



HOME OF THE PIPERS

ÉCOLE ARGYLE SECONDARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back – September 2026



Newsletter at a Glance

Principal's Update	2
Upcoming School Dates	3
School Information.....	3
Back to School Information	7
Argyle Programs & Information.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Parent Resources	12
PAC Updates & Community Information.....	13



Principal's Update

Dear Argyle families,

Welcome back! We are excited to be opening our doors for another great year of learning at Argyle Secondary.

Personally, September 2026 marks my sixth startup on Argyle's administration team and I'm thrilled to be returning as Principal.

Argyle's community is remarkable in its support of student growth, diversity, and success. We continue to shine on the provincial scale from our graduation rates to success in athletics, drama, music, digital media, and more.

Our job at Argyle is to prepare students for the future: to make a good living and lead a good life. In today's world of fast-paced information, communication, and global connectivity, we know this is growing more complex by the day. We strive to engage students in meaningful learning every day and find pathways that lead them to curiosity and success beyond our walls.

This year brings exciting changes to Argyle, including the expansion of our Advanced Placement Program, as well as new course offerings in French Immersion, Spanish, and Careers departments. Argyle is excited to be piloting *Bring Your Own Device* for NVSD this year, as well as further restricting cell phone use during class time to encourage the use of technology as a learning tool, rather than a distraction.

Building a sense of community is central to our [school plan](#). This year, Argyle's community continues to grow with 1594 students and 140 staff across 14 thriving teaching departments. Students have vast opportunities to get involved outside of school with a diversity of athletics, to clubs, and extracurricular activities. We know student attendance is the single biggest determining factor of student success, so building a school where all students feel safe and excited to attend and thrive is our number one priority.

As a staff, we are proud to be Pipers and hope you will find the same pride in your school community this year. We look forward to welcoming you back next week and working together for another wonderful year of learning.

Sincerely,

Laura Ames
Principal



Upcoming School Dates

Sept 8	First day of school – see schedule here
Sept 9	First day of full classes – see bell schedule here
Sept 10	Grade 12 Assembly 8:30am in Large Gym
Sept 15	Grade 8 Parent Night – 7:00pm in Large Gym
Sept 16	PAC Meeting – 7:00pm
Sept 17	School Photos
Sept 18	Sr. Boys Football Home Opener Game 3:00pm
Sept 18	Terry Fox Run & School – Altered bell schedule will be posted
Sept 22	Grade 12 Parent Night – 7:00pm in Large Gym
Sept 29	Truth and Reconciliation Day Assembly – Altered bell schedule will be posted
Sept 30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – schools closed

School Information

Argyle Contact Info	Contact Info & Map - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)
Daily Schedules & Block Rotation	Daily Schedules - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)
Full Year Calendar	Calendars - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)
Reporting Attendance	Attendance - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)
Argyle Policies	School Policies - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)
Daily Announcements	Daily Announcements - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)
Staff Contact Information	Staff Contacts and Links - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)

Argyle Website Update

We keep [our website](#) up to date with upcoming events, resources, and more throughout the year. Over the summer, our website moved and was completely redesigned. We are still working out a few kinks and we appreciate your patience as we complete this exciting refresh this Fall. One feature that is not currently available is the “subscribe” option for our school calendar. Please consult our school calendar [here](#), or in the student agenda books.

If you need information and can't find it online, please call the office at (604) 903-3300.

Welcome (back) New and Returning Staff

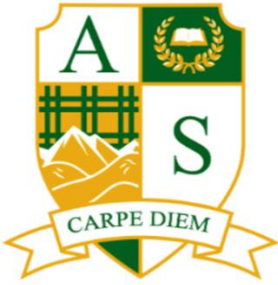
Sonam Arash (Mahun) – Learning Services Teacher
Mike Field – Learning Services Teacher
Claire Frezell - Social Studies, English
Skylar Gruys - English
Erin Kidd - Learning Services Teacher
David McKinnon – Math, Science
Nasim Sadinam (EA)
Shannon Smart – Vice Principal
Justin Solym - Social Studies
Chanel Stanley - Choices
Chelsea Uphoff – Digital Media, Careers
Zoe Zhang - Math

Attributes of an Argyle Learner

What do we expect from students? What do we aspire for our students? These attributes are at the core of what we do and aspire our students to be.

