

August 28, 2026

Dear Seycove Families,

Tl'iknumut, Bienvenue, and Welcome!

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and found time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends. It is hard to believe we are already preparing to welcome our students back to Seycove, and I am very much looking forward to the energy and excitement that comes with the start of a new school year.

As I begin my third year as Principal of Seycove, I continue to feel incredibly fortunate to be part of this community. Over the past two years, our students, staff, and families have done important work together around belonging, resilience, engagement, and what it means to live into our Seycove values of Community, Creativity, Respect, and Inclusivity. These values continue to guide how we learn together, how we treat one another, and how each of us contributes to our school.

This year, we will continue building that work with an increased focus on student agency and ownership. We want our students to recognize themselves as active participants in their learning and in our community. That means coming to school consistently and on time, being curious, engaging in learning, asking for help when it is needed, taking responsibility for choices, and recognizing the influence each of us has on the people and community around us.

There will, of course, be moments when things do not go as planned. Part of learning is developing the ability to reflect, adjust, seek support, and try again. Our goal is not perfection. It is to help our students become increasingly thoughtful, capable, responsible, and engaged young people who understand that they have both agency and responsibility in shaping their own experience at school.

We are excited to continue into this year as a strong community of learners, one where students feel that they belong, are challenged to grow, and understand that their presence and participation matter.

Our Seycove Values and Community Expectations

As we return in September, we also want to begin the year by remembering who we are as Seyhawks and the kind of community we want Seycove to be.



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Our values of Community, Creativity, Respect, and Inclusivity are more than words we use to describe our school. They are commitments we make to one another, and they help guide how we learn, how we interact, and how we contribute to the spaces we share.

At Seycove, we want every student to feel that they belong and that they have a responsibility for helping others feel that way too. We expect our students to treat one another, our staff, our school, and themselves with respect. That means being kind and inclusive, taking care of our shared spaces, making choices that support learning and safety, respecting differences, and recognizing that our words and actions have an impact on others.

At the beginning of the year, students will revisit our school-wide behaviour expectations in homerooms, assemblies, and classrooms. Our goal is not simply to provide students with a list of rules. We want students to understand the *why* behind our expectations and to recognize their own role in creating the culture of our school.

SEYCOVE SCHOOLWIDE BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS			
In ALL Settings, We...			
CREATIVE		COMMUNITY	
Curiosity, Innovation, Problem-Solving, Self-Awareness, Growth		Belonging, Contribution, Connection, Stewardship	
• Approach learning with curiosity and an open mind • Share ideas, talents, and perspectives • Try new things, ask questions, and take thoughtful risks • Think creatively to solve problems • Learn from mistakes and feedback • Celebrate the ideas and accomplishments of others • Persevere through challenges • Reflect on and improve our learning		• Foster a sense of belonging for everyone • Treat others with kindness, dignity, and respect • Support and encourage those around us • Care for people, spaces, and the environment • Take responsibility for our actions and their impact on others • Contribute in ways that strengthen our community • Participate and contribute to school life • Celebrate and support the success of others	
RESPECTFUL		INCLUSIVE	
Responsibility, Integrity, Respect, Accountability, Care		Welcoming, Equity, Empathy, Belonging	
• Take ownership of our actions and learning • Be on time and prepared • Meet commitments and follow deadlines • Respect others' time by being reliable and ready to contribute • Use respectful language and actions • Listen when others are communicating • Respect personal space, privacy, and belongings • Take care of shared spaces and materials • Leave spaces better than we found them		• Welcome and include others • Ensure everyone feels a sense of belonging • Value different identities, experiences, and perspectives • Demonstrate kindness, empathy, and understanding • Support equitable opportunities for participation • Help others feel seen, heard, and valued • Seek to understand before making assumptions • Support equitable opportunities for participation	

Being a Seyhawk means being part of something bigger than ourselves. It means looking out for one another, contributing positively, repairing harm when mistakes happen, and taking responsibility for the choices we make. When each of us does our part, Seycove continues to be a place where people feel safe, respected, included, and ready to learn.

