



August 21, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian:

RE: Grade 8 Students - School Opening, Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Welcome to the École Alpha School family. We work hard to provide academic excellence in a respectful, caring environment and do our best to keep you involved and informed. Summer is coming to a close and soon students will start their first year of high school. This letter includes some general information about the school as well as some more detailed information about the first week of classes for the 2017/2018 school year.

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

Grade 8 students will report to the **large** gymnasium at 10:30 am on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Students will meet the Grade 8 Cohort teachers and then be taken to their Homeroom class for orientation. Student mentors will work with the Grade 8 students during this orientation and throughout the year. Students will receive their timetables, agenda planners and locker assignments and teachers will provide information and answer questions. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon.

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

This will be the first day of regularly scheduled classes. If your son or daughter did not pick up their timetable on the first day of school, they can report to the office to get a copy of the timetable and be assigned a locker. During the first few weeks of school please remind your child to check the daily calendar to make sure he/she has the correct textbooks and materials for the day. Grade 8's follow a Day 1/Day 2 schedule with students taking 4 classes each day. Please encourage your child to use the student agenda planner, which they receive in their homeroom on the first day, for recording assignments and important deadlines and events.

Regular Bell Schedule beginning Wednesday, September 6, 2017

	Time	
Warning Bell 8:35		
Block 1		8:40 - 9:58
<i>Nutrition Break</i>	<i>9:58 - 10:12</i>	
Block 2		10:12 - 11:34
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>11:34 - 12:17</i>	
Block 3		12:17 - 1:35
Block 4		1:42 - 3:00

Fees:

All students pay a \$25 student activity fee. This fee covers the grade 8 retreat, student agenda planner, student council, Go Cards, and support for clubs, intramurals and activities. There is also an additional PE fee of \$35 that covers student participation in PE field trips throughout the year. Yearbooks may be purchased for a cost of \$55. Students are encouraged to purchase the yearbook early as the cost will increase to \$65 after December 31, 2017.

Fee Payments:

The Burnaby School District uses a secure online payment program for fee collection. Parents are encouraged to register for the School Cash Online program to pay school fees. The School Cash Online link is found on Alpha's website <http://alpha.sd41.bc.ca> in the Quick Links. Once registered, you will be notified by email when the school fees are available for payment. Fees can also be paid by cash or cheque (no debit or credit) during the first week of school through the school bookkeeper in the office. Make cheques payable to Alpha Secondary School.

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 jacqueline.duff@sd41.bc.ca. Throughout the year we will send reminders to parents via e-mail regarding school events, reports cards and parent evenings. Please consult the **Alpha Parent Handbook and Calendar** on our website at <http://alpha.sd41.bc.ca> for further information about the school. The handbook includes important dates and times for events such as the Parent Advisory Council meetings, parent/teacher evenings, report card distribution and policy information such as the Burnaby School District Code of Conduct. The calendar on the website is your best source for important dates pertaining to activities and events at Alpha. You can also download the Alpha App "Alpha2Go" from our website or directly from the App store, and follow us on Twitter @AlphaSD41. Email addresses for school staff can also be found on the website.

Recommended School Supplies:

Please see the attached list of recommended school supplies. Students do not need to bring all their school supplies on the first day of school. Please have your child bring a pen/pencil on Tuesday, September 5th.

Alpha Parent Advisory Council - PAC:

Please note that the first Alpha Parent Advisory Council Meeting is on **Monday, September 11th at 6:00 pm** with a special meeting for parents of Grade 8 students at 7:00 pm in the Library.

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

Sincerely,



Mr. K. Brandt
Principal



Ben Paré (A-K)
Vice-Principal



Ms. M. Frank (L-Z)
Vice-Principal

Enclosures