



NEW WESTMINSTER SECONDARY SCHOOL

820 Sixth Street, New Westminster, B.C. V3M 3S9

Telephone: 604-517-6220

Important Information – Please Translate

这是一份重要信息 – 请找人为您翻译

اطلاعات مهم- لطفا ترجمه کنید

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

Важная информация!Переведите,пожалуйста

New Westminster Schools recognizes and acknowledges the Qayqayt First Nation, as well as all Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional and unceded territories we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

Welcome back everyone! A new school year is upon us. We have had some very different school experiences the last year and a half and we are very much looking forward to more normal school experiences and learning for both students and staff.

We have had an administrative change at NWSS. Mr. Lekakis, our former Grade 9 Vice-Principal, has moved to Queensborough Middle School as their Principal. We send our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Lekakis. He will be a true asset to the Queensborough community! I am pleased to welcome Ms. Schellenberg as our new Vice Principal. Ms. Schellenberg comes to us from the Vancouver School District and will be supporting our Grade 10 students starting in September.

Please read this package carefully as there are many details about the school and school start up that will help make your transition back to school more manageable and enjoyable.

The provincial K to 12 Education Steering Committee has worked with the Ministry of Education and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) to finalize updated communicable disease guidelines for this school year. The committee is made up of educators, parents, support workers, school leaders, trustees, First Nations, Métis Nation and public health experts. The health and safety of all of our students and staff remains a priority. With this in mind, all students and adults entering the building must conduct a daily health check prior to entering the building. If any individual is sick, they must not enter the school. Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily before sending them to school. Please see the daily health check information included in this package which includes translated versions of this important documentation. You can also choose to visit:
https://newwestschools.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2020/09/NWS_DailyHealthCheck_Student_March_Update.pdf

The Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings states that “All K to 12 staff, students in grades 4 to 12, and visitors are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, including being at their desks and on school buses. The New Westminster School district adheres to the Occupational Health and Safety and WorkSafeBC standards in the operation of our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Thank you to everyone in our school community for doing all you can to keep everyone as safe as possible.

At New Westminster Secondary, we will continue to offer memorable school experiences and provide learning opportunities and academic excellence for all of our students. In preparation for the new school year, we ask all students to do the following:

- Read this school start up package and accompanying information carefully.
- Pay attention to the orientation information provided in your classes during the first week.
- Keep yourself organized.
- Check the school website regularly for school updates.
- Attend all of your classes and be an active participant.
- Ask questions!

Welcome to our new Grade 9 Hyacks! NWSS has so much to offer, and I encourage all students to find a club, sport, or any of our many extracurricular activities to join. Trying something within the school that you are passionate about or want to experience for the first time will contribute to your sense of belonging here and will enrich your overall high school experience.

We are very excited to welcome back our graduating class: The Class of 2022. As the graduating class, you will provide leadership and purpose in all aspects of student life. Your role as leaders within our community is a significant responsibility and directly contributes to NWSS's history of excellence. We are confident you will meet and exceed our expectations as student leaders. Grade 12 is a year where your hard work and dedication are celebrated and where you get to create many life-long memories. We are excited to share this important year with you.

Our student timetable and course planning were created based on student course requests from the spring. Our Counsellors have done an extraordinary job of changing and verifying student course requests based on what they chose in the spring as well as successful completion of any summer school or online courses. **Please understand that course change requests will be extremely limited** and may not be possible in most circumstances due to many factors including the size and composition of our classes. Students may view their schedule on MyEd BC (<https://nwss.ca/myedbc-family-portal/>). **Please note that a student's schedule is subject to change prior to Friday, September 3rd at 3pm** as our counsellors continue to adjust schedules and balance classes.

Here is a summary of our first week back to school and connecting with your counsellor:

Date	Event
Monday, August 30 – Friday, September 3	Counsellors complete student timetable adjustments No appointments with counsellors available Please note that if you have emailed or phoned your counsellor, these requests will not be addressed. Please see further information below in regards to eligibility of counsellor appointments for the week of September 8 th .
Tuesday, September 7	Grade Assemblies No appointments with counsellors available
Wednesday, September 8 – Thursday, September 9	Counselling appointments will only be awarded to students who meet one or more of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing courses required for graduation • Have an incomplete schedule (fewer than 8 courses). • Have courses on your schedule that you have already passed • Require a course for Post-Secondary • Two classes are scheduled in the same block Students can arrive at the counselling office at 8:00am to secure an appointment time. Prior to the arrival of your counselling appointment, please ensure that the following form is complete and signed by the child's parent/guardian. Counselling appointments will NOT be awarded to students who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to adjust their schedule for personal preferences including request for specific teachers or where they want a specific course to be on their timetable. No exceptions will be made.

