

September 4, 2026

Dear Seycove Families,

We are excited to welcome our students back to Seycove on **Tuesday, September 8!** As we head into the weekend before our first day back, here are a few key reminders to help everyone get off to a great start, as a follow up to my email from last week.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 | OPENING DAY

Please note: Tuesday is not a regular instructional day. Students only need to attend school for the specific Grade 8 program or homeroom time listed below. **Our first full day of classes for all students is Wednesday, September 9 (block Rotation: 5, 6, 7, 8).**

Grade 8

- 10:30 am: Opening Assembly in the Gym
- Followed by homeroom, lockers, timetable familiarization and opening activities
- Approximate dismissal: 12:30 pm

Grades 11 & 12

- 12:45 pm: Mandatory Homeroom

Grades 9 & 10

- 1:30 pm: Mandatory Homeroom

Grade 8 Families

- 6:00 pm: Grade 8 Parent Night & Cheakamus Retreat Information Meeting (Cafeteria)

Please remember that **homeroom attendance is mandatory**. Students will receive important information, including their timetables and Student Verification Forms.

OPENING WEEK ASSEMBLIES

ALL students in grade 9 – 12 will also participate in grade assemblies on Friday, September 11th. This is when admin and counsellors will go over key information for a successful school year.

10:25 am Grade 9 & 10 Assembly (Cafeteria)
11:40 am Grade 11 & 12 Assembly (Cafeteria)



604.903.3666



1204 Caledonia Avenue
North Vancouver, BC V7G 2A6



seycove@sd44.ca



seycove.ca

**NEW: TEXTBOOK DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Please note that directly following homeroom, students will receive most of the textbooks they need for their scheduled classes through our new resource distribution process.

After dismissal from homeroom, students will bring the textbook list provided during homeroom to **Room 207**, where they will sign out their textbooks and other required resources for the school year.

During the first week of school, students are asked to stop by the library to have all textbooks covered to help protect them throughout the year.

We ask students to take good care of all school resources and return them at the end of the course or school year. Families will be charged for textbooks that are lost, damaged, or not returned.

TIMETABLES & COURSE CHANGE REQUESTS

Students will receive their timetables on Tuesday. If a student is **missing a course or believes there is an error**, they should:

1. Pick up a **Course Change Request Form** outside Student Services.
2. Complete, parent/guardian sign, and return the form to the **Main Office**.
3. Students may message their counsellor on Teams to let them know the form has been submitted, but **the paper form must still be handed in, signed**.

Course Change Requests will be accepted **September 9 to September 23**. Students must continue attending their scheduled classes until they have spoken directly with their grade counsellor and have been notified that a change has been made. Course changes based on social or teacher preference will not be accommodated.

GRADE COUNSELLORS

Your student's grade counsellor is also a fantastic source of information and support and can assist with academic progress, course planning, well-being, and navigating school life. **This year, we are pleased to welcome a new counsellor to our team following Margie Arnold's retirement**

Counsellor (International)	Ms. Rachel Burns	rburns@sd44.ca
Counsellor (Grades 8, 10, 12 A - K)	Ms. Jodi Derkson	jderkson@sd44.ca
Counsellor (Grades 9, 11, 12 L - Z)	Ms. Ruby Willems	rwillems@sd44.ca



FEES AND SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

At the start of the school year, families will see the **Student Activity Fee, Grad Fee (for Grade 12 students), and applicable course workbook fees** added to student School Cash Online accounts.

Fees related to **specific courses, field trips, athletics, and other activities** will be added by October 1st and throughout the year, depending on student participation. We ask families to please pay these fees as they appear on their accounts.

For students participating in **school athletics**, fees must be paid at the beginning of each season. Please note that any outstanding athletic fees must be cleared before a student can be added to a roster for a subsequent season.

VERIFICATION FORMS

Following homeroom, students will bring home their Student Verification Form. Please review, sign, and return the form even if there are no changes to your student's information. Returning all forms helps us ensure our school records are accurate and up to date.

If you are submitting a change of address, please include a copy of the required proof of address. For homeowners, this could be a copy of a tax statement, purchase agreement, BC Hydro, or gas bill. For renters, this could be a copy of the formal rental or lease agreement or a current BC Hydro or gas bill.

If you have any questions about updating address information, please contact our Records Clerk, Sarah Loveng (sloveng@sd44.ca).

GRADE 12 PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT – CONFIRMED: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

We encourage Grade 12 families to save the date for this important evening as we look ahead to graduation, post-secondary planning and the year ahead.

6:00pm **Grade 12 Parent Information Session**

MYED PARENT AND STUDENT PORTAL MOVING TO A MOBILE FRIENDLY INTERFACE

Please note that the MyEducation BC Parent and Student Portal will be moving to a new mobile-friendly interface this school year, making it easier for families and students to access important information from any device.

The district encourages all families to visit the MyEd Help page (<https://www.sd44.ca/MyEdHelp>) before access opens to familiarize themselves with the new mobile-friendly experience and watch a 2-minute overview video. Parent access will be enabled in October and will be communicated to families through the monthly school district newsletter (News, Events and Opportunities).



LONG WEEKEND SAFETY REMINDER

As we head into the final long weekend before school begins, we want all of our students to enjoy time with friends while making safe and respectful choices. With increased independence comes responsibility, and we encourage families to talk with their students about plans for the weekend, transportation, substance use, looking out for friends, respecting our community and environment, and making sure everyone gets home safely.

The North Vancouver RCMP and West Vancouver Police Department have also shared information with students and families regarding traditional grad sleep-outs and other youth gatherings taking place over the Labour Day weekend. While the message has a particular focus on senior students, the reminders around **safe decision-making, respectful behaviour, looking out for one another, and community responsibility are important for all of our students.** [RCMP: Police urge safe and respectful behaviour ahead of grad sleep-outs](#)

We want our students to have fun, connect with friends, and enjoy the final weekend of summer while making choices that keep themselves and others safe.

A FEW EXPECTATIONS AS WE BEGIN

As we start the year, we are asking students to take increasing **ownership of their learning and their role in our community.** A few simple things make a significant difference:

- **Be here and be on time.** Regular attendance and engagement matter.
- **Come ready to learn.** Bring a binder, paper and writing tools for the first days of classes.
- **Engage and ask for help.** Tutorial time and our staff are here to support students.
- **Take responsibility for choices, actions and shared spaces.**
- **Keep personal digital devices away during instructional time,** unless directed by a teacher or required as part of an identified accommodation.
- **Be kind, respectful and inclusive.** How each of us shows up contributes to the culture of Seycove.

We are looking forward to seeing our students on Tuesday and beginning another great year together. Enjoy the final days of summer, Seyhawks!

Warmly,

Meghan Downie
Principal
Seycove Secondary School at səyəmətən



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