ÉCOLE ALPHA secondary school
930 Alpha Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5C 3E2, Phone: 604-296-6865 alpha.burnabyschools.ca

August 28, 2026

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s) and Grade 11and 12 students:

**RE: School Opening – Tuesday September 8, 2026**

As the summer holiday comes to an end, we look forward to welcoming you back to École Alpha Secondary School for another school year. We work hard to provide academic excellence in a respectful, caring environment and to keep you involved and informed. This letter includes some general information about the school as well as detailed information about the first week of classes for the 2026/2027 school year.

**Tuesday, September 8, 2026**

The 2026-27 school year begins on Tuesday, September 8. Students in **grades 11 and 12** will attend their Grade Assembly in the **Large Gym** for an orientation session. Scheduled Grade Assemblies are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Grade 12** | 11:00am – 11:30am |
| **Grade 11** | 12:30 pm – 1:00pm |

**School tours** are available for all new students coming to Alpha. Students wishing to have a tour of the school should meet in the Front Foyer at their designated time:

- **11:15am – 11:45am ..... New students in grade 11**
- **11:45am – 12:15pm ..... New students in grade 12**

**O365 Email Accounts & MyEducation**

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. Please note that third party email addresses (e.g. @gmail, @hotmail) are sometimes filtered out by the School District's firewall.

Students **MUST** log in to MyEducation and access their class schedule ***prior*** to coming to school on Tuesday, September 8. Access to MyEd will re-open on Friday September 4th. If you attempt to access MyEd prior to Friday September 4th you will receive an "account disabled" message, this is because the MyEd portal has not been opened yet Please be aware 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. **Please see attached instructions for MyEducation and Office 365 accounts.** If students are unable to access MyEd prior to coming to their student orientation on Tuesday September 8th please try "I forgot my password" to reset your own password, as all students have access to do so. If you still can't get into your account you can come to the main office for support after their orientation assembly.

**Bell Schedule:**

Wednesday, September 9 is the first day of regularly scheduled classes for all students.

# BELL SCHEDULE 2026-2027

## Regular Day Schedule Tuesday – Friday

**No Morning Break (Extra 5 minutes for announcements in P3/P8)**

| Period Semester 1/2 | Time | Minutes |
|---|---|---|
| Period 1/6 | 8:00 – 9:20 | 80 |
| Period 2/7 | 9:25 – 10:45 | 80 |
| Period 3/8 | 10:50 – 12:15 | 85 |
| **Lunch** | 12:15 – 12:55 | 40 |
| Period 4/9 | 12:55 – 2:15 | 80 |
| Period 5/10 | 2:20 – 3:40 | 80 |

## Monday Tutorial Schedule

| Period Semester 1/2 | Time | Minutes |
|---|---|---|
| Period 1/6 | 8:00 – 9:10 | 70 |
| Period 2/7 | 9:15 – 10:20 | 65 |
| **Break** | 10:20 – 10:30 | 10 |
| **Tutorial** | 10:30 – 11:30 | 60 |
| Period 3/8 | 11:35 – 12:40 | 65 |
| **Lunch** | 12:40 – 1:20 | 40 |
| Period 4/9 | 1:20 – 2:25 | 65 |
| Period 5/10 | 2:30 – 3:40 | 70 |

**Student Timetables**

Last year, students selected courses based on their interests, goals, and post-secondary plans, and we always do our best to make sure that students are enrolled in the courses of their choice.
Our 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, September 4** for students to access their schedules. Please take a screenshot or photo of your schedule so you have it for reference.

**Counsellors 2026/2027**

A to G – Mr. Jason Ashfield
H to M and Indigenous students– Mr. Jeremy Berkbigler
N to Z – Ms. Shannon Tirling

**Changes to Student Timetables**

Each counsellor will send an email to students' O365 accounts with a counsellor-specific link to the Course Change Request Form. The Course Change Request Form is to be used ***ONLY*** if there is an error that meets one of the following criteria:

- Currently enrolled in a course they have already completed and have credit for
- Missing a course required for graduation and/or post-secondary admission
- Missing a class – empty period in your timetable

As this is a very busy time for counsellors, a response may take a couple of days. Please only submit your Course Change Request Form ONCE. Priority will be given to Semester 1 timetables changes.

**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 as the cost will increase to $65 after December 31, 2026 and they do sell out! Grade 12 Graduation fees will be messaged out at a later date.

To pay school fees, please use the Burnaby School District's secure online payment program, ***School Cash Online*****.** 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 this school year and are limited in capacity. If you do not require a locker, please do not sign up for one. Locker sign-up will be done online and can be accessed by clicking HERE or through the school website. Locker sign-up will proceed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Grades 11-12 locker sign-up** | **Sept. 8 – 11** |

Please see attached instructions. If you encounter any problems, please contact the main office.

**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 lunch only. 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 ***do not want to be included*** in these emails, please send an email 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).

**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

**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.

**Alpha Meet the Teacher Evening**

We are excited to host the Alpha Meet the Teacher Evening on **Wednesday, September 23** at **6:00pm**. More info will be provided by email closer to the date.

**Alpha Parent Advisory Council - PAC:**

Please note that the first Alpha Parent Advisory Council Meeting is on **Monday, September 14** at **7:00pm**. More information will be sent out to parents/guardians/caregivers closer to the date.

**Important Dates:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday Sept. 17 | School Photo Day (Student ID cards & Yearbook) |
| Friday Sept. 18 | Terry Fox Run |
| Wednesday Sept. 23 | Alpha Meet the Teacher Night |
| Friday Sept. 25 | Pro-D Day (Classes not in session) |
| Wednesday Sept. 30 | Truth & Reconciliation Day (Classes not in session) |
| Wednesday Oct. 7 | Grade 12 Parent Info Session (Virtual) 6:00pm |
| Friday Oct. 9 | Grade 12 Assembly and Grad Photo (P3) |

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

Sincerely,

Ms. M. Lim
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