

PORT MOODY SECONDARY SCHOOL

August 2019



Welcome to the 2019-20 school year!

On behalf of the entire staff, we hope you are enjoying your summer and are starting to look forward to the school year ahead. We send this start up correspondence to highlight some of the dates and procedures for the first few weeks of school and to recognize some of the comings and goings that have taken place in July.

Firstly, we wish thank the summer staff for all that has taken place at both the school and district level in an effort to get us prepared for this new school year. The custodians have the building looking great and some renovation work is currently taking place by our district's maintenance and facility staff. Of note, two classrooms are being refurbished and the library will soon have some work done as we continue to move towards a redesigned learning commons. Throughout the summer, our office staff has been busy finalizing student records while coordinating an orderly start to this new school year. All of the conscientious hard work from our office staff, custodians and district maintenance workers is noticed and appreciated.

We also need to thank SD43's Human Resources department, as across the district there are several moving parts to staffing all schools in July and August to ensure everyone is in place in time for September. This upcoming year, we have a few new staff to welcome as a result of vacancies created in July. While we welcome them, it means we have colleagues departing for new adventures. We wish them well and thank them greatly for their time at Port Moody and the impact they have made on the lives of many.

Staff changes to date:

Departing

Ms. Sophia Ng, our longstanding accounting clerk retired.

Mr. Michal Rogula accepted a teaching position at Charles Best Secondary.

Ms. Stacey Anderson, our records clerk, accepted a position at Kwayhquitlum Middle.

Mr. Sidney Shan, our evening caretaker, accepted a position at Pinetree Secondary.

Incoming

Mr. Nick Baron (Math / Business teacher)

Ms. Larissa MacPherson (Accounting Clerk)

Ms. Deb Walton (School Records Clerk)

Ms. Meagan Huculak (Library Assistant)

Towards the end of August we will finalize a few more open positions and will update everyone with our staff list for 2019-20.

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Our counsellors, coordinators and administration will return on Monday, August 26th. The counselling team's focus will be registering new students, hosting orientations, reviewing schedules and updating timetables in relation to courses taken during summer school. Students are generally assigned by alphabet to one of our 3 counsellors and 3 vice principals. Should you need to contact a school counsellor or administrator, know that our general practice is to associate students by alpha group (student surname) but all administrators and counsellors will regularly work with any student.

Alpha	Counsellor	Alpha	Vice Principal
A - Kif	Ms. Cindy Campbell	A - Je	Mr. Andrew Lloyd
Kig - Sto	Mr. John Gibney	Ji - Pi	Mr. Brent Taylor
Stp - Z	Ms. Megan Carruthers	Po - Z	Ms. Sharon Starr
IB Coordinator	Mr. Sean Lenihan		

A reminder to our returning students that we will not be scheduling appointments for course changes in late August / September. In June, timetables for returning students were distributed and counsellors reviewed student requests as a final step in the process of timetabling that started in February when students first submitted course requests. The exception is students who require amendments due to graduation needs and/or summer school courses previously not identified to counsellors in June.

If you, or someone you know, recently moved in to our catchment and have not yet registered with us, then please come into the office to begin the process. Our office is open from 8:00am - 2:30pm and the staff is happy to assist you with the required paperwork prior to scheduling a timetable appointment with a counsellor in the last week of August.

If you recently moved to our district and as a parent, you have a work permit or study permit, please first contact the International Education Department at 604-936-5769. For families living out of catchment / out of district and interested in attending PMSS, please submit your request using our *2019.20 School Transfer Request Form* in our Quick Links section of our [homepage](#).

Start of Year Calendar

Monday, Aug. 26th	Office staff, counsellors and administrators return to work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Please first contact the office by phone or email to make an appointment
Tuesday, Aug. 27th	New student registration for <u>in</u> catchment families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Take place starting Tuesday and ongoing, all week.
Wednesday, Aug. 28th	ELL Testing & International Student Registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Language testing by appointment from 8:30am - 3:00pm ➤ Continues all week by appointment with Ms. Woldring
Thursday, Aug. 29th	Grade 9 & New Student Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm ➤ Students meet in the multipurpose area to start the tour. ➤ Student photos available for grade 9s. ➤ Schedules will be distributed to grade 9s. Available again on the first day of school for those unable to attend the orientation. ➤ ELL tour @ 1:00 pm
Friday, Aug. 30th	Registration & Appointments Continue