We encourage families to talk about these expectations at home as well. Students, staff, and families all play a part in creating the kind of community we want Seycove to be, and we are excited to continue that work together this year. We also encourage all student and families to review our School and district [Code of Conduct](#) so that everyone is familiar with expectations and guidelines around ensuring positive school culture.



Opening Week

Attached (and below) to this message is our 2026 Student Opening Week Schedule, which includes the key dates and times for students as we begin the year. You can find a copy of this on our school website page linked here: [School Communications](#)

Seycove at sə'yəmətən
Secondary School
OPENING WEEK SCHEDULE
STUDENT EDITION - 2026

OPENING DAY – Tuesday, September 8, 2026

10:30 am	Grade 8 Assembly (Gym)
11:15 am	Grade 8 Homeroom
11:45 am	Lockers and Timetable Familiarization (Grade 12 Ambassadors to Lead)
12:00 pm	Grade 8s, Student Leaders, and Grade 8 Homeroom Teachers to field for final activity
12:45 pm	Grade 11 & 12 Mandatory Homeroom (Values and Behaviour Expectations, forms, schedules, lockers, start-up information)
1:30 pm	Grade 9 & 10 Mandatory Homeroom (Values and Behaviour Expectations, forms, schedules, lockers, start-up information)
6:00 pm	Grade 8 Parent Night and Cheakamus Retreat Information Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Tutorial Time:	ICT on site to Support Student Password Reset
9:10 am	Regular classes begin (Periods 5, 6, 7, 8)

*Students Return Any Forms to Main Office

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Tutorial Time:	ICT on site to Support Student Password Reset
9:10 am	Regular classes begin (Periods 2, 3, 1, 4)
9:20 am	Fire and Evacuation Drill
5:30 pm	Fall Athletics Meeting

Friday, September 11, 2026

9:10 am	Regular Classes (Periods 6, 7, 5, 8)
10:25 am	Grade 9 & 10 Assembly (Cafeteria)
11:40 am	Grade 11 & 12 Assembly (Cafeteria)

Monday, September 14, 2026

9:10 am	Regular Classes (Periods 1, 2, 3, 4)
	Photo Day for All Students

Friday, September 25, 2026

7:30 am	Grade 8 Cheakamus Retreat (Meet in Cafeteria)
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Thursday, October 1, 2026 (TENTATIVE)

6:00 pm	Grade 12 Parent Information Night
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Opening Day Highlights:

- Grade 8: Assembly at 10:30am in the gym, followed by homeroom, lockers, timetable familiarization, and opening activities. Dismissal is approx. 12:30pm.
- Grades 11 & 12: Mandatory Homeroom at 12:45pm
- Grades 9 & 10: Mandatory Homeroom at 1:30pm
- Grade 8 Parent Night and Cheakamus Retreat Information Meeting: 6:00pm

Please review the schedule carefully with your child, as it also includes important dates for assemblies, homeroom, Photo Day, the Grade 8 Cheakamus Retreat, athletics, and our (tentative) Grade 12 Parent Information Night.

For the first days of classes, students should come prepared with a binder, paper, and writing tools. Teachers will identify specific supplies for individual courses as classes get underway.

Homerooms



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Every Seycove student is assigned a homeroom for the school year. Homeroom is not a regularly scheduled class and does not appear as part of a student's daily timetable. Instead, homerooms are called at specific times throughout the year when we need to connect with students and distribute important information or materials, such as forms, schedules, school photos, course information, and other key items.

When a homeroom is scheduled, **attendance is mandatory for all students**. Homeroom dates and times will be communicated in advance through our school communications.

