

Stelly's Secondary School

1627 Stelly's Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, V8M 1S8 - stellys.sd63.bc.ca - 250.652.4401

August 31, 2020 - Update

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

As we approach September we hope you are still finding time to enjoy summer in our beautiful surroundings. At Stelly's we are busy with final preparations to welcome our wonderful students - new and returning! August has brought a variety of information bulletins from the Provincial Government, the District and from Stelly's. This second newsletter since August 26th contains more detailed information regarding our school start up. After reading through this newsletter, if you still have questions, please call us at the school (250) 652-4401, and we will do our best to help you out.

Additionally, there will be a Parent Information Session on September 8th in collaboration with Stelly's PAC. Please note that space will be limited and registration will be necessary. However, attendance to the meeting will also be available remotely. Stay tuned to [Stelly's website](#) for details.

School Start Up Schedule*

Specific details will be posted on Stelly's website in the coming days, but at the moment, students and families can plan on the following:

Tuesday & Wednesday, September 8 - 9

- Staff Only

Thursday, September 10 - Orientation

- Grade 9s ONLY: 10:00 - 11:30 am
- Grade 10s ONLY: 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Friday, September 11 - Orientation

- Grade 11s ONLY: 10:00 - 11:30 am
- Grade 12s ONLY: 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Monday, September 14 - School Schedule

- Regular Classes begin
- All grades
- Regular school busses will be running

*The start up schedule is subject to change depending on new directives from the Ministry of Education.



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The Purpose Of The Orientation Days

1. Welcome students back to school;
2. Help students feel comfortable and safe returning to school;
3. Meeting and/or reconnecting with staff and friends in a kind, calm, and safe environment;
4. Help students understand the new routines, safety rules and guidelines while at school;
5. Help students understand their new timetables;
6. Help students understand the new Copernican schedule and what it means with respect to home work and keeping up with their studies.

Bussing for the Orientation Days

Limited bus service available ONLY UPON REQUEST for the orientation days - September 10 & 11.

To request, please email transportation@saanichschools.ca by **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 2ND**. Students are reminded that they are to wear a mask while on the bus.

School Entry Process

As students arrive on their Orientation day they will be welcomed and greeted by staff and shown to the assembly area on the fields at the back of the school. From there, students will be introduced to their block 1 teacher, be given their new Health and Safety Masks and then be taken into the school to their block 1 classroom. At this point block 1 teachers will complete the Orientation.

Timetables

Students will receive their timetables on their Orientation day. Students can expect to have the same courses as they had on their schedule in June. The Semester 1 courses, for the most part, will be in Quarters 1 and 2 and the Semester 2 courses will be in Quarters 3 and 4.



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Immune Compromised Form And Process

- Students with Immune Suppression - [Click here for information from the Ministry of Education](#)
- Request for Medical Statement (COVID-19) - STUDENTS - [Click here for the form](#)

Health and Safety

The District and School Health and Safety committees have been meeting and in the coming days we will be providing staff and students with health and safety instructions to be followed on buses, in schools and while on school grounds.

The safety and well-being of students, families and staff is our greatest priority. We're taking new precautions to protect everyone's health. Staff in our schools will be ready to support students and families through the transition.

We know there are lots of perspectives on the use of PPEs (personal protection equipment, ex: masks, shields, etc). Stelly's students and staff have always been community-minded: as such, we anticipate many will choose to wear personal protective equipment regardless of the mandate. While the use of PPEs may not be widely used by youth at this time, we would encourage you to have discussions with your child regarding the expectations that currently exist regarding use of PPEs and how they may change going forward. The more preemptive conversations and supportive messaging that takes place, the more normalized the practice will be.

Please understand that currently the government mandate is that masks are to be worn by everyone in the school when in "high traffic" areas. For us that means when staff and students leave their classrooms they are to have their mask on at all times. As well, any time two (2) metre Physical Distancing cannot be maintained, staff and students are to be wearing a mask. As mentioned above, masks will be supplied to students on their orientation day.



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Health and Safety Routines

In addition to the health and safety information above, there will be a number of other details shared with students during their Orientation Day, with reminders in the first few days and weeks of classes. Please do check the [District website](#) and [Stelly's website](#) for Health and Safety updates that will be posted periodically. Many of the routines developed last June will again be in place to optimize safety and physical distancing while moving through the school.

Again, some key health and safety reminders are as follows:

- Please do not come to school if you are not feeling well or if you are displaying symptoms of COVID-19;
- Hand washing and hand sanitizing upon entry into the school and many times throughout the day while at school;
- Follow all hallway movement directions and routines;
- Enter and Exit through the appropriate doors at the appropriate times;
- More information regarding daily health checks and other health and safety measures will be shared with families early next week.

One new procedure we will be following initially this year is the use of coloured wristbands (something like those used at the Saanichton Fair) to help staff and students identify the Learning Groups/Cohorts quickly and at a glance. We anticipate that students will need to wear their wristband for possibly the first week until staff and students become used to knowing who is in their Learning Group/Cohort. Wristbands will be provided at the students' Orientation.

Course Changes

We do not anticipate there will be many course changes this year due to the fact that we are using our June timetable and it was a very successful schedule in meeting students' requests. Additionally, once Learning Groups/Cohorts are established, for safety reasons, it becomes very difficult to move a student into another course. Counsellors will start to come back into the school this week, and they can share more information regarding the potential for course changes. We realize this is not the normal way we finalize student timetables, but the new health and safety requirements do present restrictions on student movement from course to course.



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Textbook Returns

Due to the challenges last year with our reduced time at school, we are still missing many school textbook resources. Please have a look through your house for any and all school resources as we need to process these books back into our inventory in time to distribute them to students for the first Quarter. Please come to the school any time before September 10th and drop the textbooks in our "drop-box" at the main entrance. This is a very important request as we do have hundreds of textbooks still outstanding at this time.

Stay Up To Date

The Saanich School District has a Question and Answer section on their website.

Stage 2 Q&A: <https://www.sd63.bc.ca/Stage-2-QA>

The content is grouped into 4 categories:

1. Return To School
2. Health & Safety
3. Learning Cohorts & Physical Distancing
4. Student Learning

We are so looking forward to seeing everyone in the coming weeks. Please be assured that we are doing our very best to maximize the amount of face to face instruction with teachers, to help your child receive the courses they had selected in the spring, and to do so in a very safe and welcoming environment. We will get through this together!

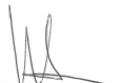
BEE Kind

BEE Calm

RFF Safe



Gord Redlin
Interim Principal



Wendy Laws
Vice-Principal



Ryan Braun
Interim Vice-Principal

