



SPECTRUM

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019 EDITION

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 3rd!** Our **Summer Newsletter** is being sent electronically again this year; it will also be posted online on our website for convenience.

This newsletter provides important events for the 2019/20 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.

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 10th, Grade 9 Parent Mtg, 6:30 PM, Library

Thursday, September 19th, Meet the Teacher Night, 7:00 PM, starts in the Old Gym

Thursday, October 3rd, 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,
Bruce Bidney, Principal

NOTE:

Our **Summer Office Hours** are: August 19th to August 29th, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and *Friday, August 30th, 9:00 AM to 12 noon.*

First Day Schedule – Tuesday, September 3rd

Grade 9	9:45 to 11:15 AM, start in the Theatre
Grade 10–12	11:30 to 12:00 PM, meet in new Homerooms only.

Life Threatening Health Conditions

If your child has a life threatening health condition please inform the office as soon as possible. If medication is required to be administered at school, a Medication Administration Card will need to be signed by a doctor and parent/guardian. Students with Life Threatening Allergies are required to fill out an Anaphylaxis Action Form. These are available by request in the office.



School Cash Online

Various fees are associated with students throughout the school year. This year we are encouraging all families to pay student fees, activity fees and most field trips online though [School Cash Online](#). Paying student fees online is a convenient, secure way to pay that is available 24 hours a day from wherever you are. It's easy to use and a safe alternative to cash or cheque. You can also manage your expenses and view your payment history. With School Cash Online payment can be made through your credit card or by "e-check" debit withdrawal.

If you have not yet signed up for our new Cash Online system for paying fees, you can click on the link above and go to the "Get Started Now" tab to sign up and pay for any associated student fees.

If you are having trouble signing up, please call the "Parent Help" line at 1-866-961-1803.

PLEASE NOTE: When paying online, please allow 24 to 48 hours for processing.

Student Activity Fee – \$30.00

This fee covers the cost of special student activities (welcome back BBQ, pancake breakfast, celebrations day), student leadership and lock and locker rental. No student will be denied involvement in any activity/course because of an inability to pay. Simply speak to your teacher, counselor, or one of the administrators. Payment of student fees can be made through [School Cash Online](#).

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 text books have been returned in good condition.

Yearbook (Optional) - Cost is \$50.00 per student and is payable online through [School Cash Online](#). Yearbooks sold out in the 2018-19 school year, so be sure to buy early to reserve yourself a copy.

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, counselor, or one of the administrators.

***NEW* Easy School Lockers**

New this year, families can choose their student lockers ONLINE from their phone, tablet or computer.

Once students have paid their yearly student activity fee they are permitted to choose a locker. This year students will choose their lockers online through Easy School Lockers. This program allows students to choose their lockers in their desired areas. At the start of the school year you will find that all lockers have locks on them. Families will receive a link to the Locker Assignment Online allowing them to choose their lockers from their smart phone, tablet or computer.



Please be aware that locks and lockers are the property of Spectrum Community School and are not the property of the student. NO personal locks are to be used (other than PE, temporarily).

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

Meet the Teacher Night - Thursday, September 19th, 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 (Periods A – D), followed by linear courses (e.g. Band/Leadership).



Have you moved?

We know that summer is full of many activities. One of those may have been moving to a new home. If your address changed over the summer, please be sure to update the office. You can email the office at spectrum@sd61.bc.ca with your updated address. Please be sure to include your students name and the new address and postal code.

Awards Night 2019-2020

The Awards Committee met at the end of the last school year and reviewed the awards structure in light of the implementation of the new curriculum. The Academic Excellence Grade Medals will now be awarded based on the following criteria:

- Top four academic classes (following a list of acceptable courses)
- All classes need to be 86% or above and average must total 90% or above
- All classes must be completed during the school year (September to June) and marks are calculated using the Final marks in Semester 1 and Term 3 marks for Semester 2.

