

SWC PAC Meeting

January 2021

Principal's Report:

Happy New Year! 2021 is well underway!

- Course Planning for 2021-22 has begun, this will be a mix of in-person and online sessions, depending on the grade level; counsellors will be posting videos or PPT presentations for parents on the school website
- Articulation of our incoming Grade 8 class is happening online, our information video is posted on the school website and thanks to the PAC we had a well-attended online Question & Answer session last week
- Q2 ends on February 3, we will communicate around student learning a bit later than anticipated, reports will be available in MyEd on February 18
- Q3 begins on February 4, with some changes to our Block Rotation and further clarification of Remote Learning expectations; all changes will start on Thursday, February 4, so keep an eye out for communication from the school and teachers
 - All VSB secondary schools are moving to a one week block rotation
 - Grade 8 students will come in for additional time with their teachers (at SWC during Remote Learning weeks they will have in-person lessons on Tuesday and Thursday during Flex A or B, whatever is adjacent to their scheduled F2F class)
 - All students will have 3 “interactive” learning opportunities each Remote Learning week
 - More information about these changes is available on the VSB website
- Our next Pro-D Day is February 12, there will be no classes for students that day
- Grad Committee is planning for Grad 2021, and just finished selling Grad Hoodies
- Student Council has also sold school merchandise, they plan another “merch drop” soon

This is a caring community, attempting to involve and support students in all of our usual ways and some new ones!

- Clubs are meeting online
- IB Year 2 Art Show is on in our display cases - January 25 – 29
- Upcoming Events
 - Black History Month
 - Mental Health Network's Mental Health Fair - February 8 – 12
 - Pink Shirt Day - February 24
- Posts and activities in the Student Hub and Grade Teams
- Social Media posts and activities (follow us on Instagram and Twitter)

Thank you everyone, for all you do, to contribute to and support our community and its care for others!

Now, on to answers to the questions submitted! Thank you for submitting them in advance! There were lots of questions this month, so I have grouped them together, to answer in categories.

From the VSB:

- Our VSB Restart Plan was developed following extensive consultation with parents and students, who overwhelmingly said health and safety was the first priority.
- That plan was approved by the Ministry of Education as being in alignment with the COVID-19 Operational Guidelines, including the specific health and safety measures.
- The VSB continues to be in regular contact with the Ministry over the programs we are delivering and VCH around Health & Safety issues, concerns and protocols.
- Staff are continuing to try to find ways to maximize instructional time within the model and constraints imposed upon us.
- *We are very pleased to see that the academic performance of our VSB students is consistent with the performance over the last three years.* (There was a question submitted about Math performance in particular. We only have Q1 data to consider so far.... The District definitely looked at student achievement and attendance as they considered changes for Q3.)
- The VSB will keep the public informed of changes to how we deliver our educational programs in an open and transparent way.

Q3 Refinements

- As presented to the VSB SLWB Committee last week, and shared with you all in a letter sent out via email, the District is making some changes to the Secondary model...<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K26ltgr-DEs&feature=youtu.be>. The presentation begins at the 1:49:30 mark...
- An updated SWC Block Rotation Calendar (with the announced 1 week rotation) has been posted on the school website, posted for students in our Student Hub, and will be sent out to all families this week!
- SWC Grade 8s and English Language Learners will come in on Tuesday and Thursday to meet with their Remote Learning teacher for additional in-person instruction. We have just today completed matching our Grade 8 (and ELL) students' Remote Learning Flex Time classes with their A or B scheduled F2F classes. There will be changes to Grade 8 (and ELL) student timetables, please check for group A or B before the start of Q3. We are not able to make any further changes at this time!
- On February 4th Grade 8 and ELL students are expected to attend their scheduled F2F class plus their Remote Learning in-person class which is now scheduled in the adjacent Flex Time block.
- At other grade levels teachers will communicate directly with students about any changes to their class schedule or activities scheduled during Remote Learning weeks. The District's move toward more interactive learning opportunities during Remote Learning, may well see more in-person classes scheduled during Flex Time (as staff and student schedules permit) and we would wish to see that additional in-person time scheduled to be in Flex A or B, adjacent to the student's scheduled F2F class.