Counsellors

Ms. M. Melvin - **RED**

Mr. D. Mori – **PURPLE**

Ms. N. Milne (formerly Ms. Paterson) – **YELLOW**

Ms. J. Towers - **ORANGE**

Ms. C. Vit - **BLUE**

Mr. M. Mitchell – **SIGMA-INT'L ED**

Please log onto MyEd BC to find out which House colour you belong to and who your counsellor is.

Our school website will provide up to date information regarding upcoming special events and activities. www.nwss.ca Please continue to update the school if you have any contact information changes including e-mail, phone numbers, or home address so we can keep open lines of communication between school and home. Contact us at nwss@sd40.bc.ca

In closing, I want to emphasize that while regular student attendance is imperative, where the expectation is for students to attend all of their classes each and every day. We want everyone to be mindful of staying home when sick. Students must conduct their daily health check before coming to school and following all safety protocols. We ask that parents/guardians let the school know if your child will be away for the day or part of the day.

Enjoy the last days of summer! We look forward to a new school year and to reconnecting with our staff and students. Through various initiatives, we plan to rebuild our Hyack sense of belonging and help all experience what it means to be a member of this incredible learning community. Everyone from staff, students, families, and administration are needing reconnection and want to experience the infectious energy that has always been part of the Hyack culture.

Welcome back!

Mr. M. McLeod
Principal

Opening Day – Sept. 7, 2021

All students are required to attend on opening day September 7, 2021 to confirm their registration. For opening day, students will attend an assembly where they will receive information about the school year. Students are to report to their grade assembly which will be held in our gymnasium. Please enter the gymnasium using the west doors (by the track field). As students make their way to the gymnasium, it is expected that they wear their masks for the entire duration. Students will be dismissed at the end of their orientation assembly, and are asked to leave the school building/grounds immediately so that we may prepare for the next assembly.

Times for the grade assemblies are as follows:

10:00am	Grade 9 students
11:00am	Grade 10 students
1:15pm	Grade 11 students
2:15pm	Grade 12 students

Wednesday, September 8th is the first full day of school.

Student Timetables

Effective August 30th students are able to log into MyEd BC to view their schedule. Please log onto: <https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspden/logon.do>.

After you log into MyEdBC choose (in blue) VIEW FULL SITE, then “*My Info*” (top tab), then “*Schedule*” (left tab) and you will see your new schedule. Click on the small blue link “*List View*” and it will be easier to read.

Reminder:

Students: Your login ID is your Student Number.

Parents: Your login ID should be your first name initial followed by your last name all in lower case. (Ex. mmcleod)

If you need to reset your password click on *reset password*. The email address for recovery is the one you left in MyEd (it could be your ‘nwss.ca’ email).

NWSS Bell Schedules

New Westminster Secondary school operates on a two semester schedule with four classes each day. We also offer full year courses that run on a Day 1/2 schedule. The regular bell schedule is as follows:

Time	Regular Bell Schedule
8:25	Welcome Bell
8:34 – 9:59	A Block
9:59 – 10:06	Break
10:06 – 11:27	B Block
11:27 – 12:16	LUNCH
12:16 – 1:37	C Block
1:37 – 1:44	Break
1:44 – 3:05	D Block

We also have four Collaborative Days in our school year where staff uses the time to have team collaborative meetings:

TIME	Collaboration Bell Schedule Wed Dec 8 th , Tues Feb 15 th , Wed May 4 th
8:25	Welcome Bell
8:35 – 9:59	A Block
9:59 – 10:06	Break
10:06 – 11:27	B Block
11:27	Collaboration Time

TIME	Collaboration Bell Schedule Mon, Nov 1st
8:34 – 11:27	Collaboration Time
11:27 – 12:16	Lunch
12:06	Welcome Bell
12:16 – 1:37	Block C
1:37 – 1:44	Break
1:44 – 3:05	D Block

We have two Parent Teacher conferences in our school year. The regular bell schedule is altered for those days when parent-teacher interviews are held.

