



January 8, 2021

Dear Argyle Families,

This week was an absolute whirlwind that began with anticipation and quickly turned into a flurry of unpacking and setting up new spaces. We experienced excitement and joy when finally opening the doors to our students, welcoming them into their new school. Finally, we settled into the satisfied sense of exhaustion that comes from a week fulfilling years of planning in a new landscape of learning.

Below you will find important information on:

1. Grade 8 Rotations
2. Student Routines & Expectations
3. Clubs
4. Student Safety: Pickup & Drop-off
5. The New Argyle
6. Update on Gr 9 immunization clinic

Grade 8 Rotations

Grade 8s in an Explorations block this quarter will have their last day of the current rotation on Monday, January 11th. The final rotation of the quarter will begin on Tuesday, January 12th.

Student Routines & Expectations

Teachers and support staff have been deliberately modeling and teaching students how to be respectful of the shared learning spaces. It will take some time and continued efforts to build a culture of learning throughout the school. We are impressed to see the number of students who are using the variety of workspaces throughout the school outside classroom and collaboration spaces. We are excited that our new space makes learning abundantly visible.

Clubs

Clubs at most Secondary Schools in NV are meeting virtually. Those that are meeting in person must maintain physical distancing, wear masks, sanitize the space after use, and keep attendance records for all in person meetings (for contact tracing purposes). The responsibility of following COVID safety protocols rests with the staff sponsor. We are happy that our clubs are running and students are making connections with likeminded peers. Please visit our Clubs page for more information.

The New Argyle: ongoing finishing work

Tradespeople & construction workers continue working to finish our new building, and deliveries are being made on a daily basis. Like a new house or reno, deficiencies are being addressed as they are identified. For example, some windows were broken upon delivery or installation and are in the process of being replaced, and flashing was adjusted to stop a leak this week. Tradespeople will be onsite during



École Argyle Secondary

the day and late into the evening for the coming weeks. **Please note: parking and access to the Argyle site is very limited due to the additional numbers of vehicles making deliveries, construction vehicles such as concrete mixers, and personal vehicles of the workers. Your assistance by not driving onto our site at this time is greatly appreciated.**

Student Safety: Pickup & Drop-off

Please be extra cautious while driving near Argyle during peak times in the morning and afterschool as we adjust to new entry and exit points in the neighbourhood. Whenever possible we encourage students to walk or bike to school. If you are driving your child during peak times please consider meeting them a block or two from the school. Please note there is no student drop off/pick up in the staff parking lot unless they need assistance entering the school.

Overall students have been diligently using the new sidewalks. We ask for your help in continuing to reinforce with your child the importance of being aware of their surroundings while walking including being free from distractions when crossing roadways. When walking to/from school with their friends, students should be wearing their mask unless they are with others living in the same household.

Update regarding the immunization clinic tentatively scheduled for the Grade 9 students at Argyle

The grade 9 immunization clinic tentatively scheduled for the winter will not be proceeding this year. Due to the pandemic VCH has had to reallocate staffing towards contact tracing and the COVID-19 vaccine. Students can access routine vaccines through their family GP or a pharmacy if families would like to have their children vaccinated sooner.

If you have any questions regarding vaccines please reach out to our public health nurse, Laura Willms at laura.willms2@vch.ca

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly.

Warm regards,

Kim Jonat, Principal, kjonat@sd44.ca (Gr. 12)

Caren Hall, Vice-Principal, chall@sd44.ca (Gr. 9 & 11)

John Crowley, Vice-Principal, jcrowley@sd44.ca (Gr. 8 & 10)