

Spectrum

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

N E W S L E T T E R

AUGUST 2016

Dear Spectrum Students, Parents and Guardians:

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! We are looking forward to another great school year starting on **Tuesday, September 6th**!

Our **Summer Newsletter** is being sent electronically this year and by mail. It provides important events for the 2016/17 school year, along with general information about *the first day of school; locks and lockers, textbook and school fees; graduation; parking; and parent meetings*. Please keep this information for future reference.

Please note that some adjustments have been made to the bell schedule on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Check our website to see the new bell schedule at <https://spectrum.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/daily-schedule/>

You will also find a copy of your daughter/son's **course schedule** for next year. If students *need* to change their schedules, our school counsellors will be working Tuesday, August 30, through Thursday, September 1 (8:30 AM to 2:30 PM each day) and Friday, September 2nd (8:30 AM to 11:00 AM). To arrange an appointment with a counsellor, please call the school at 250-479-8271, beginning August 22nd. Please note that the criteria to change a schedule includes: prior credit received in a course; failed course; graduation requirement; or the schedule is unbalanced. A *Schedule Change Request Form* can be found at www.spectrum.sd61.bc.ca or you can pick one up at school.

This year, we will be welcoming approximately 240 new grade 9s. Please note that we do **NOT** issue **School Supply Lists**; if a special item is required, students will be notified by their subject teacher.

To help ensure a smooth start to the school year, we have scheduled the following parent meetings:

Tuesday, September 13th, Grade 9 Parent Mtg., 6:30 PM, Library

Tuesday, September 13th, the Parents' Advisory Council (PAC), 7:00 PM, will meet in the Library, the second Tuesday of the month (except March)

Thursday, September 22nd, Meet the Teacher Night, 7:00 PM, starts in the Old Gym

Thursday, October 6th, Grade 12 Parent Information Night, 7:00 PM, Theatre

In closing, I hope the rest of the summer goes well for you and your family – we'll see you soon!

Regards,
Rob House, Principal

Our **Summer Office Hours** are: August 22nd to September 1st, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday, September 2nd, **8:00 AM to 12 noon**.

Collaboration

Teachers will work together to achieve common goals linked to the purpose of learning for all. Planning together on a regular basis within school hours leads to improved teaching strategies and assessment, smoother transitions between courses, and more effective programs. By adjusting the timetable to allow for greater collaboration among staff, our school can better meet the challenge of "continual improvement".

Collaboration will happen every Thursday for the first 40 minutes of the day. During this time students will be able to do homework, study, and get extra help on their academics. For more information on how this will work, please click here: <https://spectrum.sd61.bc.ca/our-school/daily-schedule/>

First Day Schedule – Tuesday, September 6th

The 2016/17 school year begins on Tuesday, September 6th as follows:

Grade 9 9:45 to 11:15 AM, start in the Old Gym

Grade 10 –12 11:30 to 12:00 PM, meet in TAGs only

Lockers, Deposits & Fees

Students can pay fees and choose their locker before school starts, from Tuesday, August 30th to Thursday, September 1st from 12 noon to 2:30 PM, in the Mall Store, near the Office. Otherwise, fees can be paid as follows:

Tuesday, September 6th – 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM, Cafeteria

Wednesday, September 7th – no fee collection this day

Thursday, September 8th – 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM, during class time

Friday, September 9th – 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM, during class time

Information to follow, coming soon.

Fees can be paid by cash or cheque. (please make cheques payable to Spectrum Community School). At the time of payment, students will receive their locker information and an agenda book (books are required for grade 9s and recommended for grades 10 to 12).

Textbook Deposits - \$20.00 (refundable)

All new students are requested to pay a text deposit charge, which is fully refundable when they leave the school and all texts are returned in good condition.

Student Activity Fee – \$30.00

This optional fee covers the cost of the student agenda book, special student activities, student leadership and locker rental.

Yearbook (Optional) - \$45.00

Early payment of \$45 by December 2nd, or \$55 thereafter.

