



SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

January 16th, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 7 Students,

On behalf of the entire Sutherland staff, I would like to welcome you to the Sutherland Secondary School community. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to the arrival of your child at Sutherland for the 2023-2024 school year. This letter provides an overview of the upcoming transition process to high school that your child will participate in beginning this spring. Our commitment is to build a strong sense of belonging to the Sutherland community for our newest grade 8s.

Our transition program focuses on giving both students and their family's essential information about secondary school while offering opportunities to become more familiar with the school community. It is also our first opportunity to learn more about our Graduates of 2028 and about how to best support them prior to their official arrival in September. We encourage you to take an active role in this process and ask that you please make note of the important dates below.

Course Programming Information Meeting for Grade 7 Parents: Tuesday, February 7th at 7pm

Parents of current Grade 7s are invited to Sutherland for a course programming information and transition meeting on Tuesday, February 7th at 7pm, hosted by Mrs. Marianne Macario (Grade 8 Counsellor) and Mr. Paul Ruben (Grade 8 Vice Principal). In the presentation, we will include general information about high school, specific information about Sutherland, a course programming presentation, and an opportunity to answer any questions from families. The primary purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the Sutherland grade 8 course offerings and programs available. We will introduce the Course Request sheets and give information about how to support students in completing these forms. An optional tour will take start at 6pm from the Sutherland office.

Secondary Enhanced Program and Academies Information Meetings and Registration Period: Information Meeting at Sutherland Secondary in person @ 6:30 in the Gymnasiums, Cafeteria and Theatre on Thursday January 26th: Registration Period - January 27th to February 27th

The North Vancouver School District has many exciting opportunities for secondary students through Enhanced Programs and Academies. Each of the academy programs will be holding a virtual information meeting. Please find the schedule and links for these meetings, as well as all of the other pertinent information specific to the Academy Programs on two NVSD webpages: [Enhanced Program Overview](#) & [North Vancouver School District Academies](#).

Grade 7 Student Programming Presentations:

Marianne Macario (Grade 8 Counsellor) and Paul Ruben (Grade 8 Vice-Principal) will be visiting Grade 7 classes from our feeder schools for an introduction and presentation in late February. Topics will include Grade 8 course request options, programs and offerings at Sutherland, extra-curricular opportunities, and general information about attending Secondary School. We will hand out **Course Request forms at this meeting and are asking for them to be completed and returned back to your child's Grade 7 teacher by Monday, March 6th.**



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Grade 7 Articulation Meetings

A key aspect of the grade 7 transition process happens 'behind the scenes'. The Sutherland Transition Team will meet with elementary school grade 7 staff to discuss the educational needs of the grade 7 students coming to Sutherland. For students who may require additional learning or transition supports, our Family of Schools Leader, Meagan Stoker, will connect with families via your child's Case Manager in the spring. Sutherland will contact families in May with our recommendations for support.

Grade 7 Student Orientation and Tour of Sutherland

We will host each Grade 7 class and their teacher at Sutherland in late April. Sutherland leadership students will guide groups on a tour of the campus. They will see the various elective areas, academic areas, applied skills areas, as well as student support areas of the school.

Grade 7 Student Workshops

We will host all FOS Grade 7 students and their teachers to come to Sutherland in early May to engage in a stations activity. Sutherland students and staff will present workshops to provide helpful tips such as reading a timetable, practicing organizational strategies, study skills, managing stress and learning how to open a locker.

September 2023 – Grade 8 First Day of Secondary School and Parent Orientation

Just prior to the return to school for the new 2023/24 school year, we will send a letter to all grade 8 parents and guardians regarding the schedule and activities taking place on their first days at Sutherland. Including the date, and time of the Grade 8 Parent Orientation Meeting.

October 2023 – Grade 8 Retreat

We will be running a grade 8 retreat October 4-6th at the Cheakamus Centre as a community building activity. In order to bring the entire cohort the grade 8 class will be split into two groups that would each spend two days and one night at Cheakamus. There will be one large group activity on the Thursday cross-over day. The needed forms will be distributed before we break for the summer and the fees will be due early in September. The overnight retreat costs may be approximately \$150 per student.

On behalf of the Sutherland Secondary community, we look forward to meeting and working with you and your child at these events. If you have any questions regarding your child's program at our school, please contact Marianne Macario (Grade 8 Counsellor) mmacario@sd44.ca and visit the [Sutherland website](#).

Sincerely,

Paul Ruben,
Vice-Principal