

Staff Report



May 14, 2024

To Board of Education (Public Meeting)

From Sean Nosek, Superintendent/CEO

Re Summer School Update for 2024

This report is presented to the Board for information.

BACKGROUND:

Summer Explorers:

The Summer Explorers 2024 Administration Team includes Tracy Krys, Principal (K-8), who will be on-site at Chief Dan George; Joe Frew, Vice-Principal (K-4), who will be on-site at Godson Elementary; and Gurpreet Mahil, Vice-Principal (K-4) who will be on-site at Clearbrook Elementary. Enrolment for grades K-4 has reached 650 students across two sites, Clearbrook and Godson Elementary. Enrolment for grades 5-8 has reached 306 students at Chief Dan George Middle School. Summer school will run from July 2-18, 2024, with a Celebration of Learning Day on the final Thursday, where parents are invited to participate and learn about their children's summer activities. The schedule is 8:15 a.m. to NOON for grades K-4 and 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for grades 5-8. Classrooms are currently being built, families are being contacted, and staffing at the schools is coming together (77 teachers have applied so far).

The focus for Summer Explorers continues to be fostering joyful, inquiry-based learning environments and employing evidence-based instructional practices to prepare students for the upcoming academic year. Students in K-4 can access diverse program offerings, including Adventures in Early Literacy, Explorations en Français for grades 1/2 and 3/4, Literacy Explorers Series, Art Explorers, and STEM Explorers. Students in 5-8 can enhance their skills with courses in Literacy Enrichment, Digital Literacy, French Immersion, and Math. Additionally, they can choose a second course focusing on Art, STEM and Robotics, Physical Education, or Foods and Health.

Specialized Indigenous programs for Mathxwí and Semá:th First Nation students will be offered, designed in collaboration with the respective nations. These programs will operate at Mathxwí Elementary and Irene Kelleher Totí:ltawtxw, respectively, with schedules tailored to their unique needs.

Secondary Summer Program:

The Secondary Summer Program Administrative Team for 2024 includes Tom van Hunenstijn, Principal, and Paula Thompson, Vice-Principal. The program will run at Abbotsford Senior Secondary School from July 2-26, 2024. Enrolment has begun, and are expecting numbers comparable to last year with approximately 730 students. Staffing is currently projected to include 32 teachers, 4 EA's and 3 ISW's. These numbers may vary slightly if sections are collapsed or added due to enrolment.

Students will be given a wonderful opportunity to build new connections and focus on a subject that they find difficult or earn an advanced credit. The main focus is to improve the educational outcomes for all students and give equitable opportunities to our Indigenous students, youth in care, and those with disabilities or diverse abilities. Summer school helps learners build foundational literacy skills while developing academic language, enabling them to be more confident and productive when they return to their homeschools. Staff are excited to provide a space that fosters creativity while providing an environment where all students feel cared for, included, and supported.

There will be 20 academic courses covering English, Math, Science, and Social Studies offered. Three new course options have been added this year, including an Intro to English course for new English Language Learners. There will also be two programs for Indigenous students: an Indigenous Summer Cohort and a Cultural Cohort. The Summer Cohort works closely with Indigenous Departments throughout the district and provides credit recovery, advance credit, and Active Living for students. Additionally, the Cultural Cohort will offer Halq'eméylem. Last year, there were 50 students who completed 80 courses during the summer session. Yale Secondary offers the Community Access Program (CAP) for students with moderate intellectual disabilities and learning challenges. Students learn life, work, and recreational skills as they engage in social development and personal growth.