



November 9, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Re: Argyle Secondary School Replacement Project Update

I am excited to share with you the news that we are nearing completion of Phase 1 of the Argyle Secondary School Replacement Project. *On January 4, 2021, students and staff will start the new year off in our brand new home!*

Our seismically safe and state-of-the-art student-centred school is designed to meet today's standards for safety, accessibility, sustainability, resource efficiency and modern learning. It will include an enhanced multi-use performance space, improved gym facilities, integration of technology throughout the school, improved drop-off areas and parking, improved use of natural lighting, and environmental enhancements such as outdoor learning spaces, gardens, rainwater drainage and creek enhancements.

The school has been designed to bring the "outside in" -- infusing the natural and historical connections of Lynn Valley to a modern structure. Two bridges in the school are a nod to the Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge and when carved, a new Kayachtn (pronounced Kay-ach-tin) Pole, carved by a local First Nations artist, will reside in the school – welcoming all to our new community asset.

With a 1,300-student capacity, our new school will also provide our students and staff with a 21st Century learning environment. Student and staff collaboration, which will require strict adherence to current COVID-19 health and safety measures, will be possible through the 10 *Learning Communities* located throughout the school. Each Learning Community consists of four classrooms that surround a collaboration space, and includes a space for teacher prep, a breakout room that allows for quiet study, testing or project work, and a kitchenette.

In a few short weeks, Phase 1 of this \$61M project, which many of you will recall began in 2012 as a seismic upgrade project, will come to a close. We have chosen to complete the move over the winter break out of consideration for our students and staff who will be partway through the second quarter of the school year. We therefore have a strong desire to minimize any distractions associated with this phase of the project. Once students and staff have moved into our new school, Phase 2, which includes the process of hazardous building materials abatement and demolition of the existing school to make room for a new artificial turf field (a District of North Vancouver-led project), will begin.



École Argyle Secondary

I know you will share in the excitement we all feel with this positive development for members of the Argyle Secondary community. I also anticipate many of you, due to the restrictions in place due to COVID-19, will feel disappointed in not having a chance to visit the old school or the new school. I too share in that disappointment, and therefore plan to share photos and video, which will provide you with a glimpse into not only what awaits our students and staff but also what we are leaving, including memories we will cherish and preserve.

Should you have any questions or comments in the interim, please send them to argyle@sd44.ca, using the subject line "New Argyle". We will compile questions and provide answers via an online FAQ, for the benefit of our entire community.

In closing, this is a major milestone for the Argyle Secondary School community and larger Lynn Valley community, and one that we should all feel proud of. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your ongoing support, understanding and patience. I look forward to providing you with additional updates as we near the move-in date.

With appreciation,

Kim Jonat
Principal
École Argyle Secondary School