

Dear Semiahmoo Families,

We hope you, your family, and loved ones are well, and that you are in good health as you enjoy a restful summer vacation. As a school admin team, we are back on site. In fact, due to the fluidity of the global pandemic, we have remained connected to our work throughout the summer and then came back early last week. From a school perspective, it continues to be a unique and challenging time, and we are currently working to establish some clarity, balance, and certainty for our school community specifically in terms of the Semiahmoo Secondary schooling model for September 2020.

Just like you, on a weekly basis we have been following the updates from Dr Bonnie Henry (Provincial Health Officer), Rob Fleming (Minister of Education), and Jordan Tinney (Superintendent of Schools, Surrey School District), including receiving additional updates from our District. Using the information these leaders have been providing us, we have been fully-immersed in building a teaching-learning model at Semiahmoo that meets the Ministry of Health-mandated safe health requirements and supports the Ministry of Education-required learning/socializing needs of students. In doing so, there are numerous requirements that bring levels of complexity to the construction of a safe health environment and learning-rich instructional model. Due to these necessary Ministry- and District-mandated schooling conditions, unfortunately, there are compromises that will have to be made—see below for these details. In designing a rich and meaningful instructional model at Semiahmoo, we will ensure your child's health and safety remains paramount within the complexity of this model.

Once again, the health situation in our province/district continues to be fluid, which means our landing point for a finalized program will continue to be a moving target until the Ministry and District are confident with the safety and health of all members of our learning community. As we learn more, we will be in immediate contact with you. **Next week, we will issue a Health & Safety communique containing all safe health protocols pertaining to COVID and our school.** You and your family continue to be in our thoughts. Be well and stay healthy.

Warmest regards,

Semiahmoo Administration – Mr Bal Ranu, Ms Debbie Johnson, Mr Rob Dewinetz, and Mr Derek Strauss

The “School Schedule”: A New Structure

In order to build a program that is mindful of safe health practices, our schedule will be as follows:

- Semiahmoo will be shifting from a semester system (4 courses in each of 2 semesters) to a quarter system (2 courses in each of 4 quarters).
- Each student will belong to a grade-specific cohort of 24-30 students, and students will remain in these cohorts for both courses in the quarter—cohorts may/will change for each quarter.
- Juniors (Grades 8 & 9) will be on site all-day, every day from 8:30-3:00, attending Period 1 in the AM and Period 2 in the PM—students may be on site for a cohort-based and physically-distanced lunch.

- Seniors (Grades 10-12) have a slightly more complicated program: for Period 1, these students will be on site every day in the AM from 9:00-11:20, while for Period 2, they will be dismissed at the conclusion of Period 1 to go directly home and attend Period 2 remotely (on-line) on Mondays and Fridays. For Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, classes will be divided into thirds and each “third” will attend on-site for one day each week (depending on the third to which they have been assigned) to receive one-on-one instruction/support from their Period 2 teacher. Thus, each student will be taking the course three afternoons a week: two days (Mondays and Fridays) on-line and one day, either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, on-site.
- Also, with Seniors, these students will have 30 minutes in the AM (8:30-9:00) and PM (2:30-3:00) for additional support via the remote system.

Building “Student Schedules” – Incorporating Safe Health into Scheduling

Due to the implementation of safe health practices and subsequent timetabling requirements, there are several scheduling conditions that will be in effect for this school year, namely:

- There will be challenges to accommodating some student course requests made last Spring.
- Due to the safe health measures we are implementing, these necessary health constraints have resulted in the closure of some classes, meaning students in these classes are being rescheduled into their alternate requests, where possible.
- With the creation of cohorts containing a specific and controlled number of students, some students will receive their alternate requests for elective courses. In remote cases, students may be assigned a course that was not requested as either a primary or secondary option.
- Students will not be able to request course changes since cohorts will determine the groupings of students—please do not make course change requests with your counsellor, there is no opportunity to make course changes and, should a student/parent make such a request, the counsellors have been instructed to send these individuals to the Administration.
- Students who would have been in advanced classes (for their age) may not be able to take these courses at Semi this year since they must remain in grade-specific cohorts. If the student/family decide they would like to pursue the advanced course, then they are welcome to explore an on-line program, including S.A.I.L., the Surrey School District on-line, distributed learning program.
- Students will be in a Junior cohort (either Grade 8 or Grade 9, not a combination) or a Senior cohort (which could be a combination of grade 10, 11, and 12 students)—there is no opportunity for a student to be in a class from the Junior level and another from the Senior level.
- LST (Learning Support Team) will have a plan to support students.
- ELL students will be assigned to an ELL course, based on their language proficiency.