Course Fees

The Greater Victoria School District requires that there are no fees for basic materials necessary to meet course requirements. Students may be charged for project costs that enhance the basic learning outcomes of the course. **No student will be denied involvement in any activity/course because of an inability to pay. Simply speak to your teacher, counsellor, or one of the administrators.**

Meet the Teacher Night Thursday, September 22nd, 7:00 PM, Old Gym

We strongly encourage parents to attend this event and meet your son/daughter's teachers. Afterwards, you will have an opportunity to "walk through" your daughter/son's day (TAG, then Periods 1 – 4), followed by linear courses (e.g. Band/Leadership).

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957 Burnside Rd. West Victoria BC V8Z 6E9
Phone: 250.479.8271 Fax: 250.479.8204 Attendance: spectrum_attendance@sd61.bc.ca
Email: spectrum@sd61.bc.ca Website: www.spectrum.sd61.bc.ca

Mr. Rob House, Principal
Ms. Donna Thompson & Mr. Thomas Thompson, Vice Principals

School Bus Riders

Eligible riders and new riders are reminded to complete the 2016-17 School Bus Application form available on Spectrum's website under the Our School tab. Bus drivers will allow riders on the bus for the first few days of



September but after that they will be checking to ensure that an application is on file. Follow the links "Our School" and "Bus Information".

Graduation 2017

The Graduation Recognition Ceremony takes place at the University of Victoria on Tuesday, June 27th, at 5:00 PM.

Grade 12 students are eligible to take part in the Recognition Ceremony if they:

- are in a position to graduate (minimum 80 credits plus GTP) **by April 28th, 2017**; be sure to see a counsellor early in Grade 12 to check that "you will be in a position" to graduate
- have completed their GTP **by May 5th, 2017**
- have paid the Grad Ceremony Expense of \$60.00, **by March 17th**, which covers the cost of the University facility, program and grad certificates (**no student will be denied involvement in the Recognition Ceremony because of an inability to pay**), but this event is optional
- are in good standing as a student at Spectrum Community School and attend the informational assemblies and rehearsals leading up to the ceremony

Grad activities are organized by the Grad Committee composed of Grade 12s and staff. The school does not sanction any overnight grad trips or holidays. Call the school if you have any "grad activity" concerns. On Thursday, Oct. 6st, 2016, a Parent Information Night will be held in the Theatre at 7:00 PM to discuss Grad 2017 events.

Provincial Exams

Provincial Exams have been eliminated except English 12 and Communications 12.

Exam dates are set by the Ministry of Education and all students in the province must write on the same date and time in each subject area.

If a student took a Grade 10 or 11 exam last year that they wish to improve on, they will have this school year only to do so. A complete listing of Provincial Exams and re-writes for 2016/2017 is available on the Ministry of Education website at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/>

Attendance = Success

Regular attendance is essential for student success at school. Our "every class, every day" policy continues to be a major focus at Spectrum. If your son/daughter will be absent from school, please call the Attendance Line at (250) 479-8271, to report all absences. The line is available 24 hours a day. If you prefer, you may email us at spectrum_attendance@sd61.bc.ca to report a student absence. In the event of an unexcused absence, we will contact the home via our e-mail messaging system. E-mail addresses will be collected in September, but please help by updating addresses if your information changes. Thank you for supporting good attendance habits!

GRAD = Graduation Requires Attendance Daily

Cell Phone Policy

Spectrum has an "off and away" school policy for cell phones and/or electronic equipment. Teachers will review the policy in their classes, as to when they can/cannot be used. See the full policy on the school's website; follow the link from "School Info".

Vaccinations for Grade 9s

Early in September, Grade 9 students will bring home information and a consent form for the following vaccines: Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis and Meningococcal Quadrivalent. To learn more about the vaccines, visit www.immunizebc.ca, or call the local health unit at 250-519-5100.