Argyle Learners Are:

- Responsible
- Resilient
- Reflective
- Respectful
- Resourceful



École Argyle Secondary

Code of Conduct

[Argyle Secondary's code of conduct](#) 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. This includes attendance, academic honesty, technology use, and more.

The code of conduct will be reviewed with students in grade assemblies on September 8th and is printed in agendas for student review, which all students receive in the first homeroom.

Personal Digital Devices

In line with the Ministry of Education mandate and the NVSD Code of Conduct, use of personal digital devices (cell phones, smart watches) is restricted in schools. Students are expected to leave cell phones at home, in their bag/backpack, and/or in their locker during instructional time.

New cell phone restrictions for 2026-27: Cell phones brought to class will be placed in a cell phone bin for the duration of the class.

In 2026-27 Argyle will pilot Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). Students in grades 10-12 will bring a laptop or tablet with keyboard to class for personal use. More information on our website [here](#).

Students must follow staff direction for technology use 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.

Students using personal digital devices when not permitted by teachers will face ranging consequences and may include confiscation of device for a day or multiple days.

Argyle is not responsible for any personal digital devices brought to school.

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.

Why are we restricting personal digital device use?

- Phone-free learning creates a safe space for students to not worry about being filmed or photographed, allows for real conversation, focus on the present, and connection with peers
- Cell phone use can increase stress and anxiety
- More screen time means less sleep and more mood swings
- Students spend an average of 5.5 hours on their phones – this amounts to 25 years over a lifetime

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



As you work with your child(ren) to foster healthy digital habits, you may find the following resources helpful to support these conversations:

- [Cell phone restrictions in schools](#) (published by the Government of British Columbia)
- [Digital media: Promoting healthy screen use in school-aged children and adolescents](#) (published by the Canadian Pediatric Society)

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

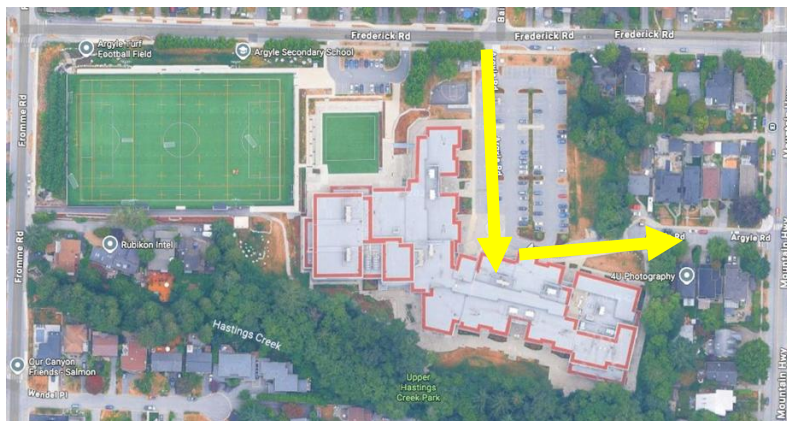
Parking at Argyle

This year we are introducing a new parking decal system for students and staff. Argyle's parking lots are intended for **staff and visitors**. Argyle has over 140 staff plus itinerant district staff who visit the school daily, meaning most spots need to be reserved for staff use. **Students are only permitted to park in the spots parallel to Frederick Rd.**

Student parking decals: students wishing to park onsite must register with the school office to receive a parking decal, which must be displayed on the dashboard while parked at the school. Student parking spots are first come first served. If student spots are full, students must park offsite.

Driving at Argyle

If you are entering the parking lot, to help keep traffic flowing, please drive in only **one way**:





Please help us maintain a safe school environment by:

- Abiding by the 30km/hr school zone, and all parking and traffic signs.
- Exercising extreme caution if driving through the parking lot, and on roads surrounding the school.
- Avoiding pick up/drop off on Argyle Road. It is an exit route and a small road.
- Encouraging students to walk or ride to school. There are many bike racks on school grounds for student use. Students need to bring a bike lock.

See more information about [District of North Vancouver Safe Routes to School here](#).

