



August 22, 2025

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) and grade 8 students:

RE: School Opening for Grade 8 Students

Welcome to the École Alpha Secondary School family! We are very excited to welcome our newest Alpha Eagles on Tuesday, September 2. With elementary school now behind you, we imagine you are wondering, perhaps even a bit anxious, about starting your secondary school journey. Rest assured, your school team is here to support you in anyway we can to make your transition to secondary school as comfortable as possible. Next Wednesday (August 27), in the morning between 10:30 and noon, our Leadership students will begin reaching out by phone to all grade 8 students in hopes of answering some of their questions regarding student life at École Alpha Secondary. (**Please note that taking the call is not mandatory and that it may appear as a No Caller ID.*) Should you miss this call, your buddy will meet you in the first week, so there is no need to call back no new information will be shared. We encourage all Grade 8 students to use their Leadership buddies as a resource throughout the year if they need any help or have questions. Alpha Eagles are always ready to be of assistance!

At Alpha, we work hard to provide academic excellence in a respectful, caring environment and do our best to keep you involved and informed. This letter includes some general information about the school as well as some more detailed information about the first week of classes for the 2025/2026 school year.

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

The 2025-26 school year begins on September 2, 2025. Upon arrival, Grade 8 students should report to the Large Gym for their orientation session which runs from **10:00 am to 11:15 am**. If students are unsure about the location of the Large gym, just come to the main foyer and Leadership students will assist you.

Prior to coming to school on Tuesday, September 2, students **MUST** login to MyEducation and access their student timetable. **Instructions on how to access this account are attached to this email, and all Grade 8 parents will receive a separate email (by Thursday August 28) that contains your child's user id and password. (NOTE: You will have the information, but you will NOT be able to login until Friday August 29th when the portal is opened. If you attempt to login prior to Friday August 29th, you will receive an account "disabled" message.)** Please note that the parent view does NOT provide complete information on your child's timetable, so it is essential that your child log into their **own** account to access this information.

Attached to this email is also instructions on how to login into your **student Office 365 account**. All Alpha students have an Office 365 email account that can be accessed through the school website. This email address is the safest and most reliable method for Alpha staff to communicate with students, and students are asked to check their Office 365 email account regularly.

School Goals: The Learning Competencies

- **Learning is relational:** People do not learn in a vacuum – we need to think, talk and work together to make meaning.
- Each classroom is a learning community. Each student in the class is important to the learning dynamic in the classroom.
- **Learning is experiential:** Learning is a process that requires practice. You can't just "think" - you also need to "do"
- Think back to when you learned to tie your shoes. Could you have learned how to do that by just reading about it or did you need to try it and practice to learn?
- **Learning takes Patience and Time:** Learning is a process that requires us to build on our skills and knowledge slowly and methodically.
- There is no way to fully learn a concept or skill without practice and feedback.

Attendance:

- Regular attendance is paramount to help achieve our school goals. To be successful students need to attend classes regularly.
- Students cannot make up the learning experiences and opportunities for discussion that take place in class by merely completing a missed assignment.
- There will be circumstances where you need to be away from class. When students must miss a class due to illness, important appointments, etc., teachers will provide you with missed assignment/test opportunities.
- Please keep in mind that in-class assignments are difficult to make it up when a student is away.

BELL SCHEDULES

REGULAR DAY SCHEDULE (Monday/Wednesday/Friday)

Period	Time	Duration
1/6	8:00am – 9:20am	80 minutes
2/7	9:25am – 10:45am	80 minutes
Break	10:45am – 10:55am	10 minutes
3/8	10:55am – 12:15pm	80 minutes
Lunch	12:15pm – 12:55pm	40 minutes
4/9	12:55pm – 2:15pm	80 minutes
5/10	2:20pm – 3:40pm	80 minutes

** Semester 1: Periods 1 – 5 / *Semester 2: Periods 6 – 10*

TUTORIAL DAY SCHEDULE (Tuesday/Thursday)

Period	Time	Duration
1/6	8:00am – 9:15am	75 minutes
2/7	9:20am – 10:32am	72 minutes
Break	10:32am – 10:42am	10 minutes
Tutorial	10:42am – 11:12pm	30 minutes
3/8	11:17am – 12:29pm	72 minutes
Lunch	12:29pm – 1:09pm	40 minutes
4/9	1:09pm – 2:21pm	72 minutes
5/10	2:26pm – 3:41pm	75 minutes

** Grades 8 to 10 attend periods 2/7 to 5/10.*

Grades 11 and 12 attend 4 classes per day over the 5 periods, with a study period.

A full-time schedule of 8 courses is required.

