



# HOME OF THE PIPERS

## ÉCOLE ARGYLE SECONDARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024



### Principal's Update

Welcome back Pipers! We are thrilled to be opening our school doors for another exciting year of learning at Argyle.

I am personally delighted to be starting this year in a new role as Argyle's Principal. I have worked at Argyle for the last three years as Vice Principal and know this community to be warm and welcoming. I bring a background in French Immersion and Learning Services and I have been a teacher and administrator in elementary and secondary schools across North Vancouver. I strive to create learning environments where student engagement is at the forefront and students love



to come to school. When I'm not at Argyle, you can find me running, biking, and exploring our North Vancouver backyard. I look forward to meeting more of you throughout the year and thank you for your support of Argyle's growing community.

Joining our administrative team alongside current Vice Principal Tim Ireland is Ms. Shahrzad Motaghedi. Ms. Motaghedi is joining us from Handsworth Secondary and brings a rich background in student support, math, and science.

Building a sense of community has been central to our [school plan](#) for the last three years as we settle into our new building. This year, Argyle's community continues to grow with over 1550 students and 135 staff across 14 thriving departments. We are using every room in our new building to its fullest and our teachers continue to offer a wide variety of enhanced programs, including district academies, music, art, technology, applied skills, and theatre programs. Our fall athletics season is upon us with football, soccer, rugby, volleyball and more teams preparing to start next week.

This year, back to school will look different for students with our new cell phone policy rolling out. We know students learn better without their phones and research is clear about the harmful effects these distractions can have on youth. Our staff is ready and excited to bring this change to Argyle as we move forward with "devices off, learning on."

You can expect to see monthly newsletters from the school and additional important updates as needed, communicated by email. [Our website](#) is our main stop for up-to-date information about what is going on at Argyle.

I look forward to seeing you in the school soon and in the meantime, don't hesitate to reach out to our staff with questions, we are here to help and ready to make this a wonderful year at Argyle.

Laura Ames

Principal

## Upcoming School Dates

- September 3<sup>rd</sup>** – First day of school – See schedule [here](#)
- September 4<sup>th</sup>** – First full day of classes
- September 6<sup>th</sup>** – School Photo Day
- September 10<sup>th</sup>** – Grade 8 Parent Evening 7:00pm
- September 13<sup>th</sup>** – Course Change Deadline
- September 17<sup>th</sup>** – Grade 12 Parent Evening 7:00pm
- September 19<sup>th</sup>** – Grade 8 Cheakamus Retreat
- September 20<sup>th</sup>** – Argyle Pro-D Day
- September 25<sup>th</sup>** – Late Start Day, Terry Fox Run & School-wide BBQ
- September 27<sup>th</sup>** – Truth and Reconciliation Event

## School Updates, Events & Info

### Welcome New and Returning Staff!

- Shahrzad Motaghedi – Vice Principal
- Graham Baigent – Social Studies
- Eric Bankes - Tech Education
- Lexie Butler - English/Social Studies/ Choices
- Julia Davidis – Bus Driver/Education Assistant
- Jason De Couto - Music
- Isabelle La Roche - French Immersion
- Danny Laufer – Choices
- Lorne Mallin - Science/Math
- Nicole Matthews – Foods (returning)
- Galme Mumed – Education Assistant (returning)
- Jon Ramsay – Social Studies and English (returning)
- Tracy Romano – Counselling
- Barb Vondruska – Education Assistant

### Important Startup Information

Our website is our homebase for all important school information. Please see below for quick links to important information

<b>Argyle Contact Info</b>	<a href="#">Contact Info &amp; Map - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Daily Schedules &amp; Block Rotation</b>	<a href="#">Daily Schedules - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Full Year Calendar</b>	<a href="#">Calendars - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Reporting Attendance</b>	<a href="#">Attendance - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Argyle Policies</b>	<a href="#">School Policies - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Daily Announcements</b>	<a href="#">Daily Announcements - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Staff Contact Information</b>	<a href="#">Staff Contacts and Links - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>



## Student Verification Forms

Students will receive a student verification form during homeroom on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Parents/guardians are asked to review the information on the form. All forms need to be reviewed and returned in the first two weeks of school.

If changes are needed:

1. Make the changes directly on the form.
2. Sign the form on the signature line.
3. Have your student return the form to the office.

If any of your demographic information (address, phone number, parent/guardian contacts, email, or emergency contacts) changes during the year, please email our office at [argyle@sd44.ca](mailto:argyle@sd44.ca) so we can update our records.

