



Welcome Back Sundevils!

I hope that this message finds you well and enjoying a long and energizing summer break. And like me, I hope that you too are looking forward to an exciting year of learning at South Delta Secondary School!

A new school year brings an energy, anticipation, and optimism unlike any other time of the year: the opportunity to re-connect with friends and classmates, to share summer stories and hopes for the year ahead. New beginnings bring possibilities of new connections and new learning and a fresh commitment to achieving one's personal best.

To our returning students, I encourage you to approach the new school year with determination, focus, and commitment. To our new students, including those who approaching their first year of high school, I extend a warm welcome. It is our hope that you will soon view South Delta as your school, where your contributions will serve to enhance the excellent culture that exists at SDSS.

Once again, I am excited to be working with the highly professional and caring teaching and support staff at SDSS, I also look forward to working with the many committed and hard-working parents of our school community. Our Parent Advisory Council have the opportunity to positively impact the tone and direction of our school. I invite and encourage all parents to be involved.

One way parents can help improve school-home communication is to ensure that the school has your current, correct email address. And while email will continue to be our primary means of communication alerting you to new postings to our website, online interim reports, online report card availability, we also encourage you to engage with us on Twitter ([@SDSSSundevils](https://twitter.com/SDSSSundevils)) and Facebook ([/sdss.sundevils](https://www.facebook.com/sdss.sundevils)). This year we have decided to discontinue our monthly newsletter and will endeavour to more fully utilize our school website. For the most up to date announcements, please visit the main page and "News" tab.

The Delta School District has streamlined the annual permission forms required for various functions like demographic information, student emergency release, walking field trip permission and the BC Fruit & Veggie Program. All of these important permission forms can be accessed on Parent Connect. Thank you for your assistance in gathering this important information for us at school.

Please take the time to review the website <https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca>, highlighting many of the key dates and details that will assist in supporting a successful start up for your student.

In the days and weeks ahead, I encourage you to help your student create a mental picture of their success this year, to listen and offer advice as they draw up a strategy to achieve their goals and support them as they put their plan into action over the course of the school year.

In the past we've offered this advice on how parents can help support their child's education. I think they are good reminders:

- Set high expectations for your student and encourage them to not accept minimum effort or indifference to quality work;
- Contact teachers directly when you have a question or concern regarding your student's progress;
- Monitor Parent Connect and your student's attendance;
- Provide a quiet place in your home for study;
- Insist that your student accept responsibility for their learning and their conduct;
- Model the importance of life-long learning;
- Instill a strong work ethic and promote good time management skills;
- Encourage your student to maintain healthy eating, sleep, and online habits .

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy year of learning. I hope to see all parents at **Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 20th**. In the meantime, if you have any comments or questions, please contact me at the school (604-943-7407) or by email, tainge@deltasd.bc.ca

Sincerely,

Terry Ainge, Principal