Flex Time Schedule

- We are the site of 2 District Special Education programs – LSP and ARC; as a school community we have embraced a philosophy of inclusion; students in these programs do not attend segregated or separate classes, they are included in regular classes with support; this support is provided through Flex Time
- SDC support is also offered during Flex Time for students with IEPs and/or adaptations
- IB is another District program offered at Churchill, it is a two year program which culminates with IB Examinations in May of Year 2; all Year 2 IB courses had to be moved out of Q4, to be offered (along with some others) during Flex Time
- Yearbook, Band, Choir and Orchestra are also offered during Flex Time
- ALL OF THESE COURSES/CLASSES/SUPPORTS ARE OFFERED DURING FLEX TIME, so not offered during a Quarter and required for staff and students
- We will now be adding Grade 8s into this Flex Time schedule, meeting with their Remote Learning teacher during Flex A or B on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 2 of the required 3 interactive learning opportunities. We have moved all other Flex Time classes that Grade 8s are registered in (SDC, LSP and ARC support blocks; Band, Choir and Orchestra classes) to Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There are a few Grade 8 students for whom this will present conflicts. We will work through those with the students and families involved.

Synchronous Learning

- Synchronous Learning is interactive, two-way, real-time, online or distance learning with a teacher
- Whole class synchronous learning is not part of our District's plan, nor is it supported by our structure and schedule
- If you look at our timetable and bell schedule, you can see a few things...
 - Quite a few teachers teach during Flex Time, multiple blocks per week over the year
 - Even more of our students are committed to classes that run during Flex Time
 - Given this, there is not enough time left in the day to have everyone at home [so home from morning class(es) or not yet left home for class(es)] to log on to participate in a synchronous class
 - Even if you had a situation wherein there were no demands on Flex Time for staff and students, commuting time (many of our students travel from all over the District for our District programs) and lunch time do not allow much time

Scholarships and Bursaries

- General information is available on our website
- Opportunities are posted in our Grade 12 Team, Scholarships and Bursaries Channel
- Ms. Lee addresses post-secondary planning in her monthly assemblies (videos) posted in the Grade 12 Team

Post-Secondary schools are offering online info sessions this year, they have been advertised to students through the Grade 12 Team. SWC Grad Committee ran a webinar with alumni over the recent break answering questions about admissions and university life. VDSC hosted a similar event recently which will be posted on the VDSC website (www.vdscouncil.com) soon.

2021-22 School Year

This is what was shared at SLWB committee regarding planning for 2021-22.

- The District will continue to follow direction from the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Officer with regards to planning for 2021/22.
- Assuming we are in Phase 1 of the B.C. Back to School Plan, the District is planning for a full return to in person classes.
- The District will make contingency plans in case the Province is in Phase 2 of the B.C. Back to School Plan.

At SWC we have begun to turn our attention to planning for next year, considering what we might like to keep moving forward, what we will be happy to leave behind and how we might reimagine our school structure and schedule in the future.

Numeracy Assessment

- is written by Grade 11s at Churchill, they are writing this week!
- The Numeracy Assessment focuses on the application of mathematical concepts learned across multiple subjects from kindergarten to Grade 10. It requires students to solve problems by using five numeracy processes (different ways of thinking and working): interpret, apply, solve, analyze and communicate.
- The Numeracy Assessment is marked with a proficiency scale and covers math concepts taught up to Grade 9. This assessment is not linked to a course like the provincial exams in the past, so there is no formal review in Math classes in preparation.
- Students can find sample and practice exams online if they are interested.

Implementation of the Grade 12 Literacy Assessment has been postponed until the 2021/22 school year.

Recent Exposure Notices

- Indicate that someone in our school community has tested positive for COVID-19
- We understand that all of those that have tested positive have contracted COVID-19 through community transmission

Many Health & Safety questions are answered in this updated VSB document, posted on the VSB website:

[COVID-19 Safety Plan, Safe Work Instruction, and Protocols](#) - Jan 15, 2021

District ventilation improvements since September include:

- Adjusting ventilation systems to increase the percentage outdoor air and decrease recirculated air.
- Running ventilation system 2 hours before the school day begins and well after it ends
- Staff may open windows to increase outdoor air in a room/area as practical and tolerated (Even 3-10 cm increases air movement and exterior air intake)
- Retrofitting/replacing current filters with a higher standard, MERV 13 filters

Ventilation (from the VSB):

All VSB schools and work sites meet all requirements for ventilation of indoor spaces and schools. At this time, there is no evidence that VSB building's ventilation system, in good operating condition, is contributing to the spread of the virus. VCH Medical Health Officers have reiterated that thus far ventilation systems have not been a significant transmission route for the virus in VSB schools. However, with outdoors being associated with lower transmission than indoors, and growing evidence of the potential for aerosols, logically bringing in more outdoor air, where practical, is encouraged.