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Monday, Sept. 2nd	Labour Day – School is Closed
Tuesday, Sept. 3rd	1st day of school. Attendance at assigned times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grade 9s from 10:00 am – 11:30 am ➤ Grade 10s from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm ➤ Grade 11s from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm ➤ Grade 12s from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ➤ Homeroom rosters and maps will be posted around the school ➤ Timetables will be distributed in homeroom ➤ Each grade level will spend the first ½ hour in homeroom then the last ½ hour in the gym for a start of year grade assembly. Grade 9s have 1 hour after homeroom for an assembly and an introduction to Digital Learning.
Wednesday, Sept. 4th	Homeroom during Flex time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Paper copies of start-of-year forms and fees issued in homeroom (also available on our ‘quick links’ section of our website’s homepage)
Thursday, Sept. 5th	Homeroom during Flex time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student photos (all grades - am) ➤ Photos are required by all students
Friday, Sept. 6th	Homeroom during Flex time

Bell Schedule

In general, our school day starts at 8:30am Monday to Friday (some IB students have a block 0 start time). Last year we added a Flex block to our weekly schedule and Flex is recognized instructional time (Tuesday to Friday starting at 8:30am) when students have the opportunity to engage in their learning in more self-directed ways. During Flex students: seek assistance from their teachers; collaborate with other students; conduct club and student council meetings; get organized for the day; pursue enrichment opportunities; make up missed time due to absence; develop work habits and life skills of time management, ownership of their learning, choice, and independence.

While the majority of students appreciate having ownership of this time to get organized and initiate their learning, we do get asked by some, “Do I have to be here for Flex?” Our answer is simply, “Yes, the school day starts at 8:30.”

Monday’s have the same start time but please note the end of day is different from the rest of the week. In addition to Flex we have created a weekly time for staff collaboration. At our parent night, student orientations, and to our grade 9s during start up assemblies and homerooms, we will explain in greater detail the schedule and the benefits to teaching and learning in having Flex and collaboration time.

Our regular weekly bell schedule is below. During the year, some grade-level and school-wide events will impact our regular schedule, but in most of those situations the start and end time of the day will remain consistent. When required, our amended schedules will be posted in advance to our daily news, website and within the building.

PMSS Bell Schedule

2019-20

Monday

Block	Schedule
0	7:19 – 8:26 (before school)
1	8:30 – 9:37
2	9:41 – 10:49
3 / Lunch	10:49 – 11:39
4	11:43 – 12:50
5	12:54 – 2:01
6	2:05 – 3:12 (after school)

Tuesday - Friday

Block	Schedule
0	7:10 – 8:26 (before school)
Flex	8:30 – 8:55
1	8:59 – 10:15
2	10:19 – 11:35
3 / Lunch	11:35 – 12:25
4	12:29 – 1:45
5	1:49 – 3:05
6	3:09 – 4:25 (after school)

School Communication

The school phone number: 604-939-6656

Office email: moodysecondaryoffice@sd43.bc.ca

Our main office is generally open 8:00am – 4:00pm (amended hours on: holidays, professional development days, summer). In addition to our daily news, our most common means of sharing school wide information is the website, app and automated messaging system *School Messenger*. In order to receive *School Messenger* information and our daily news we require your contact information and approval by indicating 'yes' on the parent school policy form. If during the year you wish to have your email removed or updated, please contact the office. Our app is available for download at the App Store by searching: *My School Day* and selecting Moody Secondary School.

Our staff directory with email addresses is located on our website under the Staff tab (and also viewable on our app). For communication we ask you first contact your child's teacher(s) should you have a need, issue or question relating to a specific class.

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Parents/Guardians are asked to contact the school to report if their child is going to be absent, late or will require an early dismissal. Preferred methods of contact are via email, MoodySecondaryAttendance@sd43.bc.ca, phone, 604-939-6656, or through the link on our school website.

School Supplies

Teachers will indicate any course specific materials when introducing the course syllabus at the start of the semester. In general, the regular supplies of binders, paper, pens/pencils, dividers, and a calculator are sufficient. While we are not officially a bring your own device (BYOD) school, students are strongly encouraged to use personal laptops. Proper PE strip is required for those students in a PE course. All students will have the opportunity to request a locker and lock during the first week of homeroom.

