

South Peace News



South Peace Secondary School
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Check out our web site at <http://spss.sd59.bc.ca/>

I hope everyone had a chance to relax, connect with friends and family and enjoy the summer sun.

We welcome Kathy Shoemaker and Jackie DaRos to our teaching staff. Mrs. Shoemaker will be teaching Math in Mrs. Van Tassel's place and Mrs. DaRos will be teaching Science 10.

Academic Support Block: Grade 10

On task time in class with a teacher is a basic foundation for learning at school. Skipping class is directly related to poor achievement. Our data has shown high levels of unexcused absence for grade 10s over the last few years, especially in first semester. Grade 10 is part of the Graduation Program and there are three provincial exams.

Grade 10 students with unexcused absences will find themselves assigned to an after school Academic Support block. Parents will be contacted and the date to attend will be decided on. Failure to attend will lead to a suspension. Please read the attached letter for program details.

Student Schedules:

- Our priority in the first week is to work with students whose schedules are blank or gr 12 students whose schedules do not add up to a graduation.
- Students switching classes will be dealt with when all students have a schedule.
- Switching classes to be with a favourite teacher or to sit with a friend will not be considered.*
- Sept 15th is the course add/drop deadline.

Grad Transitions Program:

This program is started in Planning 10 and is then continued by the student on their own time through grade 11 and 12. It is a requirement for graduation. Dianne Kosolowsky, in the Library, is the Grad Transitions Coordinator. Students with questions may speak with her.

Academic Programs:

We are proud to continue to offer a full range of top academic programs leading students to college and university. Academics are a mandatory part of all students' programs. As they move through the Graduation Program, they have a variety of pathways and academic courses to choose from. Many schools our size are not able to offer the wide range of academic course choices we do. However, as our school population shrinks over the next few years, it will become increasingly more difficult for us to maintain some senior programs with very low enrolment. We will be exploring alternate course delivery options in the future for some programs. This may look like; a course being offered every second year; a course being shared with another campus through technology; a course being offered through Distributed Learning (Electric Ed).

Option Programs:

SPSS offers a vibrant Fine Arts program through both visual and performing arts. We have a full slate of shop courses including Drafting, Metalwork, Arts-Metal and Woodwork. PE courses are available right through grade 12. Our Foods Program is simply delicious and now has a brand new facility. Media Arts and Digital Technology are now offered here rather than over at O'Brien. French Immersion continues to be a very popular program leading to a dual dogwood at the end of grade 12. Tech Ed and Electronics are taught at labs we have set up right here in the school. Upstairs, in the music room, we offer a great guitar program allowing students to continue from the music program they took over at Central.

Dual Credit/Trades Programs: *In Partnership with Northern Lights College*

We are very pleased to welcome two new dual credit programs to our campus, Cosmetology and Esthetics. The Esthetics program had been out in Chetwynd and the Cosmetology program is brand new.

The following courses are available here in Dawson Creek as part of our Dual Credit/Trades Program: *Some are on our school campus and some are at NLC. There are other courses available at the Ft. St. John NLC campus.*

Esthetics, Cosmetology, Auto Service Technician, Heavy Duty Commercial Transport Technician, Carpentry/Residential Construction, Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, Applied Business Technology, Welding and Visual & Graphic Communication Arts.

Students are made aware of these programs in grade 9. In February of students' grade 9 year, as they plan for grade 10, the Dual Credit Programs are presented as options. An evening information session is provided along with field trips to the campus. In grade 10, students prepare themselves for the dual credit program they have chosen by ensuring they are doing well in their prerequisite courses. Their applications go into NLC during their grade 10 year. NLC has high standards and students must meet the prerequisites to be accepted. Once accepted, the dual credit program will begin in their grade 11 year.

Students in dual credit programs earn both their grade 12 graduation and their first year in their college program ...and we pay the tuition!

Grade 10 After School Academic Support Program

We believe students who attend their classes have a greater chance of successfully completing coursework. We will work to encourage and support students who struggle to attend their classes on a regular basis. When classroom time is missed, unexcused students will be assigned Academic Support with a teacher after school.

Individual classroom teachers will notify the parents/guardians of Grade 10 students who have missed 3 classes due to unexcused absences. The intention of this notification is for the teacher and the parent/guardian to work together with the students to support the improvement of the student's attendance.

A grade 10 student who has missed 5 classes due to unexcused absences will be assigned to an after school academic support block. A school administrator or counsellor will contact the student's parent or guardian to set a date for the student to attend the after school support time. The student is expected to attend the support block prepared to work on coursework assigned by his or her teacher. The academic support blocks will take place Tuesday through Thursday, from 3:15 to 4:05.

*It is the student's and the parent's/guardian's responsibility to make arrangements for safe transportation home following the after school academic support block.

Students who forget or choose not to attend an after school academic support block will be suspended for a period of one school day. Upon completion of or during the one-day suspension, a parent/guardian and the student will be expected to meet with a school administrator or counsellor to create an appropriate plan for the student to actively continue his/her education without excessive absences.

150 minutes a week of healthy activity

All students in grade 10 and 11 must now participate in a minimum of 150 minutes a week of 'moderate to vigorous' physical activity. (*This years' grade 12s are grandfathered from the previous Transitions program which they completed.*) This is a requirement of the Ministry of Education and is necessary for graduation. Students are required to meet this requirement on their own time. However, if they are enrolled in a PE course, Dance course or are participating on a school team, that time will count for each of the weeks they are involved.

It is not an average. For example, a student may not do 200 minutes one week and use the extra 50 minutes for the next week.

There are MANY ways to accumulate this time. Students need to keep track of the time they spend walking, riding a bike, helping on the farm or other physical work/activity.

Students will be provided with a form to fill out and have signed off by a parent, coach, employer or other adult overseeing the activity. These forms will be collected once a month and kept on file at the school.

Mrs. Kosolowsky, in the library, will be the person gathering the forms and updating the database.

