. You learned that even with all of the challenges and changes that we all had to face, we still made it through, and we can always figure it out together. These are such important skills and understandings which will help us all succeed this year. You are more ready to start this year than you think! I can't wait to see the amazing things that you can all do!

We are extremely excited to be working with you this year, and look forward to meeting you and your family. The transition from elementary to high school can be a challenge for both students and parents. However, we believe that communication between home and school is the key for a successful transition. Mail outs and notices that students bring home in elementary school do not happen as frequently in high school.

Here are the most common ways that communication and information is most successfully passed on between home and school:

- Email/voice message from the school, or the home
- Notes published on the school calendar
- Regular updates on the school website
- Interim reports
- Direct parent contact with teachers, grade counsellor and grade administrator

Your grade 8 counsellor is Ms. Margie Arnold (marnold@sd44.ca). Part of her role is to help facilitate communication and contact between home and school. If you have any questions or concerns about your

son/daughter, how they are doing, or what may be going on at the school, please feel free to contact her directly.

Ms. Desai (Vice Principal) is the grade 8 administrator this year, and a usual first contact, but as administrators we are both available for questions and concerns any time they arise. We look forward to working with your children in this exciting new stage of their educational journey. We encourage them to be in contact with either of us if they have any questions or concerns throughout the year; our doors are always open.

This year (more than ever before) the role that parents play in their child's education has taken on a whole new significance. In so many ways, the classroom has moved more into the home, and there are new partnerships as parents work together with students and their teachers. A condensed school term means longer classes, which repeat every day for 10 weeks. It will seem that so much more information has to be covered in such a short amount of time. For these reasons and so many more, we encourage you to stay as involved as you can.

While students often express embarrassment at your suggestion that you contact their teachers directly (or worse yet, actually meet with them!) we ask you to please do so if you have any concerns about how your child is doing. Experience tells us that the more that parents are involved in their child's education, the greater their success in their transition from elementary school to high school and on through to graduation.

Our school's website (www.seycove.ca) is probably the most valuable way to stay informed. We encourage students and parents alike to bookmark our website and visit it often for information and updates.

We are very excited to start this journey with you. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rob McLeod
Principal
rmcleod@sd44.ca

Ms. Jag Desai
Vice Principal
jdesai@sd44.ca

Ms. Margie Arnold
Counsellor
marnold@sd44.ca

Mark These Dates! *(a more complete calendar will be provided during September 10th orientation)*

- **Thursday, September 10th** – First day of student orientation! Grade 8's enter through the front doors of the school at 08:30 am and move to the gym to get their timetable in their cohorts. Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances. **NOTE: ALL** students are asked to wear a mask from home, as the school-provided mask will not be available until they are in their first class. They will then proceed to their first class cohort and start with a "Virtual" grade 8 assembly, followed by orientation work with their teachers.
- **Friday, September 11th** – Day 2 of orientation
- **Monday, September 14th** – first full day of classes.