Student Parking

Student Parking Passes will be issued to **Grade 12s only** on a first-come, first-served basis. Students wishing to park in the school parking lot must complete a Parking Permit Application and agree to the expectations as outlined. The cost of a parking sticker is \$5.00. Remember that parking is limited and students will be towed if they park outside "Student Parking Areas" and/or if they don't have a valid permit. If the student parking area fills up, they will have to park on the street. **Sorry, Grade 11 students will not be issued parking passes for any reason.**

Smoking and Drug Use

Spectrum is a Smoke-Free and Drug Free Environment. Both the School Board and the C.R.D. have by-laws that prohibit smoking and/or using drugs in public buildings and on public/school property. The CRD issues a fine to offenders.

If students are suspected and/or are found under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be suspended from school, with a letter submitted to the School District and their school file.

Lockers

At the start of the school year, you will find that all lockers have locks on them. Once you pay your Student Activity Fee of \$30 and Textbook Deposit Fee of \$20, a locker will be assigned to you and a combination provided. **You need to be aware that locks and lockers are school property and are not the property of the student. NO personal locks are to be used (other than PE, temporarily).**

NOTE: Do not leave valuables (money, iPod, etc.) in your locker or your gym locker. The school is not responsible for items which disappear from lockers, change rooms, or classrooms.

Spectrum's Cafeteria

Students new to Spectrum will enjoy a wide variety of gourmet meals produced by Spectrum's Culinary Arts/Career Program students. Breakfast and lunch are served in the Cafeteria and can be paid for by cash. If you're interested, parents can open a student Cafeteria Account, with our Accounts Clerk. You can make a deposit on your student's account, allowing them to access it in the Cafeteria.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY	
1		1		1	Grad Photos continue to November 10	1		1	Happy New Year!
2		2		2	Band's Back in Action Concert, 7 PM, Old Gym	2	Yearbook Deposit Due	2	
3		3		3	Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews, 5 to 8 PM	3		3	School re-opens
4		4		4		4		4	
5	Labour Day	5		5		5		5	
6	School Opens Gr. 9 9:45 to 11:15 Start In Old Gym Gr. 10 to 12, 11:30 to 12:00, TAGs only	6	Grade 12 Parent Info Night, Theatre, 7:00 PM	6		6		6	
7		7		7		7		7	
8	School Photo Day	8		8	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library	8	Winter Band Concert, 7 PM, Old Gym	8	
9		9		9		9		9	
10		10	Thanksgiving Day	10	Remembrance Day Assemblies, Theatre	10	Tuba Christmas Community Concert, 1 PM, Market Square	10	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library
11		11	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library	11	Remembrance Day	11		11	Fine Arts Showcase
12		12		12		12		12	
13		13	Senior Concert Band Performance, 7 PM, Theatre	13		13		13	
14		14		14		14		14	
15		15		15		15		15	
16	Welcome Back BBQ	16		16		16	Last Day of School, Breakfast with Santa, early dismissal	16	Secondary Information Night, 7 PM, Theatre
17		17		17		17		17	
18		18		18	Professional Development Day, students not in session	18		18	
19	Professional Development Day, students not in session	19	Photo Retake Day	19		19	School Closed for Winter Break	19	
20		20	Great BC Shakeout	20		20		20	
21		21	Professional Development Day, students not in session	21		21		21	
22		22		22		22		22	
23		23		23		23		23	Provincial & In-School Exams
24		24		24		24		24	
25		25	Post-Secondary Visits	25		25	Merry Christmas!	25	
26		26		26	Marching Band in Victoria Santa Light Parade, 5:45 PM	26		26	
27		27		27		27		27	Semester 1 ends
28		28	Report Cards Issued	28		28		28	
29		29		29		29		29	
30		30		30		30		30	First Day of Semester 2
31	Canadian Universities Event at Oak Bay	31	Grad Photos Oct 31 to Nov 10; Provincial Exams Oct 31 to Nov 1			31		31	

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8:30 am to 3 pm - Monday to Thursday

8:30 am to 2 pm - Friday

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20		22		20		20		20	
21		23		21		21		21	
22	Meet the Teacher, 7 PM, Old Gym Canada & World Affairs Inst. Mtg. 6 PM, Library	24		22		22		22	
23		25	Post-Secondary Visits	23		23		23	Provincial & In-School Exams
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