Courses included in the Academic Excellence calculations:

- Grade 9: English, Math, Science, Socials
- Grade 10: English, Math, Science, Socials
- Grade 11: English, Math, Sciences, Socials, Languages
- Grade 12: English, Math, Sciences, Socials, Languages
- Dual Credit with Camosun College: Psychology 12, (Engineering) TEAC 12

Graduation 2019

The Graduation Recognition Ceremony takes place at the University of Victoria on Monday, June 15, 2020, 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 CLC) by May 21st, 2020; be sure to see a counsellor early in Grade 12 to check that “you will be in a position” to graduate
- ♦ have paid the Grad Recognition Ceremony expense by April 17, 2020, 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

Spectrum 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 3, 2020, a Grade 12 Parent Information Night will be held in the Theatre at 7:00 PM to discuss Grad 2020 events.

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

Collaboration

Teachers will work together to achieve common goals linked to the purpose of learning for all. Teachers 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 35 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/>

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 students are permitted to use their cell phones. This can vary class to class. See the full policy on the school’s website; follow the link from “Student Info”.

Literacy and Numeracy Assessments 2019

Due to curriculum changes for the next year, the Ministry of Education also have new assessment requirements. Students will be mandated to write a Grade 10 Literacy Assessment, a Grade 10 Numeracy assessment and a Grade 12 Literacy Assessment. Please see the below chart:

	Assessment requirements
Grade 9 in 2019/2020	2019/2020 (Grade 9) - no provincial assessments
	2020/2021 (Grade 10) - Grade 10 Numeracy and Literacy Assessment
	2021/2022 (Grade 11) - no provincial assessment if previous assessments have been written
	2022/2023 (Grade 12) - Grade 12 Graduation Literacy Assessment
Grade 10 in 2019/2020	2019/2020 (Grade 10) - Grade 10 Numeracy and Literacy Assessment
	2020/2021 (Grade 11) - no provincial assessment - if previous assessments have been written
	2021/2022 (Grade 12) - Grade 12 Literacy Assessment
Grade 11 in 2019/2020	2019/2020 (Grade 11) - Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment (if not already written)
	2020/2021 (Grade 12) - Grade 12 Literacy Assessment
Grade 12 in 2019/2020	2019/2020 (Grade 12) - Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment (if not already written)
	*NOTE that there is no Literacy Assessment for Grade 12s in 2019/2020

For more parent information and practice exams, please see the following link for Graduation Numeracy Assessment: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment/numeracy-assessment>

Vaccinations for Grade 9s

Sometime 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 - available to Grade 12 students ONLY

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 Area" 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, Vaping and Illicit 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 (vapes), 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. Our administration team will determine if that suspension will be served in school, or out of school. A letter will be submitted to the Superintendent's office, as well as their school file.

Football

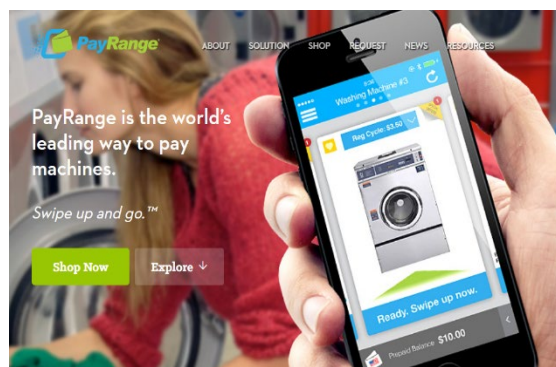
The Spectrum Thunder JV Football team will not be running for the 2019-2020 season. We expect to have the program running again for the 2020-2021 school year.



More information will follow closer to the Spring season.

Vending Machines

Spectrum Community School has a number of vending machines located around the school. These machines are provided, monitored and serviced by Ryan Vending. The school office does not provide refunds to students who may not get the item selected, or do not receive the correct change. A new and convenient way to pay vending machines is through the **Payrange App**. Conveniently pay for items and request refunds from your mobile device. Visit the App Store or the Play Store to download the app!



