

Dear Parents and Guardians of NDSS Students,

Here is the weekly information update for Wednesday, January 12, 2022

STUDENT RETURN UPDATE

- On Monday, NDSS students attended a virtual assembly to learn about our enhanced safety measures. For students who may have been absent on Mon, the Jan 10th [assembly presentation](#) is posted in the 'covid-19' section of our school website.
- As detailed in last week's email, until further notice, NDSS will have staggered lunch & dismissal times as follows:
 - Gr. 8, 9, & 10's start lunch 10 min early & are dismissed at the regular time (M/F 1:46pm & Tu-Th 3:00pm)
 - Gr. 11 & 12's start lunch at the regular time & are dismissed 10 min early each day (M/F 1:36pm & Tu-Th 2:50pm)
- Our start time remains 8:30am, and students are encouraged to arrive between 8:15-8:25am via the doors closest to where they are headed. Doors are unlocked at 8:15am, but our library & breakfast program are open to students as of 8:00am.

ATTENDANCE

- NLPS Principals & VP's now have a daily protocol to determine if a 'Functional School Closure', may be required due staff illness. A 2-pg. letter has been sent with this weekly email which explains the process in greater detail for parents.
- As part of the protocol, student attendance will be closely monitored as an important metric. If the number of students who are absent, because they are sick, exceeds 25% of the pop., then the district & health region are notified to plan next steps.
- We need help from parents to ensure that our daily student absences are properly coded as either: **sick** (*illness of any kind*) or **not sick** (*absent for any reason other than sick*). If your teen will be absent, email info.nd@sd68.bc.ca with this info:
 - Your teen's first **and** last name
 - Your teen's grade
 - Reason for absence: **Sick** or **Not Sick** (specifics not needed, sick or not sick is sufficient)
 - Number of days they are expected to be away from school (specifics as to duration/reason not needed)

COURSE SELECTION 2022-23

- On Tues, Jan 18th students will watch a course selection video in their A-block class outlining important information prior to selecting courses for 2022-2023. [Course booklets, selection videos and step-by-step instructions](#) are on the NDSS website.
- On, Mon, Jan 24th, on-line course selection will be available in [MyEd](#) for those currently in gr. 9, 10 & 11's. Students have until Friday, February 4 to choose courses for next year via their [parents MyEd portal](#) or their own account.
- NDSS students who are currently in grades 9 – 11 are to complete course selection online from home by Feb 4th as we are transitioning to paperless course selection. Student always have access to computers in the NDSS library if need be.

SPORTS ACADEMIES

- Registration for NLPS Secondary Sports Academies is now open! Families of students who would like to be included in the lottery process for any available Academy spaces in 2022/2023 must apply through the [district website by March 1, 2022](#).
- Families who have a teen in an Academy this school year can expect to receive an email from Ms. Milot as to the process and new fee payment deadlines if they wish to continue in the same sport next year. A letter from me will also be sent.
- NDSS welcomed hundreds more students this year than last and this increased the workload on our clerical staff. As such, managing multiple payment deadlines for Academies during the busiest months of the school year is no longer feasible.
- Academy fees are due (*in full*) by March 1 for returning and April 1 for new academy (*in full*). I recognized this is a significant change from previous years. If this poses a financial hardship for your family, [please contact me](#) to discuss a payment plan.
- Current Academy families will receive a letter from me which will go into more detail as to the rational for the change in payment deadlines and transition to full payment requirements. This school & district-based decision is to reduce workload.