



# SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

1860 Sutherland Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7L 4C2 Telephone: 604-903-3500



March 1, 2024

Dear Sutherland Families,

March is upon us, and I know families are excited to take a much-deserved Spring Break. I am happy to provide a few operational, event, and educational updates today to our school community.

As was announced at this week's Board Meeting, Sutherland will continue to operate on a semester system for the 2024-25 school year. I trust this schedule continuity for next year will provide students and families the certainty we all appreciate in planning for the year ahead. Other secondary schools across North Vancouver are also communicating next year's timetable to their families. I know the changes happening at other schools reflect the needs and circumstances of those school communities. The schedules at all schools have been developed thoughtfully by senior district staff, who arrived at these decisions after months of discussions with students, staff, and parents from all secondary schools. Sutherland has the longest tradition of any school in North Vancouver of being semestered and know I our staff are especially well-versed in the many ways this structure will continue to offer the greatest benefit to our students.

Our annual programming cycle of building a timetable that best meets the needs of students is well underway for 2024-25. A reminder that course request forms should be returned by all students in grades 8-11 to the main office by end of day Monday. Students and families should also have indicated their course requests online by end of the day Sunday using [instructions](#) posted on our [course programming page](#). Any questions about course programming can be directed to the appropriate grade counsellor.

Teaching staff are looking forward to meeting with parent/guardians at our upcoming Parent-Teacher-Student Learning Conferences. Detailed information about this event was sent out to families on February 5<sup>th</sup>. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please be sure to sign up for appointment times with your children's teachers. A reminder that the booking window closes on March 8<sup>th</sup> at midnight. March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> will also be days where Sutherland has an adjusted bell schedule to accommodate these meetings.

This past month has been filled several notable events and activities at Sutherland. All month long, a dedicated group of students and staff have done a remarkable job of observing Black History Month. The daily announcements, film screenings, Afrobeats Dance Classes, and more, were punctuated by visits from Valerie Jerome who shared personal experiences and story, and by Marc Alexis who shared some of his personal poetry. Anti-Racism work this month was also undertaken with our grade 9s through their Social Studies classes, facilitated by Charles Lartey at [HopeU](#).

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, over 100 senior students and staff took the seabus over to participate in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls March, which happened in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. It was a powerful day of story and reflection, and I am exceptionally proud of the way in which our students

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conducted themselves throughout the day. Thank you to all the staff that supported this opportunity for Sutherland students.

With so much happening at the school it's difficult to capture it all, but a couple other events of note include February 16<sup>th</sup> when Sutherland played host to the District Chess Championships, and as previously communicated, we were proud to welcome Prime Minister Trudeau to Sutherland on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

On the Arts and Athletics fronts our jazz band students participated in Jazz Fest at Carson Graham on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and as the Winter Season winds down Sutherland has been proud to send a number of competitors to provincial competition in both wrestling and gymnastics. Congratulations to all our students who are performing at such a high level and making our school proud!

Looking ahead, the first two weeks of March also promise to be busy:

- March 1<sup>st</sup> GPP Program Students Return from Seattle
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> YDI Survey (Gr 11s)
- March 5<sup>th</sup> Semester 1 Sabre Awards Distributed
- March 7<sup>th</sup> CapU Math Contest
- March 7<sup>th</sup> Economics Student Workshop Field Trip
- March 8<sup>th</sup> Sutherland Pep Rally
- March 8<sup>th</sup> Squamish Nation Youth Career Conference
- March 9<sup>th</sup> Physics 12 Students to UBC for Physics Olympics
- March 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Self-Assessment of Core Comps in P2 Classes (Gr 9 & 11)
- March 14<sup>th</sup> Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences (Adjusted Bell Schedule)
- March 14<sup>th</sup> Capstone Market
- March 15<sup>th</sup> Adjusted Bell Schedule for Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> Spring Break

I trust that regular informative communications are reaching all our families in a timely manner. If you miss an edition of our [school newsletter](#) or any of my [principal's messages](#), you are able to find them on our school website.

In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable Spring Break!

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett  
Principal  
Sutherland Secondary

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