

September 2 – September 6, 2024

Monday September 2	Tuesday September 3	Wednesday September 4	Thursday September 5	Friday September 6
Labour Day School Closed (Please check the posted lists to confirm your homeroom teacher and location)	Welcome Assembly in the Shark Tank followed by Homerooms – Please come at the assigned time for your grade (see schedule below)	ABCD (Day 1) (No PLT) (8:30am – 3:00pm)	DCBA (Day 2) (No PLT) (8:30am – 3:00pm)	ABCD (Day 1) (8:30am – 3:00pm) Grade 12 Assembly & BBQ (lunch & Block D)

WELCOME BACK!

We hope you are enjoying the last few days of summer with family and friends and feeling rested and relaxed! It won't be long before the 2024-2025 school year begins!

The beginning of September is an exciting time of anticipation for a new school year filled with hope and optimism for a great year of learning ahead! While our Grade 8s are looking forward to starting high school, our Grads of 2025 are thinking ahead to the special events and activities they will have the opportunity to participate in during their last year of high school. A new school year is an exciting time to reconnect with friends, peers, teachers, and the whole SLSS community!

Strong relationships and making connections are essential for developing a strong learning community. Our traditions, culture, and core values of Care and Respect make SLSS an outstanding place to learn and work. Student success is a collaborative effort between the student, parent, and school. We encourage families to take time to talk to their child about academic and personal goals for the year and have a plan of action to achieving these goals. Students, we are here to support your learning and see you succeed! We encourage parents and guardians to be involved and partner with us to provide the best supportive learning experiences for students. Parents, as you continue to support your child in high school with their many endeavours, we welcome you to stay connected with the school.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome several new staff members including Ms. T. Frank, Ms. S. Lee, Mr. P. Paldo, Ms. A. Kim, and Mr. C. Graham. Please join us in welcoming these staff members to our SLSS community.

On behalf of the entire Steveston-London Secondary School staff, we would like to extend a warm welcome to those students and families who are new to SLSS and to all returning students and parents. We are looking forward to seeing all our students on Tuesday, September 3rd!

We wish all our students every success this school year! See you soon Sharks!!

Mrs. Fackler, Mr. Nashlund, & Ms. Varghese

Notice of Late Return:

The Notice of Late Return [form](#) must be completed for any student who will not be returning to school by noon on Wednesday, September 4th. Please note – students must return by September 11, 2024. The form is also available on our website.

First Day of School

We are excited to welcome students back to school on Tuesday, September 3rd. Students in grades 8 through 11 will meet for a welcome assembly in the Shark Tank (gym) at the following times:

Grade 8	11:30 am
Grade 9	10:30 am
Grade 10	10:30 am
Grade 11	1:00 pm
Grade 12	1:00 pm - Go directly to homeroom (Grade 12 assembly will happen in conjunction with the Grad BBQ on Sept 6 th)

Homeroom lists will be posted at the Williams Entrance, Gilbert Entrance, and 200 Wing Exit Doors on Friday, August 30th at noon. Please make sure you check your homeroom teacher's name and classroom number in preparation for your homeroom class on Tuesday, September 3rd.

Bell Schedule – Regular schedule

Our bell schedule will be the same as last year including PLT on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please see the bell schedule [attached](#) for further details. Please note that there is no PLT during the first week of classes.

Personalized Learning Time

Students have the opportunity again this year to engage in weekly Personal Learning Time (PLT) on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This is dedicated time set aside in the timetable for students, where they are given choice and ownership over their learning. The goal of PLT is to teach students the skills necessary to use instructional time in a way that benefits their individual learning. For example, students can visit teachers to get additional help, work on projects individually or in a group, or engage in personal activities such as goal setting. PLT is centered around three Guiding Principles:

- PLT will be self-directed, self-managed and self-regulated by students
- PLT will support learners to be independent learners
- PLT will focus on the development of Core Competencies: Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social Responsibility

Please note that PLT will begin on September 11th.

Student Information Verification Form

Personalized Student Information Verification forms will be distributed to students on September 3rd. Please complete these forms and return them to the drop box located outside the main office in the Williams Lounge by Friday, September 6th. The medical information is invaluable in the event of an emergency at the school. Accurate email addresses and phone numbers for the school's records are very important as email is used for report cards, WAAGs and attendance reporting in the Richmond School District.

Student Information Forms:

Use of Personal Information Form: Permission is needed for the school to send parents/guardians important information via email and for the school to include a student's name or image in the yearbook, newsletters, on the school's website and/or social media.

These forms will be distributed during homeroom. Please complete and return all forms to the drop box located outside the main office in the Williams Lounge by Friday, September 6th.

Student Agendas

All students will receive an agenda in their homerooms on the first day of school. Our school calendar is available on our website. As well, the Year-at-a-Glance calendar is available on our website ([LINK](#)).

Student Cell Phone Usage – NEW SD38 Policy based on Ministry guidelines

Information on [attached](#) document, inside of the back cover of student planners, and the full district policy (104-G (A)) is on our website. The district will also send further communication to all families.

