



Welcome to the NDSS School Story for 2017-2018,

Established in 1952, NDSS is proud to be in our 65th year of operation at 355 Wakesiah Avenue!

Our 2017-2018 NDSS school story is one that we tell with great pride. Located on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw people, NDSS provides learning opportunities that enable students and staff to achieve personal excellence and to pursue their passions in an inclusive, supportive and respectful environment. Our school honours dignity, purpose, and options for all.

NDSS offers education in both English and French, and draws students from across the City of Nanaimo. ***Hammond Bay, North Oyster, Pauline Haarer, and Quarterway*** Elementary Schools are our French Immersion feeder schools. ***Brechin, Fairview, Forest Park, Gabriola, and Mountain View***, are our English stream feeder schools. NDSS also welcomes Francophone (School District 93) students from ***Ecole Oceane***. It should be noted that our students from Gabriola Island spend an exceptionally large part of their day in transit to attend school, and we are thankful for their commitment.

NDSS has a student body of approximately 1,400 students, supported by over 110 staff members. Our student body includes approximately 170 Aboriginal, 330 French Immersion, 50 Francophone, and 50 International students. All of these students enrich our student body, and every student is an integral part of our curricular and extra-curricular programs. Diversity is an incredible strength of our school, and we are as diverse as any school in the district. NDSS has a vibrant student group called SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Acceptance), that works tirelessly to make students feel welcome every day. International students from around the world add a richness to our already diverse student population. Our school has embraced this diversity by offering a range of programming options.

There is a wide variety of programming options at NDSS to support students on their learning journey. Opportunities in: Athletics, Careers, Distance Learning, Fine and Culinary Arts, Languages, Humanities, Applied Design (Skills and Trades), Skills for Life, Science, Math, Technology and Physical and Health Education, ensure that most students will be able to find something that appeals to them.

NDSS is home to four district sports academies that bring students to NDSS from within our catchment area, as well as from across the region. Our school offers Beach Volleyball, Hockey, Lacrosse and Soccer within this format. The academies offer sport-specific skill development, enhancing our student athletes' abilities. Alongside the skill development, NDSS also has an affiliation with the BC Hockey League's Silvertip Major

Midget team that competes across British Columbia. Our Lacrosse Academy competes provincially as well as internationally.

NDSS is always looking to improve what we do, and in the spring of 2018 we will embark on a new visioning process. Three years ago, we updated the NDSS mission statement with a statement of philosophy. The creation of this philosophy included the entire staff of NDSS, Learning Alternatives and Learn@Home as we were one unified school at the time. Beginning this spring and concluding in the fall of 2018, our school staff and community will be involved in a visioning process that will transform and update our Mission, Vision and Values. This process will clarify and strengthen what we do at NDSS to better support all of our students.

Our newly revised NDSS School Goals include five key objectives: ***New BC Curriculum, Assessment, Collaborative Inquiry, Inclusion*** and our new goal of ***Reconciliation***. These goals in their expanded format are available on the NDSS School Website: <http://www.myndss.ca/>. Staff is working diligently to bring these objectives to life for the benefit of all our students. NDSS Learning Leaders are currently gathering evidence from all curricular areas so we can celebrate our progress with our school goals. There is embedded time dedicated towards development of these goals within our NDSS staff meetings, Professional Collaboration Community (PLC's), Professional Development days, and departmental meetings.

Our newly revised NDSS Code of Conduct was unveiled to our NDSS school community early in the New Year. Our Code of Conduct revision process involved staff, students and our parent community. The feedback that we gathered from our PAC, students, teaching and support staff was invaluable. We used a survey monkey to gather feedback from the larger NDSS parent/guardian community and this was wildly successful. The resulting Code of Conduct, which followed district guidelines, clearly outlines our philosophy of a "preventative, educative, and restorative" approach to student interventions. We also were able to incorporate the Three R's into this document with the positive behavioural expectations of students being **Responsible, Respectful and Ready to Learn. These expectations are currently being promoted across curricular areas in second semester, and will become a common language within NDSS.**

School goals and programming cannot exist without a tremendous staff to develop and deliver them for our students. NDSS is fortunate to have a terrific mixture of new and returning staff members. Our school has fantastic support staff that work tirelessly for our students. Our clerical team continues their excellence from last year and the consistency of this team makes the day to day operation of NDSS a pleasure. We also have a large number of skilled Educational Assistants that work in all of our learning environments to ensure our students have the support they need. NDSS' returning teachers have worked alongside a number of new additions to our staff this year. The teacher shortage across British Columbia has resulted in an influx of teachers new to the profession, with recent graduates getting a chance to teach and teach on call at NDSS. We also have a number of other specialty positions from our custodians, a Child and Youth Family Support Worker and a Community School Coordinator who all work in the best interest of our students.

NDSS continues to provide excellent educational programming for our students, and we look forward to carrying our Island Pride forward for the next 65 years!



Geoff Steel

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Principal of Nanaimo District Secondary School