

Spectrum

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

N E W S L E T T E R

AUGUST 2017

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 5th**!

Our **Summer Newsletter** is being sent electronically this year, by regular mail and it will also be posted online. It provides important events for the 2017/18 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.

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 29th, through Thursday, August 31st (8:30 AM to 2:30 PM each day) and Friday, September 1st (8:30 AM to 11:00 AM). To arrange an appointment with a counsellor, please call the school at 250-479-8271, beginning August 21st. 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](#) is included in this envelope and at www.spectrum.sd61.bc.ca, or you can pick one up at school.

This year, we will be welcoming approximately 265 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 12th, Grade 9 Parent Mtg, 6:30 PM, Library

Tuesday, September 12th, the Parents' Advisory Council (PAC), 7:00 PM, will meet in the Library, the second Tuesday of the month (except March)

Thursday, September 21st, Meet the Teacher Night, 7:00 PM, starts in the Old Gym

Thursday, October 5th, 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 21st to August 31st, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday, September 1st, 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 happens 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 5th

The 2017/18 school year begins on Tuesday, September 5th 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 & Fees

Students may pick up their locker info and agenda books once the student activity fee has been paid. (Agendas are required for gr 9s and recommended for grades 10 to 12)

Payment may be made:

- **ONLINE** (see detailed instructions included in this envelope)
 - Beginning August 23rd; or
- **IN PERSON** (at the Mall Store near the office)
 - Tuesday, August 29th - Thursday, August 31st
 - 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM
 - Tuesday, September 5th 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

There will be no fee collection on Wednesday, September 6th

Students who have not paid this year's fees will be called to the Mall Store to pay their fees on:

- Thursday, September 7th, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM; or
- Friday, September 8th, 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

PLEASE NOTE: If paying online, please allow 24 hours for payment to be processed before coming to pick up locker information and agenda books.

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 fee until December 2nd.

After December 2nd - \$55.00

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.**

SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY	
1		1		1	Grad Photos, Nov 1 - 10, Back in Action Fall Concert 7 PM Old Gym	1	Year book early payment deadline.	1	Happy New Year!
2		2		2	Parent Teacher Interviews, 5-8 PM students dismissed at 2 PM	2	Band Bottle Drive #3 9 AM - 1 PM Parking Lot	2	
3		3		3		3		3	
4	Labour Day	4	Canadian Universities Event @ Oak Bay, 10 AM to 1 PM	4		4		4	
5	School Opens - Gr. 9s @ 9:45, Gr. 10-12 @ 11:30	5	Grade 12 Parent Info Night, 7 PM, Theatre	5		5		5	
6		6		6	EN 12 Provincial Exam	6		6	Band Bottle Drive #4 9AM - 1 PM Parking Lot
7	School Photo Day	7		7	COM 12 Provincial Exam	7	Winter Band Concert 7 PM, Old Gym	7	
8		8		8		8		8	School re-opens./ Band Parent Assoc. Mtg, 7 PM, Library
9		9	Thanksgiving Day	9		9		9	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library
10		10	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library	10	Remembrance Day Assemblies	10		10	Grad Photo Retakes
11	Welcome Back Band Night & Band Parent Assoc Meeting 6 PM	11		11	Remembrance Day	11	Band Parents Association Mtg 7 PM, Library	11	
12	Grade 9 Parent Mtg, 6:30 Library PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library	12		12		12	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library	12	Showcase for Middle Schools (daytime)
13		13		13	In lieu of Remembrance Day	13		13	
14		14		14	PAC Mtg, 7 PM, Library/ Band Parent Mtg 7PM in Bandroom	14		14	
15		15		15		15		15	
16	Band Bottle Drive #1 9AM - 1 PM Parking Lot	16	Band Parents Association Meeting 7 PM, Library	16		16		16	
17		17		17		17		17	
18	Professional Development Day	18		18		18	Fine Arts Showcase (evening)	18	Grad Winter Formal
19		19	Great BC Shakeout @ 10:19 AM	19		19	Fine Arts Showcase (evening)	19	
20		20	Professional Development Day	20		20	Fine Arts Showcase (evening)	20	
21	Meet the Teacher, 7:00 PM, Old Gym	21		21		21		21	
22		22		22		22	Last day of school before Winter Break	22	
23		23	Post-Secondary Institutes, 12:00 to 2:40 PM	23		23		23	Copernican Day P1 & P3
24		24		24	Professional Development Day	24		24	Copernican Day P2 & P4
25		25	Photo Retake Day	25		25	Merry Christmas!	25	EN 12 & Conflict Exams
26		26		26		26	school closed for Winter Break	26	COM 12 Provincial Exam Last Day of Semester 1
27		27	Report Cards Issued	27		27		27	
28		28	Band Bottle Drive #2 9AM - 1 PM Parking Lot	28		28		28	
29		29		29		29		29	First Day of Semester Two
30	Great Apple Pie Event, 9 AM - 7 PM Cafeteria	30		30		30		30	
		31	Halloween			31		31	