Student Timetables

During course selection in the spring, all Grade 8s were given a choice of a Fine Arts elective course and an ADST (Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies) elective course, and we always do our best to make sure that students are enrolled in the classes of their choice, but if scheduling doesn't allow for primary choices, then secondary choices have been scheduled.

Counsellors will be working on student timetables during the last week of August and first few days of September, the MyEducation portal will be opened **on the morning of Friday, August 29** for students to access their schedules. When you login and see your schedule in MyEducation BC, please take a screenshot or photo of it, so that you have it with you at school as a reference to use.

Counsellors 2025/2026

A to Ho – Mr. Steve Bermann (Department Head)

Hs to M and Indigenous students– Mr. Jeremy Berkbiger

N to Z – Ms. Jeanne Davy

Fees

All students pay a \$35 Student Activity Fee. This fee covers items such as Student ID Cards, support for Student Government, clubs, intramurals and other activities. Yearbooks may be purchased for \$55. Students are encouraged to purchase the yearbook early before they sell out! The cost will increase to \$65 after December 31, 2025.

To pay school fees, please use the Burnaby School District's secure online payment program, [School Cash Online](http://alpha.burnabyschools.ca). Parents must register for School Cash Online program through Quick Links on Alpha's website at <http://alpha.burnabyschools.ca>. Once registered, you will be notified by email when any fees are available for payment.

Lockers

Lockers will be available for student use this school year. Locker sign-up will be done online and can be accessed [HERE](#) through the school website. Grade 8 students will sign up for a locker during their orientation session on Tuesday. Locker sign-up:

Grade 8 sign-up: Sept. 2 -12

Grade 8 students will be supported by leadership students on Tuesday September 2 during orientation to sign up for a locker.

Cafeteria Service

Students wishing to purchase snacks or meals, may do so in the school cafeteria. Our cafeteria menu includes both hot and cold items and is open at break and lunch. Payment options include debit and cash. Please note: Cafeteria service is not available during class times.

School Communication

Regular school communication is done via email. All parents who have an email address on file will automatically be added to our listserv database. If you ***need to update your contact info OR if you do not want to be included*** in these emails, please send an email with your child's name and grade, along with any changes, to: alpha.info@burnabyschools.ca

Throughout the year, we will send reminders to parents via e-mail regarding reports cards and important school events. Please note that the **School Calendar** on the front page of the school website is your best source for up-to-date information about activities and events at Alpha. Email addresses for school staff can also be found on the website or you may log in to your MyEd account and use the database to send emails to your child's teacher(s).

Consent Forms

The Burnaby School District uses an online portal for parents/guardians to sign/give consent to necessary school consent forms (i.e. Media Release, Student Acceptable Technology Use Agreement). A separate email will be sent out to parents/guardians with instructions on how to access the District Consent Form Portal.

Digital Literacy, Citizenship, Safety and Wellness

As these topics are of crucial importance to student functioning, we encourage all families to review the resources collated by Burnaby School District at: <https://edtechplan.burnabyschools.ca/parents-caregivers>.

The Alpha staff will be reviewing these topics, along with the revised School district code of conduct, which includes guiding principles detailing appropriate cell phone use.

The code of conduct can be found at: <https://burnabyschools.ca/updated-restrictions-for-cell-phones-and-digital-devices/>

Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher, counsellor or Vice Principal if any questions come up throughout the year about these topics.

Optional Family Accident Reimbursement Plan Insurance

Families can purchase an optional insurance which supplements the costs not covered by your provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. For more information, please visit: <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

Alpha Meet the Teacher Evening

We are excited to host the Alpha Meet the Teacher Evening on **Wednesday, September 17** at **6:00pm**. Please monitor your email and check the school website closer to the date for more information.

Alpha Parent Advisory Council - PAC:

Please note that the first Alpha Parent Advisory Council Meeting is on **Monday, September 8** at **7:00pm**. More information will be sent out closer to the date to all parents/guardians/caregivers.

Important September Dates:

Tuesday Sept. 10	School Photo Day (Student ID cards & Yearbook)
Wednesday Sept. 17	Alpha Meet the Teacher Night
Thursday Sept. 18	Grade 8 Retreat
Friday Sept. 19	Pro-D Day (Classes not in session)
Friday Sept. 26	Terry Fox Run
Tuesday Sept. 30	Truth & Reconciliation Day (Classes not in session)
Wednesday Oct. 1	Clubs Days
Friday Oct. 10	Photo Retake Day

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 604-296-6865. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Ms. V. Lee
Principal

Mr. L. Scaligine
Vice-Principal
Students with Last Names
A-Le & Indigenous Students

Ms. H. Watson
Vice-Principal
Students with Last Names
Li-Z & International Students