## School Startup Forms

You will be receiving an email from the NVSD this week with instructions on completing the 3 online forms through School Cash Online. Please fill these out as soon as possible. If you have any questions about these forms, please call our office at 604-903-3300. These forms do not require any payment. [School Cash Online](#) is simply the platform the school district uses to collect this information. See these [instructions](#) on how to create a School Cash Online account.

## Grade 8 Information Package

Families of grade 8 students will be receiving a welcome letter and [permission forms](#) for the grade 8 Cheakamus Retreat **by mail** later this week. If you have not received this package by Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, please contact the school by email [argyle@sd44.ca](mailto:argyle@sd44.ca).

We look forward to welcoming the Argyle Grads of 2029 next week at our opening assembly at 9:00am on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is a grade 8 Parent Night on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the large gym.

## Grade 12 Information

Grads and parents/guardians of grads will soon be receiving a graduation newsletter full of information about the grad year. The first priority for grads is to double check that they are on track to meet graduation requirements. Grad information will be posted on the school website as it becomes available under *Students > Grad*.

We look forward to welcoming our grade 12s at the grad and staff BBQ next Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, after the grade 12 assembly. There is no cost for grads to attend the BBQ.

There is a Grade 12 parent night on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

## Back to School Checklist

- ✓ Ensure your student knows when to [come to school on the first day of school](#).
- ✓ Complete the online permission forms on School Cash Online.
- ✓ Review the Student Verification Form students will receive on the first day. Make changes to the form, sign it and return it to the office.
- ✓ Grade 8's - return the Cheakamus Grade 8 Retreat green permission forms to the office.



- ✓ Purchase school supplies as needed.
- ✓ Bookmark the [Argyle website](#).
- ✓ Enter important school dates into your calendar using the monthly calendar provided.

## Course Selection

Students will receive their course schedules on the first day of school. Any course change requests can be made by filling out a [course change form](#) (also available in the counsellor offices) and submitting to your grade counsellor. Course change requests will not be accepted by Teams or email. The course change deadline is Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Counsellor Assignments

Grade	Counsellor	Grade Administrator
8	Ms. Tracy Romano <a href="mailto:tromano@sd44.ca">tromano@sd44.ca</a>	Mr. Tim Ireland <a href="mailto:tireland@sd44.ca">tireland@sd44.ca</a>
9	Ms. Lauren Lyons <a href="mailto:llyons@sd44.ca">llyons@sd44.ca</a>	Ms. Shahrzad Motaghedi <a href="mailto:smotaghedi@sd44.ca">smotaghedi@sd44.ca</a>
10	Ms. Jessa Peers <a href="mailto:jpeers@sd44.ca">jpeers@sd44.ca</a>	Mr. Tim Ireland <a href="mailto:tireland@sd44.ca">tireland@sd44.ca</a>
11	Ms. Erin Malone <a href="mailto:emalone@sd44.ca">emalone@sd44.ca</a>	Ms. Shahrzad Motaghedi <a href="mailto:smotaghedi@sd44.ca">smotaghedi@sd44.ca</a>
12	Ms. Vikki Dashkevich <a href="mailto:vdashkevich@sd44.ca">vdashkevich@sd44.ca</a>	Mme Laura Ames <a href="mailto:lames@sd44.ca">lames@sd44.ca</a>
International students	Ms. Jessa Peers <a href="mailto:jpeers@sd44.ca">jpeers@sd44.ca</a>	Mme Laura Ames <a href="mailto:lames@sd44.ca">lames@sd44.ca</a>

## School Supplies

Students should have:

- Binder(s) with dividers
- 3-hole lined paper
- Pencil case with pens, pencils, eraser, & ruler
- Calculator for math and science (teacher will share more info on type needed)
- Athletic clothing, running shoes, & gym lock for physical & health education (PHE) class
- Water bottle

Subject teachers will communicate any additional supplies required for their class during the first week. All students will receive an agenda book in their homeroom on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Lockers

We do not assign lockers automatically – if a student would like a locker, they can request one by using [this form](#) by September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Lockers will be assigned to students' SD44 email address in the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>.



## X-Block Classes

As we communicated in June, 2024, we are running four new X-block classes this year: Art metal 10-12, English New Media 10, Food studies 11/12 and Woodwork 10-12. X-block classes adhere to the day 1 or day 2 schedule and take place from 7:15am to 8:25am. Students enrolled in one of these an X-block morning class will receive a study block in their timetable.

## Code of Conduct

Argyle Secondary follows the [North Vancouver District Code of Conduct](#), which outlines expectations for all members of the Argyle community.

In addition to the code of conduct, Argyle has [school-specific policies and expectations](#) to create a safe and supportive environment for all.