Lockers (optional for students)

Students may choose a locker to use for the year through our online booking system. Please go to our website for the link and sign-up instructions for lockers. Each grade will have access to sign up for a locker starting at 4pm on an assigned day. Here are the dates: Grade 12's – Tuesday, September 3, Grade 11's – Wednesday, September 4, Grade 10's – Thursday, September 5, Grade 9's – Friday, September 6, Grade 8's – Monday, September 9. You may also sign up for a locker any time after your assigned date, lockers will be open for sign-up for the whole month of September. Please note that you do not have to sign-up for a locker, this is completely optional.

Dates to Remember

September 16	Photo Day
September 17-19	Grade 8 Camp
September 18	PAC Meeting at 7:00PM
September 19	Post-Secondary Evening
September 20	Non-Instructional Day (no classes)
September 25	Connections Class 9:20-10:10am, during PLT 2. Required attendance.
September 26	Club Days at lunch
September 26	Grade 8 Parent Info Night and Meet the Teacher
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation School Closed

Counsellors

Students are primarily assigned to a counsellor based on their last name; however, students may see whichever counsellor they feel most comfortable working with. Please note that this year's alpha distribution for students has shifted slightly:

Counsellor Assignments:

Ms. M. Ratchiffe - (A, Y, Z, International)
Ms. K. Lau - (B – Hu)
Ms. S. Zee - (Hua – O)
Ms. B. Sihota - (P – X)

Student Schedules

Please note that grade 9-12 students may log-in to MyEdBC on Tuesday, September 3rd and view their schedule. Grade 8 and all new students will receive their MyEdBC access later in September. Please note that timetables may change, as counsellors work to ensure that all students have complete timetables and all the required courses. Students' timetables will be distributed by email on Friday, August 30th and by hard copy on Tuesday, September 3rd during their homeroom classes. **Current students will need to fill out the online course correction MS form via link in Friday's email, if they wish to request any changes.** Counsellors will not be able to consider requests for course changes made via email. Please note that timetable changes will only be made for incomplete schedules or to meet grad requirements. **The online MS form to request course correction will be open from Tuesday, September 3rd to Monday, September 9th at 3:30 pm.** New students will meet their counsellor to finalize their timetables.

School Fees – SchoolCashOnline

The District Standardized School Fee and Yearbook fee have been applied to your child's account. Please note that purchasing a yearbook is optional for students. Grade 8 camp fees are already available for payment. Grade 12 students will see additional fees on their account based on Grad events offered this school year.

Our preferred method of payment is School Cash Online. Please contact the Business Assistant, Karen Campbell at kacampbell@sd38.bc.ca, if you need assistance with setting up a [SchoolCashOnline](#) Account. Instructions for SchoolCashOnline are [attached](#). If you have any questions or concerns about your child's fees, please contact the Business Assistant or your child's counsellor for assistance. If your family is experiencing any financial hardship, please email an administrator so we can support you.

School Photographs

Artana will be onsite at SLSS to take student photos on Monday, September 16th. Retake day for those who missed the first photo day will be Wednesday, October 16th (PLT 8am-10am). Student photos are used for school ID's and in the yearbook. Parents/guardians will have an opportunity to purchase photo packages, if desired. Families can also access everything they need to know about SLSS' Photo Day, including the when and why, by clicking on this [LINK](#).

Formal grad portraits will be taking place in the mobile studio from January 25th – February 2nd, 2025. Portraits will be taken by appointment only. Grads and their families will be provided a link to book their appointments and find out information about the grad portrait process in the Fall.

Pick-up and Drop-off of Students

We encourage all students to walk, cycle or take public transportation to school as often as possible. Not only is this the healthy and environmentally friendly alternative, but it also reduces traffic congestion around the school each morning and afternoon. If you are driving to drop-off or pick-up students, please drive slowly and carefully on all areas of the school property. Please observe all traffic signs along our driveways. The signs are there for the safety of our students, staff, and families. There is no parking along the laneways at the Williams and Gilbert Road entrances. These are drop-off areas only. If you ride your bicycle to school, please lock it up securely at one of the designated bike racks located around the school.

Construction in the Area

Construction continues along portions of Gilbert (thankfully, North of SLSS). However, construction is now also on No. 2 Road. If you are dropping off students, we advise parents to use the Williams entrance/parking lot and allow sufficient time for drop-offs so students can arrive to their classes on time. Also, please consider having students walk, bike, scooter, or transit to reduce cars on the road and in our driveway. Please aim to arrive before 8:10 am.

Stay Connected – PAC, DAG, Website

Stay connected with what is happening at the school. A great way to do this is to be part of our PAC/DAG groups. The first PAC meeting will be Wednesday, September 18th. We hope you can join us! Follow us on our website at <https://www.slss.sd38.bc.ca>

SLSS Secondary School

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Email: slss@sd38.bc.ca Website: <http://slss.sd38.bc.ca>

