



Respect
Safety
Success

Revelstoke Secondary School

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On behalf of the teaching and support staff of RSS, I am happy to welcome you to Revelstoke Secondary School this year and, in this environment the beginning of this school year will be unlike any other we have ever experienced. A clear indication of these unique times is that school start has been delayed until September 10th.

As such, RSS is following the Public Health Office's guidelines to mitigate risk to students and staff and to promote safety and well-being. One of the guidelines that has had a dramatic effect on RSS this year is that the Public Health Office has tasked schools to create 'cohorts' of students. We have accomplished this by including all members of each grade into their own cohort.

A product of this guideline regarding cohorts is that scheduling classes has become a difficult task in high schools across the province. To meet these directives, and to minimize changes to individual student schedules as much as possible, RSS is going to have a grade 8 and 9 schedule, and a grade 10-12 schedule.

The grade 10-12 schedule is based on the 'quarter' system (also known as a "Copernican" system). Students will take only two classes each quarter (i.e. September to November, or approximately 10 weeks), then take two others in the next quarter, and so on until the end of the school year. One class will be in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each week the order will be flipped so that one class is not always in the morning. This schedule allows safety guidelines to be followed for students and staff, and still allows students to access the courses they have chosen for the year.

The grade 8 and 9 schedules are based on assigning four teachers to each cohort who will teach all core and most elective courses. As I've been describing this system to some parents already, we are creating a grade 8 "bubble" and a grade 9 "bubble", each with their own set of main teachers. This will allow options on how courses will be taught and allow choices in how they are presented.

RSS will also need to work with the entire school community as we prioritize safety and well-being. To that end RSS has a focus on safety aspects we will be incorporating this year based on the Public Health Office's guidelines. These include:

- Lunches will be taken in classrooms or outside of the school, with a rotating schedule of cohort use of the common area and library for lunch. Students will be encouraged to leave the school for lunch if they do not want to eat lunch in these areas.
- Lockers will not be used at this time.
- Break times for each cohort will be staggered.
- Hallways and stairs are to be 2-way traffic, with rules of the road and with no passing practiced.
- RSS is working with the guidelines around the use of masks. However, the current guidelines refer that masks will be worn in common areas and hallways by students and staff where cohorts cannot be maintained.
- Separate entrances/exits will be determined for different grades. Grades 8 and 10 will enter and exit through the Main Entrance, and grades 9, 11, and 12 will enter and exit through the Community Entrance.
- Guests/parents are strongly discouraged from visiting the school without an appointment, except in case of emergency.
- Parents are required to rigorously self-assess their children for illness before they come to school/use a school bus.
- Students should be prepared every day to learn outside.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is our number one priority. Please understand that RSS is following every guideline to the best of our ability as determined by the Public Health Office, WorkSafe BC, the BC Center of Disease Control, and the Ministry of Education.

You can see links for more information on the School District 19 website: www.sd19.bc.ca

Please contact me if you have questions about the start of school.

Take Care and Be Safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Kenyon', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Kenyon