## Personal Digital Devices

For the safety and well-being of students and to create a more focused learning environment, the Ministry of Education requires all schools in the province to restrict student use of cell phones and other personal digital devices while at school.

As previously communicated by the Superintendent of Schools, the North Vancouver School District (NVSD) is focused on “devices off, learning on.” In preparation for the 2024/2025 school year, the following guidelines will be in place for September and part of Argyle’s Code of Conduct:

*All students in the school community are expected to leave personal digital devices at home, in their bag/backpack, and/or in their locker during instructional time. Allowances may be made by the staff for instructional purposes, digital literacy, appropriate use based on age and developmental stage, accommodations within a student’s Individualized Education Plan, accessibility, medical and health needs, and/or equitable support for learning outcomes.*

Across all NVSD secondary schools, access to and use of personal digital devices will not be permitted during instructional time. At the teacher’s discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instructional planning. As referred to in the above guidelines, students with specific educational or medical needs outlined in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Learning Support Plan (LSP) will continue to use PDD to support their educational or medical needs. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s case manager.

**If you need to contact your child during the day, please call (604) 903-3300 and a school staff member will deliver a message to them.**

## Student Password Reset

Secondary student passwords expire at the start of the school year and need to be changed annually to provide an extra layer of security and help protect students from potential unauthorized access to their accounts. Students will need to reset their password when they first log in to email, Microsoft Teams, OneDrive, NVSD Portal, or a school device.

Students are advised to reset their password via <https://tscd.sd44.ca/updatepassword> before the start of the school year. For additional information, please visit [Student District Login FAQ](#). IT



staff will be at the school during the first week of September to provide support and school staff can reset a password if the student can no longer remember their old passwords.

## Health Awareness

Health awareness reduces the likelihood of a person coming to school when they are sick. This includes checking regularly for symptoms of illness to make sure you or your student does not come to school while sick. **Please help us keep everyone safe & healthy!**

Students, staff and other adults should follow [public health guidance](#) and the recommendations of their health care provider when they are sick. Health information is also available from [Healthlink BC](#) or by calling 811.

If your student develops symptoms of illness they need to let their teacher know and then report to the office immediately. Office staff will then contact parents/guardians to come and pick up their student.

## School Cafeteria and Lunch Break

Canuel Caterers will provides cafeteria service. The cafeteria will be open during flex time, breaks and lunch. The menu is posted above the servery in the multipurpose space. The cafeteria is not open during instructional time.

Students who leave campus during lunch time are responsible for returning in time for the start of their afternoon class. Students may eat in the multipurpose space, in learning communities, in student breakout rooms, in hallways, and outside. Students may not eat in the library, turf areas, or classrooms without teacher permission. We ask all students to use the appropriate bins to recycle or dispose of waste.

## Piper Pride - What's happening around the school?

### Athletics

Visit our Argyle Athletics [Homepage](#). Are you interested in joining an Argyle team? Our Fall athletics program begins now!

Students should check the Athletics notice board at the top of the main staircase for team sign-up and information. This information is also sent to all students through our grade teams and included in our daily announcements. Most teams are determined in the first two weeks of school so sign up as soon as possible. If you have questions, please see our Athletic Directors, Mr. Pearce or Ms. Avefjall.



Fall sports at Argyle:

- Girls' volleyball – see tryout info [here](#)
- Football – Junior (gr. 9-10) & Senior (gr. 11-12) (gr 8 is in the spring)
- Boys' soccer – Jr (gr. 8-10) & Sr (gr. 11-12)
- Girls' field hockey – Jr (gr. 8-10) & Sr (gr. 11-12)
- Grade 8 rugby
- Cheer – all grades (runs fall to spring)
- Cross country running – all grades
- Swimming – all grades

## Student Clubs

From coding to table top games, or fitness to film, Argyle offers a number of student clubs that students can join at any time of the year. If students would like to start a new club, they can apply through student council. More information about clubs and club applications can be found [here](#).

## Student Opportunities

We keep an update to date list of community student opportunities on our website [here](#).

## PAC Updates

**First Argyle PAC Meeting – 7:00pm, Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> in the Argyle Library**

The [Argyle Parent Advisory Council](#) is the voice of parents at the school. Members include parents and guardians of all Argyle students. The Argyle PAC promotes a positive partnership between home and school and works to enhance the educational experiences and resources for our students and foster the well-being of students and families in our Argyle community. The PAC has regular meetings to connect parents to what is going on at Argyle. Funding for the Argyle PAC is two-fold: provincial gaming money, which may be used to support extracurricular equipment and activities; and financial contributions from parents for specific fundraising campaigns.