The District will ensure that the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are operated and maintained as per standards and specifications for ongoing comfort for workers (as per Part 4 of the BC OH&S Regulation).

In order to enhance the ventilation in classrooms, schools, and other office/work areas:

- Classroom, other school-based staff, and other district staff can augment ventilation in the following ways:
 - Move activities outdoors when possible (for example, lunch, classes, physical activity, classes) when appropriate and time, space, and weather permits.
 - Open exterior windows to allow in outside air. Even opening a window by 3 to 10 cm can significantly increase the outdoor air in a room, as evident by the temperature change indoors on cooler days. Opening windows is not a requirement, but a recommendation and under occupant control.
 - Ensure air vents are unimpeded (e.g., clear uninvents of any clutter, do not block, cover, or blank off vents in classrooms.).
 - If portable fans units are used, set them up to avoid blowing air directly from one person's breathing zone to other occupants of a room. Introducing horizontal cross breezes should be avoided. Ideally place devices so that air flow moves downward, for example from a cabinet top.
- Operations and/or Building Engineers will:

- Inspect the local HVAC systems dampers and ensure that the ventilation system operates properly.
- Continue to operate the HVAC system:
 - With increased proportion of outside air (less recirculation of air)
 - With increased air exchanges per hour in classrooms/schools.
 - Run the HVAC system from 2 hours before the school day commences and well after the school day ends.
 - Note: No special cleaning or disinfecting of the HVAC system for COVID-19 is necessary when operating normally.
- Retrofit and replace current filters on existing HVAC systems with MERV 13 filters.

With respect to COVID and ventilation, VCH has been clear that district's current ventilation systems in our schools are sufficient. Air purifiers are not recommended by VCH.

Cleaning

The school is cleaned daily (if not multiple times a day) by our trained custodial team (which has been increased since COVID). The sharing furniture and equipment is being kept to a minimum. Cleaning is dependent upon the equipment.

Cleaning and Disinfecting (from the VSB):

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. Schools are cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document and the BCCDC COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Settings.

The district used PCS cleaning and disinfecting products and VSB Operations has cleaning procedures in place that is approved by Health Canada as effective in killing COVID-19 virus and has been confirmed to meet the BCCDC requirements, product, and concentration for all tasks.

Cleaning and disinfecting supplies are provided via the Building Engineer to classrooms and common work areas to facilitate staff in conducting spot cleaning as they deem necessary and in addition to the above.

Building Engineers and Custodial Staff Building engineers and custodial staff during school/workdays as well as evening shifts will carry out required cleaning services as per the PHO/K-12 provincial guidelines, which include:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of schools and workplaces should occur at least once in a 24 hour period. In addition to routine items, this includes student desks and chairs.
- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice in 24 hours, including at least once during regular school hours.

- These include:
 - ✓ Door knobs
 - ✓ Light switches
 - ✓ Toilet handles
 - ✓ Faucet handles
 - ✓ Handrails
 - ✓ Desks, tables, chairs shared by multiple people
 - ✓ Water fountains

IMPORTANT NOTE: BCCDC advises that “There are no additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures beyond those that are normally implemented and those noted in this document. This includes when different cohorts use the same space (e.g. a classroom, gym, arts room, home economics or science lab, etc...).”

Proficiency Scales

- Our Grade 8 and 9 students’ learning is reported using a Proficiency Scale rather than percentages
- There is not a direct or easy correlation between the old system and the new
- Please direct questions around assessment and communicating student learning to (as appropriate) the teacher, counsellor or grade VP

Traffic and Turns Around the School

- In response to the concern shared I would remind parents that u turns are not safe at any location around the school
- Our SLO has been made aware of this concern and started today to monitor traffic safety on Heather Street

Capstone Projects are students’ own work and can be shared if they like, but are not needing to be shared with universities