



# NORTH DELTA SECONDARY

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December 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to explain North Delta Secondary and the Delta School District's position regarding extended absences from school for reasons other than student health. These absences typically occur when parents decide to remove students from school for extended vacations or other family matters.

Schools are not in a position to grant or deny permission for student absences for family holidays. That decision is the parent's responsibility; however, possible consequences from such a decision should be considered carefully. Important instruction and learning is missed during any absence and this places students who are absent for prolonged periods of time at a disadvantage compared to those in regular attendance. Providing work for a student to complete during an extended absence is an ineffective substitute for the learning that occurs in classes. Therefore, there can be no guarantees regarding a student's progress and achievement.

In addition, if a student's return date to school is not certain, a student's enrolment in classes or the school may be lost. The district endeavors to provide an appropriate educational program for students, but cannot maintain an absent student's placement in classes or a school indefinitely.

Teachers are very supportive and understanding in these matters and do their best to help. However, it is important to recognize that the first priority for a teacher is to help students who are in regular attendance. Teachers are not obliged to provide homework in advance for students who are on an extended absence. As well, teachers are not able to reteach lessons that have already been taught in classes. Though any student may seek additional help from teachers, students who are absent are responsible for catching up in their studies upon their return and the student is expected to demonstrate the Learning Standards they missed during the time they were absent from school.

The school strongly recommends that students attend regularly and do not miss extensive amounts of class time due to family vacations. If a student does miss school, it is important that student makes a sincere effort to catch up on work missed during extended absences. If you wish further clarification of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 604 596-7471.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. S. Sahota  
Principal

Mr. V. Nikic  
Vice Principal

Mr. B. Scarr  
Vice Principal