Length of School day

8:30 am to 3 pm - Monday to Thursday

8:30 am to 2 pm - Friday

2017 - 2018

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

FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
1		1		1		1		1	
2		2	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels opens, 7:30 PM	2	Easter Monday	2		2	Marching Band in Oak Bay Tea Party Parade, 10:30 AM
3		3	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, 7:30 PM	3	Last day of Spring Break	3	Senior Concert Band Performance, 7 PM, Theatre	3	
4		4		4	School re-opens	4		4	Professional Development Day - school chosen
5	Band Parents Association Meeting 7 PM, Library	5		5		5		5	Nights of Dance
6		6		6		6		6	Nights of Dance
7		7	Luncheon of Champions	7		7	Band Parents Association Meeting 7 PM, Library	7	Nights of Dance
8		8	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, 7:30 PM	8		8	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library	8	
9	Report Cards Issued	9	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, 7:30 PM	9	Band Parents Association Meeting 7 PM, Library	9		9	
10		10	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, 7:30 PM	10	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library	10		10	
11		11	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, 2:00 PM Matinee	11		11		11	Band Parents Association Meeting 7 PM, Library
12	Family Day	12		12		12	Marching Band in Buccaneer Days Parade, 9 AM	12	PAC Meeting 7 PM, Library/ Year End Band Concert, 7 PM Location TBA
13	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library	13	PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library	13		13		13	
14		14		14		14		14	Awards Night, 7 PM, Old Gym
15		15		15		15		15	
16		16	Last day before Spring Break	16		16		16	Band Bottle Drive #7 9AM - 1 PM Parking Lot
17	Band Bottle Drive #5 9AM - 1 PM Parking Lot	17		17		17	District Orientation Day	17	
18		18		18		18	Professional Development Day	18	Grad 2018
19		19	Closed for Spring Break	19	District Career Fair Report Cards Issued	19		19	
20		20		20	Professional Development Day, Curriculum Development Day	20		20	
21		21		21		21	Victoria Day - Marching Band in Parade 9 AM	21	Copernican Day P1 & P3
22		22		22		22		22	Copernican Day P2 & P4
23	Professional Development Day	23		23		23		23	
24	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels Dress Rehearsal (daytime)	24		24		24		24	
25		25		25		25		25	EN 12 Provincial Exam
26		26		26	P-T Interview 5PM. Grad Parent Night EN 12 Prov Exam	26		26	
27		27		27	COM 12 Exam, "A Touch of New Orleans" Jazz Night 7PM	27		27	COM 12 Provincial Exam
28	Dirty Rotten Scoundrels Dress Rehearsal (evening)	28		28	Band Bottle Drive #6 9AM -1 PM Parking Lot	28		28	Last Day of School. Report Cards Issued 10 AM
		29		29		29		29	Admin. Day
		30	Good Friday	30		30		30	
		31		31		31		31	

Meet the Teacher Night Thursday, September 21st, 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).

Graduation 2018

The Graduation Recognition Ceremony takes place at the University of Victoria on **Monday, June 18, 2018**, 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 27th, 2018**; 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 4th, 2018**
- have paid the Grad Ceremony Expense of \$70.00, **by March 16th**, 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, October 5, 2017, a Grade 12 Parent Information Night will be held in the Theatre at 7:00 PM to discuss Grad 2018 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.

See <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/> for exam dates.

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 [cell phone 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 "Student 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 "Student Parking Areas" of the school parking lot must complete a [Parking Permit Application](#) and agree to the expectations as outlined. The parking stickers are free. Receiving a parking sticker does not guarantee a spot in the "Student Parking Area". Remember that *parking is limited* and students will be towed if they park outside of the designated "Student Parking Areas" and/or if they don't have a valid permit. Students may be required to park off of school property if the student parking area fills up, no exceptions. **Sorry, Grade 11 students will not be issued parking passes for any reason.**

Smoking and Drug Use

In accordance with School District Policy/Regulation 5131.5, Spectrum is a Smoke-Free and Drug Free Environment. Both the School Board and the C.R.D. have by-laws that prohibit smoking, including e-cigarettes, and/or the use of drugs in public buildings and on public/school property. The CRD will issue a fine to offenders.

If students are suspected of and/or are found to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, they will be suspended from school. A letter will be submitted to the Superintendent's office, as well as 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.