Moved / Moving?

If you have moved out of the area over the summer and will not be attending Port Moody Secondary, please contact the office as soon as possible and we can assist you with your timely registration at your new school.

Students not in attendance the week of Tuesday, September 3rd

If your child will be away at the start of the school year for a known reason, then please contact the office and indicate the start date for your child. Students absent without notice for the entire first week of school may have their courses removed with the assumption you are no longer residing in the PMSS catchment.

The grade 9 / new student orientation on August 29th is meant as a support and is not considered a required event to attend. We recognize families have other commitments in the last week of summer however, we encourage students to attend as it allows some focused time for new students to see the building, interact with our leadership students, and ask specific questions ahead of the first day of school.

Parent Forms & Fees

During the last week of August the updated 2019.20 online start of year forms (required & optional) will be accessible on our homepage under Quick Links > Parent eForms. Paper copies will also be made available to students during the first week. We request all forms be submitted by Thursday, September 12th.

Student fee statements will also be posted when school starts and can be paid online using the district School Cash Online system at <https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com>. This is the district's preferred method of payment. Cash and cheque is also accepted and envelopes for payment submission will be issued during the first week. Grad related fees for our grade 12s will be posted later in the year. No student will be denied educational opportunities offered at the school due to financial hardship and if need arises please contact one of the Vice Principals.

Transcripts, June Report Cards

End of year report cards (all grades) are still available for pick up in the office. The Ministry of Education's transcript information for grade 12s is accessible [HERE](#).

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Port Moody Parent Advisory Council

Our PAC meets the first Tuesday of the month in our library at 7:00pm. The first meeting of the year will be October 1st. The PAC executive and school administration welcomes and encourages your involvement with PAC, After Grad and other volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

One way to support our various school PAC initiatives is to donate to our PAC using the optional fees line item on School Cash Online. This year's donations will continue to primarily support the updating of our library to a learning commons.

Digital Learning News!

All Grade 9 students will be taking Applications of Digital Learning 10 over the course of the 2019-2020 school year. Applications of Digital Learning 10 facilitates students to effectively and ethically consume and create a wide variety of digital content, including blogs, documents, images, social media posts, video, and podcasts. Communication is a central theme of the course and students will demonstrate a willingness and ability to appropriately express and exchange information, experiences, and ideas using various digital tools. Students will be informed of assemblies and Flex meetings through MySchoolDay App on the Digital Learning channel and the School Announcements.

Here's what one student had to say:

Digital Learning (DL) is a course that allows you to reflect on how you use technology, your impact on the online world, and the real-world effect of that impact through several personal responses over the duration of the year. These responses will allow you to familiarize yourself with online tools such as Edublogs and PowerPoint, as well as applying technology in some of your core classes (Math, Science, English, and Socials). The main point of DL is to spread awareness about being a responsible online citizen, as well as to let you figure out how you want to present yourself online.

- Makenzie Campbell (Grade 9 student, 2019)

For more information about the course, please see our [course outline here](#). There will also be a short information session for parents during our fall Meet the Teacher Night.

Thanks,

Team DL

Cherie Nagra, Marina Mehaj, and Giovanni Valente

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B.C. Graduation Program

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/graduation>

Some key changes to note on the final implementation steps of the graduation program:

- The new Grade 10 Graduation Literacy Assessment will be introduced in 2019/20
- The new Grade 12 Graduation Literacy Assessment will be introduced in 2020/21
- The English 12 provincial exam is no longer required for graduation. Students who graduated in the 2018/19 school year did not write a literacy assessment. They were the final grade to write the course-based Language Arts 12 provincial exam.
- The Grade 10 Graduation Numeracy Assessment was introduced in 2018.
- Numeracy and Literacy Assessment scoring is based on a 4 point performance scale. Scores are/will be displayed on a transcript separate and independent from any subject mark.

Provincial Graduation Assessments

Students need to write the following graduation assessments in order to graduate:

- Numeracy Assessment
- Literacy Assessments

You must write each assessment at least once, and you have two opportunities to rewrite each assessment. You can write the numeracy assessment this year, but will only be able to write the literacy assessment starting January 2020. You will learn more about these assessments during the school year. If you have any questions, talk to your school counsellor.