Homeroom lists are posted on the Seycove website and throughout the school so students can easily find their assigned teacher and room. You can find your student's homeroom for the first day of school and room location here: [Sept 8 Homeroom List \(2026-2027\)](#)

Block Rotation for 2026-2027

Students will receive a copy of this year's block rotation during their homeroom on Sept 8th. This has Late Start dates for the year. Please note the adjustment of the start time for daily tutorial access for the 26/27 school year.

		Week 1					Week 2					SEYCOVE SECONDARY Ph: 604.903.3666 Fax: 604.903.3667 seycove@sd44.ca	
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Late Start Wednesday	
Tutorial Time 8:28-9:10 AM												Staff Collaboration 8:28-9:48 AM	
9:10-10:20 AM		1	5	2	6	3	7	1	5	2	6	2 or 5 9:48-10:50 AM	
Transition												Transition	
10:25-11:35 AM		2	6	3	7	1	5	2	6	3	7	3 or 6 10:55-11:55 PM	
Transition												Transition	
11:40-12:50 PM		3	7	1	5	2	6	3	7	1	5	1 or 7 12:00-1:00 PM	
12:50-1:50 PM		LUNCH					LUNCH					LUNCH 1:00-2:00 PM	
1:50-3:00 PM		4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	8	4 or 8 2:00-3:00 PM	
Late Start Wednesday Dates: (4 per year)		October 28, 2026 February 24, 2027 April 28, 2027 May 26, 2027					2,3,1,4 5,6,7,8 2,3,1,4 2,3,1,4					2026-2027	

Student Demographic Verification Forms

Students will receive their Student Verification Form during homeroom on Tuesday. We ask **every family**



to review, sign, and return the form to the Main Office by the end of the first week, even if there are no changes to your information.

If information needs to be updated, please make the changes directly on the form before returning it. **If you are submitting a change of address, please also include proof of new address with the form.**

Accurate information is extremely important, particularly when we need to contact families during the school year, so we appreciate your attention to this right away.

School Start Up Forms

We also ask all families to access [School Cash Online](#) to start the school year. There are three required school forms that must be completed for every student as part of our annual start-up process.

Please complete all three forms, even if you have completed similar forms in previous years. Completing these early helps us ensure that students can participate fully in school activities and walking field trips and have acknowledged their understanding of personal responsibility around technology. It is important that we have those permissions and up to date information as soon as possible. **Please complete this step by September 11, 2026.**

Student Password Reset

All student passwords will expire at the start of the school year and need to be changed annually to provide an extra layer of security and help protect students from potential unauthorized access to their accounts. **Students will need to reset their password by** logging into their district email, Microsoft Teams, OneDrive, or a school device.

Students are advised to reset their password via <https://www.sd44.ca/updatepassword> before the start of the school year (after August 28th). For additional information, please visit [Student District Login FAQ](#). School staff can reset student passwords when students are unable to remember their passwords. ICT staff will be available at schools during the first week of September to provide support as needed.

This is a very important step as admin, our office, and our teachers, communicate regularly with students on Microsoft Teams and through their school district emails.

Timetables and Course Change Requests

Students will receive their schedules on Opening Day during their homeroom. If a student is missing a course or believes there is an error in their timetable, they should pick up a Course Change Request Form outside Student Services and drop it off, signed, to the Main Office as soon as possible.

Students can connect with counsellor on Teams to indicate they've completed a Course Change Request Form – but **MUST** complete the form and hand it in. All missing and incorrect courses are a



priority to fix.

Student Course Change Requests will take place from September 9th – September 23rd. There will be no course changes after this date.

Please remember that 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 for social or teacher choice will not be accommodated.

A reminder that ALL secondary students are required to take the following MINIMUM number of face-to-face courses:

Grade	Courses
8	8
9	8
10	8
11	7 (By Application)
12	6 + CLC 12

Attendance, Engagement and Learning

One of the simplest and most important ways students can take ownership of their learning is by being here.

