

Dear NDSS Parents, Guardians and Students,

Here is the weekly information update for Wednesday, March 9th, 2022

### **RAPID COVID TESTS**

- Yesterday afternoon students were called to the cafeteria by grade and were given 5 rapid covid tests to take home.
- If your teen(s) was absent on March 8<sup>th</sup> there will be other opportunities between today and Friday to receive their tests.
- [Guidance for parents](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19_Tests/POC_screening/RapidTestInstructions_Artron.pdf) on how to help their child use these rapid- tests at home is inside the box or click on this link below:  
[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19\\_Tests/POC\\_screening/RapidTestInstructions\\_Artron.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19_Tests/POC_screening/RapidTestInstructions_Artron.pdf)

### **DUAL DOGWOOD UPDATE**

- For the last few years, NDSS has required that students in our NLPS immersion program take Math 10 & 11 in French.
- BC Ministry Certificate of Graduation requirements for a [French Immersion Dual Dogwood](#) don't necessitate that school districts offer Math 10 & 11 in French as part of mandatory courses students must take in French for diploma credits.
- Requiring NDSS French Immersion (F.I.) students take *Mathématiques 10 et 11* has created challenges when our bilingual learners transition to Math 12 which is offered in English only. F.I. students and staff have expressed concern about this.
- In 2022/2023 NDSS will no longer offer Math 10 & 11 in French. Other senior F.I. courses offerings meet the credits required for a dual dogwood and our counsellors will work with our Gr. 9 & 10 F.I. students to reselect Math courses for next year.

### **NLPS SPORTS ACADEMIES**

- By Fri March 11<sup>th</sup>, families who applied to one of our Sports Academies at NDSS will be notified if they received a spot. Available spaces for new Academy students are determined by lottery and only those who got a spot will be contacted.
- Families who applied for an Academy spot, but were not successful in the March 1<sup>st</sup> initial lottery, are put on a waitlist and contacted if a space becomes available in the coming months. Email Academy questions to: [academiesndss@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:academiesndss@sd68.bc.ca)

### **STUDENT SAFETY AT BUS STOP**

- **Some NDSS student who take city transit home are engaging in unsafe & impulsive behaviors which put themselves, and others, at risk of physical harm as they wait for the bus. Specifically, some crowd and/or push each other onto the street.**
- Our NDSS Safety Committee is working with the City of Nanaimo Transit Operations Department to find a long-term solution to reduce the surges of students as they congregate at the bus stops/shelter across the street on Wakesiah after school.
- The original plan to divide the boarding location into three separate spots has worked to a degree, but not enough.
- The next step is to alter the bus stop format to reduce "bunching". The City Transportation Department anticipates implementation over the next couple weeks (*likely over spring break*), but the specific format has yet to be finalized.
- Until these next changes occur, there will continue to be an acute risk of vehicular contact from vehicles when awaiting youth are surging/bunching/jostling and may be pushed in the street. **Students must space out and wait calmly for the bus.**

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

- Did you know that the sunflower is Ukraine's national flower? To help support those affected by the War in Ukraine, our Student Council is raising funds for the [Red Cross](#) by selling sunflower seeds in front of the main office this week.
- This Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, is the last day of classes prior to our 2-week spring break. Classes resume at 8:30am on Mar 28<sup>th</sup>.