Back to School Information

First Day Schedule

The schedule for September 8th is posted on our website [here](#). Please check the schedule for our staggered start times. New this year, all students will attend a homeroom AND welcome-back assembly. The first day of classes will be Wednesday, September 9th – block rotation 5-6-7-8.

Attendance Matters!

Our goal is to see students in classes daily. Research has shown that students who attend less than 90% of the time have greater academic struggles, disengage from school, and are at risk for not graduating. Whether excused or unexcused, students who miss several consecutive days are at greater risk. **Missing only two classes per week adds up to 10% of the school year!**

This is a reminder to please [report your child's absence to the office](#). Argyle calls home at 4:00pm to report unexcused absences, but not lates. Please contact your child's grade counsellor or administrator if you need support with school attendance.

[Argyle's attendance policy is posted here](#).

Student Verification Forms

Students will receive a student verification form during homeroom on Tuesday, September 8th. Parents/guardians are asked to review the information on the form. All forms need to be reviewed, signed and returned in the first two weeks of school even if there are no changes.

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 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.

Course Schedules

Students in grades 8-12 will receive their course schedules on the first day of school and can log in to view them on MyEducation starting September 9th. **See instructions on how to log into MyEd [here](#)**. ICT staff will be on site to help students with password resets if needed. Please note: Grade 8 students will receive MyEducation login information in the weeks to come.

Our timetable is developed based on student course requests. This means that we staff the school and create course selections based on the information we receive from students in late February. This process allows us to create a schedule that suits the needs of the vast majority of our students, but it does not allow for any significant changes once the timetable is set. **We are unable to guarantee any course changes after course requests are made in February.**

A course change request can be made by filling out a course change form (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 18th. **We do not process course changes based on teacher preference or friend requests.**

Please note, Argyle students are expected to take a full course load:

Grade	Minimum Courses
8	8
9	8
10	8
11	7 + CLC 12 (2 credits)
12	6 + CLC 12 (2 credits)

Students who wish to take fewer courses must meet with parents and grade administrator to request a partial timetable. Partial timetables are only considered in extenuating circumstances and students will be asked to try their full schedule for September before requesting a different schedule.

Counsellor Assignments

Grade	Counsellor	Grade Administrator
8	Ms. Erin Malone emalone@sd44.ca	Mr. Tim Ireland tireland@sd44.ca
9	Mr. Jason De Couto jdecouto@sd44.ca	Ms. Shannon Smart ssmart@sd44.ca
10	Ms. Tracy Romano tromano@sd44.ca	Mr. Tim Ireland tireland@sd44.ca
11	Ms. Lauren Lyons llyons@sd44.ca	Ms. Shannon Smart ssmart@sd44.ca
12	Ms. Jessa Peers jpeers@sd44.ca	Mme Laura Ames lamas@sd44.ca
International students	Ms. Jessa Peers (grade 12) jpeers@sd44.ca Ms. Erin Malone (Grade 8-11 A-L) emalone@sd44.ca Ms. Lauren Lyons (Grade 8-11 L-Z) llyons@sd44.ca	Mme Laura Ames lamas@sd44.ca

Grade 8 Information Package

Families of grade 8 students received a separate welcome letter by email Tuesday, September

Grade 8 students will be receiving permission forms for the grade 8 Cheakamus Retreat **in grade 8 homerooms on September 8th**. Please return these forms to the school by Friday, September 11th. We look forward to welcoming the Argyle Grads of 2031 at our opening assembly at 9:00am on Tuesday, September 8th (this is for students only). There will be a **Grade 8 Parent Night on Tuesday, September 15th 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 upcoming grad year. Families of graduates will receive separate newsletters with important dates and event information throughout the year. Grad information will also be shared with students on Teams and posted on the school website as it becomes available under *Students > Grad*.

The first priority for grads now is to double check that they are on track to meet graduation requirements.

We look forward to welcoming the class of 2027 at the grad and staff BBQ next Tuesday September 8th, 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 22nd 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.

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 8th.

Lockers

We do not assign lockers automatically – if a student would like a locker, they can request one in the first week of school using a link that will be available to students on Teams. Lockers will be assigned to students' SD44 email address in the second week of school.

