



SEMIAHMOO SECONDARY SCHOOL

1785 - 148th Street, Surrey, B.C. V4A 4M6 • Phone: 604-536-2131 • Fax: 604-536-4970

November 14, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Semiahmoo Secondary has several students and staff members who have been identified as having serious fragrance and/or scent allergies and sensitivities. We are reaching out to parents through this letter and to our students by social media and morning announcements to educate our school community on the serious impact of scents/fragrances on students. In addition, we are pleased to announce Semiahmoo is now a 'Scent Free School' to further support our students and staff to provide a healthy environment for all members of our school community.

What this means is students, staff and visitors, are asked to not wear perfumes, cologne, aftershave and other fragrances in the building and on school property.

Many other elementary schools in Surrey have adopted scent-free policies, including Enver Creek Secondary, Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary and LA Matheson Secondary.

Moving to a scent-free school will require a transition period to help students, staff, and visitors adjust to restrictions and the removal of scented products. This adjustment period will take place over the month of November. Staff and students will be provided with information and facts about the scent and fragrance allergies. In particular, strong perfumes and aftershaves, as well as body sprays such as Axe, have been problematic.

In order for you to be better informed about scent and fragrance allergies, please go to the Canadian Lung Association website: <https://www.lung.ca/lung-health/air-quality/indoor-air-quality/scents> for additional information.

Semiahmoo Secondary is committed to providing a healthy and comfortable school environment for our students, staff, and parents. It is our expectation that this move to a scent-free school be respected and supported by the entire Semiahmoo Secondary school community. We request that anyone coming into our school community refrain from using or wearing scented and fragranced products; in addition, use of scented products while in the building is prohibited throughout the school.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Johnston
Principal