Information about B.C. graduation assessments can be found at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial-assessment/graduation>

Policies on calculators, disqualification and other graduation assessment related information are in the Handbook of Procedures for the Graduation Program at: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/

You can use the StudentTranscripts Service to check your assessment results online at: www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca

School Calendar at a Glance

Our 2 school based non-instructional days are January 27th and May 29th, 2020.

Please refer to our daily news and website calendar for more detailed information throughout the year.

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School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

School Calendar 2019-2020

DESIGNATION	
Schools open	Tuesday, Sept. 3
Pro D Day	Friday, Sept. 20
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, Oct. 14
Pro D Day	Friday, Oct. 25
Remembrance Day Stat Holiday	Monday, Nov. 11
Schools close for Winter vacation (last day in session)	Friday, Dec. 20
Winter vacation period	Dec. 23 – Jan. 3
Schools reopen after Winter vacation	Monday, Jan. 6
School Not in Session	Friday, Feb. 14
BC Family Day	Monday, Feb. 17
Pro D Day	Friday, Feb. 28
Schools close for Spring vacation (last day in session)	Friday, Mar. 13
Spring vacation period	Mar. 16 – 27
Schools reopen after Spring vacation	Monday, Mar. 30
Good Friday	Friday, Apr. 10
Easter Monday	Monday, Apr. 13
Pro D Day	Friday, Apr. 17
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18
Last day of school for all students	Thursday, June 25
Administrative Day	Friday, June 26

**** Please note: an additional 2 school-based non –instructional days will be selected by each school.**

Buses, Traffic & Parking

Translink [Trip Planner](#) (link for public transit service).

The closest bus stops are located on St. Johns Street. The closest SkyTrain station is Moody Centre on the Millennium Line. If ever you have an issue with bus service or scheduling please use the Translink customer service link: <https://feedback.translink.ca/>

Albert Street and the surrounding streets are very congested in the mornings and after school. How we individually respond to this fact influences how we all start our day, and most importantly, affects the safety of the students and staff at school. Definitely anticipate leaving yourself extra time the first week back as the general community adjusts to more volume on the roads after Labour Day. On a daily basis resolve to work together by considering others and respecting designated parking areas. The staff parking lot and laneway after the Port Moody sign is not a drop off / pick up location. Consider establishing a regular spot that is within walking distance of the school, yet considerate of our neighbour's ability to get in and out of their homes. We appreciate how congested the area is and notice it only increasing what with the volume of cars, housing construction and most recently the

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closed roadways such as Como Lake and Gatensbury Rd. Vehicle congestion and the related poor driving habits around schools is increasingly an issue at all levels and we thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Drivers:

- Drop off / pick up is at the lower roundabout at the entrance to the student parking lot (highlighted in yellow below)
- In the mornings move towards the curbside of Albert so that staff and district vehicles can drive up Albert Street.
- Above the school sign (highlighted in red) is parking for staff, preapproved families and emergency vehicles only.

Pedestrians:

- Be considerate to the flow of traffic by walking around the drop off area rather than across it
- Be safe and aware of your surroundings. We see too many of you talking to one another or staring at your screen as you step off curbs into traffic.



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Get Involved!

The pace of a semester secondary school often seems very fast to new students. In our experience, by the second week of school students are usually comfortable with the routines of the schedule and knowing the layout of the school. If at any time you feel overwhelmed or have questions then please talk to us. What we do encourage all students to do right away is to pay attention to the daily announcements and take that leap right away to try something you are interested in. Our fall sports teams' tryouts and Club Day sign up occur early in September and we don't want anyone to miss out on an opportunity to pursue an interest that will help make the school year ahead that much more enjoyable for you and others.

Whether you are coming to PMSS from middle school, or you are new to the area, understand this is now your school. Don't feel you need to wait until grade 10, or even second semester to get involved and make a positive contribution. The opportunities at PMSS are many and the strength of our community is the individuals getting involved and working together!

Enjoy the remaining days of summer. We look forward to seeing you soon and at the various school events throughout the year.

Yours truly,

Glen Conley, Andrew Lloyd, Sharon Starr & Brent Taylor