

# Stelly's School

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May 3, 2011

To Stelly's Parents/Guardians and Students.

In recent months you may have read articles or heard our Superintendent Dr. Elder or others talk about 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Initiatives and the opportunities and challenges the topic presents. We are very proud of the programs and opportunities we already offer our students, but we also continue to explore ways to improve our practice to help our students be even more successful. We are particularly looking forward to working with a number of professors and associate professors from the University of Victoria's Faculty of Education next year as we examine, reflect on and refine our practice.

In our study of 21st Century Learning Initiatives, a significant component is time for staff to meet, discuss and collaborate on a regular basis; a school is only as strong as the expertise of the staff. The non-instructional days are always useful, but because they are spread throughout the year it is difficult to maintain momentum and to make significant changes in our practice during the school year. Collaboration time built into our weekly schedule will allow us to engage in significant discussions which we believe will help us refine our practice throughout the year. The District has also explored the possibility of adjusting bus schedules to accommodate a later start to the day; unfortunately this option is not possible.

We are therefore proposing to slightly modify our weekly schedule by adjusting the blocks on Wednesday and Friday. The instructional blocks on both days will be approximately 70 minutes long and students will be dismissed from school at approximately 2:10 pm. The schedule on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday will not change.

Once classes end on Wednesday, staff will engage in professional development for at least an hour. Over the past few months we have discussed this idea with teachers, a number of PAC representatives and students and propose this schedule only after very carefully considering all of the issues. It is important to note that the number of instructional minutes per week as per Ministry requirements does not change. Students do not lose any instructional time as a result of this change.

We are very excited about the many projects and ideas we have for next year and believe that this schedule change will facilitate significant learning opportunities for staff which in turn will support student learning. We welcome your feedback over the next week. Please send your thoughts or questions to [stellys\\_high@sd63.bc.ca](mailto:stellys_high@sd63.bc.ca)

Sincerely,



Bruce Frith  
Principal  
Stelly's Secondary