



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Message from the Chairperson

Greetings from your elected school trustees, and welcome back to our staff, students and families. We are excited to begin this 2017/18 school year for many reasons, not the least of which is our opportunity to prepare for implementation of the new provincial graduation program and graduation curriculum in September 2018. This year there will be changes to all provincial assessments and we will continue to implement the new K-9 curriculum. These changes to both content and teaching methods have been designed in close collaboration with teachers from across the province, and are intended to more effectively prepare our students for life in the 21st century. These new curricula are highly compatible with our own district education plan, Pathways to Learning. More detailed information will be coming from your school principals soon.

Our goal, for the past several years, has been to empower students to acquire key competencies which you (staff, parents and communities) helped us identify. Please be involved with your child's learning, and do let us know how it is going. We are determined, with your help, to realize our Sea to Sky vision: "Students run to learn here!"

Rick Price, Board Chair

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Board of Education Meetings

Board of Education meetings are usually held at 6:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month from September to June. The schedule is posted on the School District website [here](#).

If you would like to appear as a delegation before the Board, please submit your detailed request two weeks prior to the Board meeting. The “Application to Appear before the Board” form is available [here](#). Please contact the School Board office (604 892-5228) if you require additional information.

StrongStart

StrongStart Registration is from 9:00 am-11:30 am, September 5-8, 2017. Proof of age (Birth Certificate) is required. This drop-in program, designed for 3 and 4 year olds, begins the second week of school. Younger children 0-6 yrs. are welcome! StrongStart Centers are located at Valleycliffe Elementary School, Squamish Elementary School and Signal Hill Elementary School. Children must attend with a parent or caregiver. There is no charge for the program.

Kindergarten

Children eligible for September 2017 registration for Kindergarten must have their **fifth birthday on or before December 31st, 2017. A Birth Certificate is required for registration.** For most elementary schools, regular kindergarten classes do not start until the second week of school. Please contact your catchment area school for more information. Information on all of our schools can be found on our school district website [here](#). A list of school contact information can also be found in this package.

French Immersion

In Squamish, Early French Immersion for Kindergarten/Grade 1 entry is being offered as a Program of Choice at Garibaldi Highlands and Squamish Elementary Schools. Late French Immersion (Grade 5 entry) is also available at Squamish Elementary School in Squamish, Spring Creek Community School in Whistler and Signal Hill Elementary School in Pemberton.

New Student Registrations

Only students new to the school district this year need to register. Registration for new students will commence on August 21st at secondary schools, and August 28th at elementary schools (except Blackwater Creek Elementary which will open for registration September 5th). Attendance boundaries are designated for each school. Students may be permitted to attend a school other than their catchment area school, however they must first register in their catchment area school, and then apply for a transfer. Registration forms and applications for transfer are available at the School Board office, schools, and on our District website [here](#). Completed registration forms are to be submitted directly to the home school.

School Calendars

The School District has adopted school calendars for 2017-18 which include a two week spring break. The complete list of non-instructional days for each school is available on the School District website, by contacting the individual schools, the School Board Office at 604-892-5228, or by clicking the link [here](#).

Bussing

The Sea to Sky School District wishes to provide the students of the school district with a safe, effective and efficient transportation system to and from school, for students under certain circumstances. School bus transportation is provided for:

- Kindergarten to Grade 3 students living more than 3.2 km from the nearest school, and;
- Grade 4 to 12 students living more than 4.0 km from the school in their catchment area.
- Exceptions to the above may be made upon application to the Board, where hazardous conditions exist.

Please click on the link below to find the appropriate bus route in your area. Hard copies will also be available at the school board office, schools, and the Pemberton bus garage.

[Pemberton Area Bus Routes 2017-2018](#)

[Whistler Area Bus Routes 2017-2018](#)

[Squamish Area Bus Routes 2017-2018](#)

There may be changes to routes due to location of students. Any adjustments will be made in September when final numbers are available, and will be posted at that time and distributed to the schools.

If you have questions or concerns about a bus route, please contact Pam Temple-Hurley, Transportation Supervisor, at 604-892-3421.

Valleycliffe Student Bussing to Howe Sound Secondary School

Students in grades 10 to 12, living in the Valleycliffe neighbourhoods of Ravens Plateau, Crumpet Woods, and Valleycliffe Plateau are eligible to ride the school bus to and from Howe Sound Secondary, with a valid school bus pass. This year, students at Howe Sound Secondary School who qualify to ride the Valleycliffe bus will have a special identification number appear on their Howe Sound Secondary Student ID Card that will be issued after school photos are taken in September. Once issued, students must carry and show their Student Photo ID Card to the bus driver, in order to be admitted onto the bus. Until the passes have been issued, drivers will have a list of students who qualify to ride the bus, and will be asking students to provide their name upon boarding.

Transportation Assistance for Students with Special Needs

In circumstances where students with special needs live outside of the walk limits and in the opinion of the District Principal, Learning Services, are unable to ride the school bus, a transportation assistance allowance may be paid to the parents. Parents of students with special needs requesting transportation assistance for their child must make an annual application to the District Principal, Learning Services, by September 30th each year.

Student Conduct on School Buses

Students must follow the Regulations for Conduct on School Buses as specified in [Policy 503](#) Student Transportation.

School Bus Safety Reminder

Yellow flashing lights mean Caution, Get Ready to Stop. **Red flashing lights** mean STOP.

Please **do not** pass the school bus in either direction when the **red lights** are flashing, as children could be running to get on or off the bus. Children's lives depend on you stopping! If you witness anyone not abiding by these rules, please call the RCMP with a description of the vehicle and license plate number.