The Term System: Moving from a Semester System to a “Quarter System”

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Orientation Week</i> | Sep 10 (Th) to Sep 11 (F) | |
| Quarter 1 | Sep 14 (M) to Nov 13 (F) | 2 classes |
| Quarter 2 | Nov 16 (M) to Jan 29 (F) | 2 classes |
| Quarter 3 | Feb 1 (M) to Apr 16 (F) | 2 classes |
| Quarter 4 | Apr 19 (M) to Jun 24 (Th) | 2 classes |

The “Bell Schedule”

Juniors – Grades 8 & 9

(Note: In-session, all day – AM and PM classes)

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|----------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Period 1 | 08:30 | to | 10:00 | 90 min |
| <i>Break</i> | <i>10:00</i> | <i>to</i> | <i>10:15</i> | <i>15 min</i> |
| Period 1 (continued) | 10:15 | to | 11:30 | 75 min |
| <i>Lunch</i> | <i>11:30</i> | <i>to</i> | <i>12:15</i> | <i>45 min</i> |
| Period 2 | 12:15 | to | 02:55 | 160 min – includes a break |

Seniors – Grades 10, 11 & 12

(Note: In-session in AM / On-line in PM)

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Blended Time | 08:30 | to | 09:00 | 30 min |
| Period 1 | 09:00 | to | 11:15 | 135 min – includes a break |
| <i>Dismiss – Mon & Fri</i> | <i>11:15 – leave for home to prepare for Period 2 (delivered remotely)</i> | | | |
| <i>Lunch – Tue-Thu</i> | <i>11:15</i> | <i>to</i> | <i>12:15</i> | <i>60 min</i> |
| Period 2 | 12:15 | to | 02:25 | 130 min – includes a break |
| Blended Time | 02:30 | to | 03:00 | 30 min |

Orientation Week – Thursday (Sep 10) and Friday (Sep 11)

Important: Parents are NOT to be in the school for the Orientation Week—this event is for students only.

Thursday

Grade 8

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|--|
| 08:20 | 10 min | Warning Bell |
| 08:30 – 08:45 | 15 min | Cohorts meet in Gyms—Large (West and East) and Small Gym |
| <i>08:45 – 08:55</i> | <i>10 min</i> | <i>Travel to Homeroom</i> |
| 08:55 – 09:30 | 35 min | Homeroom (Period 1) |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | 30 min | Period 1 |
| <i>10:00 – 10:10</i> | <i>10 min</i> | <i>Break – Period 1 Teacher escorts students to Period 2 classroom</i> |
| 10:10 – 10:45 | 35 min | Period 2 / Dismiss – leave the building |

Grade 9

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---|
| 12:50 | 10 min | Warning Bell |
| 01:00 – 01:30 | 30 min | Homeroom (Period 1) |
| 01:30 – 02:00 | 30 min | Period 1 |
| <i>02:00 – 02:10</i> | <i>10 min</i> | <i>Break – class change</i> |
| 02:10 – 02:40 | 30 min | Period 2 / Dismiss – leave the building |

Friday

Grade 10

| | | |
|---------------|---------|---|
| 08:20 | 10 min | Warning Bell |
| 08:30 – 09:00 | 30 min | Homeroom (Period 1) |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | 30 mins | Period 1 / Dismiss – leave the building |

Grade 11

| | | |
|---------------|--------|---|
| 10:05 | 10 min | Warning Bell |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | 30 min | Homeroom (Period 1) |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | 30 min | Period 1 / Dismiss – leave the building |

Grade 12

| | | |
|---------------|--------|---|
| 11:50 | 10 min | Warning Bell |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | 30 min | Homeroom (Period 1) |
| 12:30 – 01:00 | 30 min | Period 1 / Dismiss – leave the building |

Grade 10, 11, and 12 – On-Line Course

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|---------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| 02:00 – 02:45 | 45 min | Period 2 – virtual meeting on-line |
| 02:45 | | Dismiss |

The “Student Schedules” – Your Courses

Due to new and additional information, we are once again rebuilding the school timetable. As such, we anticipate being able to release student schedules at the end of next week, and these will appear in the MyEdBC portal, re: the individual student accounts of MyEdBC. **When the student schedules are ready to go, we will inform parents/students.**

Contact with School

The Main Office is open from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If you have any questions, please call us at (604) 536-2131 or e-mail the school at: semiahmoo@surreyschools.ca

Administration

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|-------------------|----------------|--|-------|----|------|
| Mr Bal Ranu | Principal | ranu_b@surreyschools.ca | | | |
| Ms Debbie Johnson | Vice Principal | johnson_d@surreyschools.ca | A | to | Hu |
| Mr Derek Strauss | Vice Principal | strauss_d@surreyschools.ca | Huang | to | Qian |
| Mr Rob Dewinetz | Vice Principal | dewinetz_r@surreyschools.ca | Qiao | to | Z |

Counselling Department

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|--|----|--------------|
| Ms Laura Hamilton | hamilton_laura@surreyschools.ca | A | | to | Chen (Kevin) |
| Ms Marnie Jamieson | jamieson_m@surreyschools.ca | Chen (Lawrence) | | to | Hui (Kevin) |
| Ms Chelan Barclay | barclay_c@surreyschools.ca | Hull (Lauren) | | to | Mo (Ran) |
| Ms Jana Wilson | wilson_j@surreyschools.ca | Mohammed (Sava) | | to | Su (Tan) |
| Ms Shelley Blackwell | blackwell_s@surreyschools.ca | Suh (Brenden) | | to | Z |