Student Password Reset (MS Teams / Outlook / Computer Logins)

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](#). ICT 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.



Argyle Programs & Information

Homerooms in 2026-27

After consultation with staff, students, and parents in spring 2026, we have decided to not move forward with the homeroom model that was piloted in 2025-26. As in previous school years, students can expect:

- Homeroom on September 8th, 2026, to distribute startup information, including class schedules. Please review homeroom lists [here](#).
- Additional homerooms will be called throughout the year as needed. There are no homerooms listed on the school calendar.

School Cafeteria and Lunch Break

Canuel Caterers 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. Students may not leave class to purchase food from the cafeteria.

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.

Athletics

We are excited to welcome back returning athletes and encourage new students to get involved in our athletic programs.

Students can find information about team tryouts and schedules through Microsoft Teams, posters around the school, daily announcements, and the Argyle Secondary website.

We are currently looking for coaches for the following fall teams:

- Grade 8/9 Girls Volleyball
- Bantam Rugby

If you are interested in volunteering as a coach or would like more information, please contact Stina Avefjall savefjall@sd44.ca

Fall sports at Argyle:

- Girls' volleyball – see tryout info [here](#)
- Boys' volleyball – Senior (gr. 10-12)
- Football – Junior (gr. 9-10) & Senior (gr. 11-12) (gr 8 is in the spring)
- Boys' soccer – Junior (gr. 8-10) & Senior (gr. 11-12)



- Girls' field hockey – Junior (gr. 8-10) & Senior (gr. 11-12)
- Grade 8 rugby
- Cheer – all grades
- Cross country running – all grades
- Swimming – all grades

Student Clubs

From coding to tabletop 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](#).

Student Recognition and Awards

Argyle has a proud record of student achievement and are pleased to recognize students formally in end of year ceremonies. Our up-to-date descriptions of school awards are available on our website [here](#).

Career Education Courses

Students taking blended Career Education classes in 11 and 12 will have a mandatory attendance requirement in flex time. Please look for communication from your Careers teachers in the first week of school about when to meet.

Parent Resources

[BC Ministry of Education and Childcare](#) – provides information about Personal Digital Device restrictions in schools and resources for parents/ guardians

[erase=expect respect](#) – BC Ministry of Education and Childcare student and parent/ guardian resources to support safe schools.



Is your youth interested in exploring job opportunities or career pathways? Check out [Career Pathways 44](#) for information and upcoming opportunities.

All students and parents have access to MyBlueprint – a one-stop shop for researching post-secondary requirements and career pathways. [More information about the Family Account here](#).



PAC Information

First Argyle PAC Meeting: Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00pm in Argyle Library

Whether you're new to the school or a returning parent, we'd love for you to connect with the [Argyle Parent Advisory Council \(PAC\)](#).

What is the PAC?

The Argyle PAC is the voice of parents at the school. It is a welcoming space that promotes a positive partnership between home and school and works to enhance the educational experiences, resources, and well-being of students and families in our Argyle community.

The PAC's members include parents and guardians of all Argyle students. It has regular meetings to connect parents to what is going on at Argyle. It's your chance to stay informed, share ideas, and hear firsthand about what's happening at the school. There's **no commitment required**—come to listen, learn, and participate as much or as little as you like.

Why join?

- Stay informed about school events, initiatives, and student activities
- Hear directly from the principal and staff at regular meetings
- Help shape a positive school experience for all students
- Contribute your voice to funding priorities for extracurriculars and other student resources

How does the PAC support Argyle?

PAC funding comes from two main sources:

- **BC Gaming Grants**, which support student clubs, sports, and activities
- **Parent fundraising efforts**, which enhance classroom and school-wide resources

Want to learn more before the first meeting?

- Visit the **PAC section on the Argyle school website**: [Argyle PAC – School Website](#)
- Explore the **PAC's own website**: argylepac.weebly.com
- Join our **PAC Facebook group** to stay connected: [Argyle PAC Facebook Group](#)

Our first meeting is a great way to meet other parents, ask questions, and find out how you can be involved—on your own terms. Everyone is welcome, **we hope to see you there!**