



# NORTH SURREY

S e c o n d a r y S c h o o l

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is JB Mahli, and it is my pleasure and honour to be the proud new principal of North Surrey Secondary. It is a privilege to able to work and learn on the traditional and unceded territories of the Katzie, Semiahmoo, Kwantlen and other Coast Salish Peoples.

I hope this message reaches you and your family in good health as we quickly approach September and the start to a very different school year. The health and safety of our staff and students remains at the forefront of our planning. Thank you, in advance, to everyone for your patience, support and understanding as we work to create an instructional plan for all our students based on the guidelines and direction from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Public Health Office, and the Surrey School District.

We understand there has been a lot of uncertainty with the re-opening of schools during this pandemic but our hope is to work together to provide information on the re-opening plan for North Surrey and to reassure families we are in a position to safely welcome students back in accordance with the guidelines from the Public Health Office.

We will begin the school year with our grade 8 and 9 students on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. The first day of school for our grade 10, 11, and 12 students will be Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. All opening times and dates are now listed on our school website. As you likely know, the goal of all secondary schools in Surrey, is for all our students to return to in-class learning in September. Grade 8 and 9 students will be in attendance 100% of the time and face-to-face in classes. Grade 10, 11, and 12 students will be in attendance every day for one class in a cohort and the second class will be a combination of face-to-face and online learning (blended learning).

Students in grade 8 and 9 will be placed into cohorts, or learning teams, for the school year. Our goal is to create small sized learning teams in each quarter to limit the number of contacts for each student and staff member. Students in grade 8 can check our school website on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> for their Learning Team. Students in grade 9 will be able to login to their MyEdBC portal on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> to find their block A teacher, which will correspond to a Learning Team listed on the school website. Once a student is in a learning team we are unable to change courses or teachers for the school year. Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 can log in to their MyEdBC portal for their schedules on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Students will have an opportunity to submit an electronic course change form on our school website until 4pm Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Counsellors will only be able to reply to course change requests than can be accommodated based on available space and learning cohort sizes as outline in the North Surrey re-opening plan.

In addition to the opening week schedule, we have also published our bell schedule on our school website. As we prepare for our re-opening it is essential students arrive on time and leave school on time. We anticipate all district busing to be operational based on our staggered start and end times for students that qualify for busing. There will be no fee-paying 'courtesy' bus service available this school year by the district and families will be contacted directly by the school district for more information.

As we approach the final week of August, we understand there is anxiety and stress over the return to school while we are in a pandemic. Students have been away from our schools and many of their peers for almost 6 months. We are excited to welcome students back in a safe way and in new ways. This will be a learning experience for all of us and we will strive to provide our school community with up-to-date information on our progress as we work together to bring a new sense of normalcy and connection for our students. Please spend some time to review the documents listed on our school website, especially our North Surrey Re-Opening Plan. More information will be sent early next week as we continue to provide information from the school.

If you have any questions, please check our school website or call at the school office at 604-581-4433.

Thank you,

JB Mahli  
Proud Principal  
North Surrey Secondary