TIME	Parent Teacher Conference Bell Schedule Thurs Oct 28th, Thurs March 31st
11:50	Welcome Bell
12:00 – 12:30	A Block
12:30 – 12:40	Break
12:40 – 1:10	B Block
1:10 – 1:20	Break
1:20 – 1:50	C Block
1:50 – 2:00	Break
2:00 – 2:30	D Block
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:45	Parent Teacher Conference Session #1
4:45 – 5:45	Dinner Break
5:45 – 7:15	Parent Teacher Conference Session #2

NWSS Safety Protocol

The following COVID-19 Communicable Disease Plan has been determined by the school district, the Ministry of Education, and the BC Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Before arriving to school:

- Do not come to school if COVID symptoms are present. Those who are sick should follow the BC CDC's guidance to isolate at home and not enter the school.
- Get tested if you have 2 of the following symptoms for more than 24 hours:
 - Cough
 - Fever
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Headache
 - Loss of Smell/Taste
 - Sore Throat
- You can get further information about when to get tested by calling 811 or using the BC CDC online COVID-19 assessment tool - <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>
- Isolate and do not enter the school if instructed to isolate or quarantine by the public health authority
- Return to school when your symptoms are gone or after your isolation period as required (no medical note is required to return)
- If a student becomes sick while at school, they will be separated from others (in the first aid/isolation room) until they can make arrangements to return home safely.

While at school:

- Masks must be worn by all students and staff while indoors and on school buses
 - Including while seated at their desk
- Exceptions for mask use:
 - While eating and drinking
 - During high-exertion physical activity or playing a wind instrument
 - Persons who cannot tolerate a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- Keep a respectful amount of distance between yourself and others, avoid crowded areas, and avoid making physical contact with others
- Follow directional arrows in the school
- Please do not share items that come in contact with the mouth
- Continue to follow good respiratory etiquette by coughing or sneezing into your arm
- Hand cleaning remains the same as last year – wash your hands for 20 seconds or use a sanitizer made of 60% alcohol or greater

Note: These protocols will be reviewed with students during their upcoming orientation assemblies.

NWSS Information

Attendance

Regular attendance is a major factor contributing to student success in school. We expect that students at NWSS will attend school regularly and arrive to class on time. If a student is absent, parents are requested to phone or email the school on the morning of the absence. If this is not possible, please send a note with your child to turn into the office on the day they return to school.

Student Information Verification Forms. All Students

Each year, it is important that we have the most up-to-date information regarding your child(ren). If there have been changes in your child(ren)'s personal information such as a change in address, contact numbers in case of an emergency, or any changes in medical information or dietary information, it is extremely important that you inform the school office so we have it at our fingertips in case of an emergency. To update your child's information, please email nwss@sd40.bc.ca with the specific details so that we can ensure that our information about your child(ren) is accurate.

Student Photographs

We have student photographs scheduled to be taken on Friday, September 10th. All students are required to have their picture taken for the Yearbook and School Identification/Go Card.

Photo Retakes

Students who are away or receive photographs of poor quality will be given an opportunity to have their photographs re-taken on October 8th. Packages must be ordered online at artona.com before Photo Day. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Graduation Photographs

The online booking is open for grad photos. Students can go online to book a grad session anytime from July 2 – September 16th at Artona's studio in Vancouver (353 7th West Ave).

Please book your grad appointments using this link:
<https://artona.com/schools/NEWW/programs/graduation>

School Fees

School Cash Online is an online parent portal that offers a safe, fast and convenient way to pay for school activity fees. The portal is customized to meet our school's needs and allows parents to add a student, make payments, check current balance/account history and print or view receipts. Please visit our school website: <https://nwss.ca/online-payment/> to register for this online service.

Parent Access

While parents are always welcome in the building, we ask that you first make an appointment before arriving at the school, use only the main entrance leading into our Grand Commons and report to the office upon your arrival—please do not enter the building by any other door. Please note that all persons entering the building are required to wear a mask. We will not be able to accommodate the delivery of lunches to the school for students. We ask that students bring their lunches to school, or arrange for a lunch drop-off during lunch hour off campus. Wherever possible, any fees related to school (eg. student, grad, course) will be collected via the on-line fee payment system.

Locker Information

Lockers will be allocated using an online sign up system beginning mid-September. More information will be provided as to how to request a locker.