Important Dates for your calendar

- September 3 – First day of classes (shortened day)
- September 4 – Full day of classes (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 pm)
- September 10 – PAC Meeting, 7pm, Library
- September 11 – Picture day – all students
- September 19 – Meet the Teacher night, 7pm, Old Gym
- September 23 – District Pro-D Day – students not in session
- September 30 – Orange Shirt Day
- October 1 – Canadian Universities Event, Oak Bay HS
- October 3 – Grade 12 Parent Info Night, 7pm, Library
- October 8 – PAC Meeting, 7pm, Library
- October 14 – Thanksgiving – school closed
- October 18 – Great BC Shakeout
- October 23 – Photo retake day
- October 24 – Report cards issued

Please note that as dates may change throughout the year, please check our website for updated information. Please visit here: [Spectrum Calendar](#)



SPECTRUM COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Fax: (250) 479-8204

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

The Mathematics Department at Spectrum Community School will be using a workbook in all grade 10-12 Foundations and Pre-Calculus classes. These workbooks are designed to take the place of the textbooks we have traditionally used. All the work can be done in the workbook, which reduces the number of books students need to carry around, and also reduces the chances that students will lose their homework. In our experience, students much prefer workbooks. They find them convenient, and they benefit from the ability to interact with and write directly in the workbook.

The following courses will be using a workbook:

- Foundations of Math and Pre-Calculus 10
- Foundations of Math 11
- Pre-Calculus 11
- Foundations of Math 12
- Pre-Calculus 12

The workbook costs \$25. Students are encouraged to purchase the workbook online. Please go to the Spectrum website (<https://spectrum.sd61.bc.ca/>) and click on "How-to Pay Online."

Students will then need to bring proof of online payment (a printed receipt with the transaction number) to their math teacher, who will distribute the books.

We will be using the workbook immediately, so it is recommended that students pay and bring in their receipt as soon as possible. Please contact the administration if you have any questions about payment or are not able to afford the workbook. The administration can provide support to such families. We also have copies available to sign out from the library, but students will not be able to write in these.

Please feel free to contact your teacher at the school. Staff emails are posted on the school website.

Sincerely,

The Spectrum Community School Mathematics Department

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan **Voluntary Insurance**

Our insurance partner, iA Financial Group, is now offering a new comprehensive accident insurance plan with a critical illness component designed for the whole family.

The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for supplementing costs not covered by your provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Regardless of the size of your family, all eligible family members can be insured under one set monthly rate.

Your coverage also includes a critical illness component, which pays out a lump-sum amount if any of the covered individuals are diagnosed with one of the covered conditions. Plus, the money can be spent however you need. Use it to pay medical expenses, take care of bills or cover income lost due to recovery. That's one less thing to worry about while you or someone in your family recovers from a serious illness.

Key Benefits

Accident Insurance Benefits

Accident Insurance Benefits are payable if an injury from an accident results in a loss, treatment, or expenses not covered by any existing health plans. Specific benefits covered include:

- A Permanent Total Disability Benefit of \$100,000
- An Accidental Death Benefit of \$20,000

Expense Reimbursement Benefits

- Dental Benefits – should any of your children require dental treatment resulting from an accident, they can receive coverage for dental work done within 7 years after the accident.
- Hospital Stay Benefits – covers hospital services (including hospital room and other necessary hospital services such as a registered nurse, wheelchairs, casts and prescription drugs)
- Funeral Expense Benefit – up to a maximum of \$5,000

Critical Illness Insurance Benefits

Tax-free lump-sum payment of up to \$10,000 if an insured is diagnosed with one of the following conditions:

Critical Illness Insurance Covered Conditions

	For All Insureds	For Dependent Children Only
Cancer (Life-Threatening)	✓	✓
Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery	✓	✓
Heart Attack	✓	✓
Stroke	✓	✓
Cerebral Palsy		✓
Congenital Heart Disease		✓
Cystic Fibrosis		✓
Down Syndrome		✓
Muscular Dystrophy		✓

Type 1 Diabetes		✓
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Plan Details

- One low monthly price of \$39.95 covers all eligible family members – an insured adult, an insured spouse and any number of dependent children

To apply or to find out more, visit [solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc](https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc)

NOTE: All links must direct to <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>