Regular attendance and arrival on time matter. Learning at school is more than completing assignments. It happens through discussion, questions, collaboration, relationships, feedback, practice, and the day-to-day experiences students have with their teachers and peers. When students miss class, they miss pieces of learning that can be difficult to recreate. Teachers perform ongoing assessment within the classroom, throughout the year – so **regular attendance is key not only to learning, but is necessary for receiving regular feedback, accurate assessments, and successful grades in courses!**

With ongoing changes and access to AI, more and more assessment and instruction will be happening in the classroom as teachers want to understand what students can learn, do, and understand in students' own thinking. This is another reason why regular attendance and engagement in class are vital.

We know there will always be legitimate reasons for students to be away. When that happens, we encourage students to take an active role in reconnecting with their teachers, accessing missed learning,



and asking for support. These are important habits of agency and responsibility that we want to develop together.

Throughout the year, students can also make use of Tutorial Time from 8:28am - 9:10am on scheduled mornings to connect directly with teachers, ask questions, receive additional support, and take greater ownership of their learning.

Personal Digital Devices

We will continue to follow the Ministry of Education requirements regarding Personal Digital Devices. Our goal remains to protect instructional time and support student learning, well-being, mental health, relationships, and healthy technology habits.

Students are expected to keep personal digital devices away (in their locker) during instructional time, unless their use is directed by a teacher or is part of an identified educational or medical accommodation.

As we continue this work, our focus is increasingly on helping students understand the why behind these expectations and supporting them to make responsible choices with technology. This is another area where student agency and responsibility go hand in hand, and we appreciate families reinforcing these expectations at home.

If there is an emergency and parents or guardians need to contact their child during class time, please call the main office and we can support.

Safety, Emergency Preparedness, and Transportation

Throughout the year, we will hold emergency drills to help students and staff feel prepared and know what to do in the event of an emergency. Our first **evacuation drill will take place on Thursday** of our first week back.

As students return to school, we also ask families to review safe transportation practices. Students riding bikes, e-bikes, scooters, or e-scooters should wear helmets, follow the rules of the road, ride one person at a time, and travel safely and respectfully. **Please note that BC requires e-scooter riders to be 16 years or older.** Additional information from our RCMP partners is attached.

Student drivers who park at Seycove must register their vehicle with the Main Office. All drivers are reminded to drive slowly and carefully in and around our parking lot. We also remind all new drivers to follow all restrictions on their license, including passenger limits.

Staying Connected



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We will continue to send regular school newsletters with important dates, information, celebrations, photos, and highlights from across our school community. Additional messages will be shared when there is information families need between newsletters.

Throughout the year, in addition to our scheduled Parent-Teacher Learning Conferences, we encourage families to stay connected with teachers by email if you have questions about your student's learning, progress, or what is happening in the classroom. Your student's grade counsellor is also a fantastic source of information and support and can help with academic progress, course planning, well-being, and navigating school life.

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

Please also check the Seycove website regularly for current information and upcoming events. If you are not receiving school emails or newsletters, please contact the Main Office so we can make sure your contact information is current. The website is currently under construction as we move to a new platform, so it will continue to evolve this year as we navigate this change.

Final Thoughts

As we begin another year together, I am excited about where we are going next. Seycove is a caring, creative, inclusive, and connected community, and those qualities exist because of the people within it. Our students have an important role in shaping that community, and so do all of us. And I am privileged to be a part of it.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous, continued work of our PAC as well – and encourage any interested parents to join the group, keep up with communications from PAC, and connect with the parent community who care so deeply about our school.

Thank you all for your partnership, trust, and the many ways you support your children and our school. I look forward to seeing our returning students again, welcoming our newest Seyhawks, and continuing to build a community where students feel a strong sense of belonging, take ownership of their learning, remain curious, and are ready to engage and thrive.

Enjoy these final days of summer. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back on the 8th!

Warmly,

Meghan Downie

Principal of Seycove Secondary School at séyəmətən

