

Dear NDSS Parents, Guardians and Students,

Here is the weekly information update for Wednesday, February 9, 2022

NDSS TIMETABLE 22/23

- Our Mon-Fri timetable this year has included 'double blocks' which means that on Tu/Th. students have the same class for 2.75 hours. Long classes have advantages and disadvantages depending on the course material, teacher, and students.
- Teachers at NDSS have been vocal both in support and against continuing with a double block timetable for 2022/2023.
- Last Wednesday, NDSS Staff Committee came to a unanimous decision, which Admin supports, to return to the timetable used in 2019/2020. There will no longer be double block classes next year and students will have 4 different classes a day.
- This was a difficult decision, and many factors were taken into consideration in discussions with staff. Ultimately, double blocks were deemed by most teachers to have more downsides than upsides for overall student learning and engagement.
- From what we know as of today's date, NDSS school start and end times are slated to remain the same as this year.

SCHOOL SPORTS SPECTATORS

- Our NDSS coaches and student athletes were very excited when the Ministry announced on Feb 3, 22 that school sports teams would once again be allowed to participate in multi-team school sports events. [Guidelines](#) were shared on Feb 4.
- The Feb 4th updates [do not allow external spectators indoors](#) (i.e., persons attending to observe, but not participate in or support the operations of the tournament). Schools are encouraged to provide virtual viewing opportunities when possible.
- The 50% capacity referenced in the guidelines applies to tournaments where there might be 8 teams in attendance, with teams sitting in the bleachers waiting to play. This may be disappointing for families and we appreciate your understanding.
- As we are accustomed to, public health orders are regularly updated. Dr. Henry has an update today at 3pm and there is announcement slated for [Feb 21](#). When changes happen, K-12 schools must wait for Ministry of Education guidelines.

STUDENT EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- February is [Black History Month](#), and our library is showcasing work of some amazing authors. Students are encouraged to check out this book display when they don't have class. [NDSS Library hours](#) for students are posted on our website.
- Student Council is selling candy grams in front of the main office this week at lunch! For 2\$ you can send a bag of Valentine's candies to someone special here at NDSS! Candy grams will be delivered during B block classes on Mon Feb 14.
- If you started the 6-week 'no-cell phones at bedtime' challenge on February 1st, it's not too late to add your name into the March 13th draw to win 1 of 10 NDSS Cafeteria cards. Email Ms. Appelt by Friday at liana.appelt@learn68.ca be included.

NLPS TRANSPORTATION NOTE

- Our transportation team has flagged a concern involving NDSS students who have board the Gabriola yellow school bus and are not registered to ride nor are they residents of Gabriola. School busses can only be used by registered riders.
- We know that our students have friends who live in various areas in Nanaimo, Gabriola Island included, and may be invited to socialize at one another houses after school. While this is wonderful, please arrange for non-school bus transportation.

Liana Appelt
Principal, NDSS