



North Saanich Middle School

10400 McDonald Park Road,
North Saanich, British Columbia, V8L 0A3
Tel: 250-656-1129 Fax: 250-656-2759

Dear NSMS Students, Parents and Guardians:

We hope that everyone is enjoying our sunny September and settling into their Autumn routines and schedules.

This year the Provincial government is providing money to school districts in B.C. to help make back-to-school more affordable for students and their families who are struggling with rising costs of living due to global inflation. The Student and Family Affordability Fund is one-time targeted funding intended to:

1. Directly offset costs to parents, guardians, and students, such as school supplies or other cost pressures they are facing using existing mechanisms such as hardship policies.
2. Improve students' access to nutritional food/meals, before, during and after the school day.

We have communicated with representatives from our PAC at NSMS to discuss some ways the fund could support our families and have come up with some initial ideas. We will continue to work with our PAC as we move forward to ensure that the needs of our families are supported as best as possible in an equitable manner.

At this time, here is how the NSMS allocation of funds will begin to be utilized and accessed by families and students:

1. School Fees and Supplies
 - a. Field Trips, program fees, any athletic fees and other school expenses can be covered this year. We always have a Financial Hardship policy that makes sure that students can participate, but this year we have been given extra funding to support more students and families.
 - b. Additional costs that might stop a student from participating in an activity based on financial costs.
 - c. Providing school supplies as needed moving forward.

2. Food/Meals Support

- a. Identified students will have access to funds that can be used at our cafeteria for food during morning break and lunch. This will be coordinated through our Inclusion Support Team.
- b. We will develop a schedule to send home meals with students periodically that the Parkland catering class has prepared.
- c. We will expand our existing holiday program (hampers available for Nov 11-14/Xmas/ March Break/Easter). This will be done by providing gift cards to families.

How to access these funds:

1. Families – Parents can confidentially email David Mark at dmark@saanichschools.ca. Our District is committed to ensuring that no student of school age will be denied an educational program due to financial hardship. Within the fiscal ability of each school and the District, no student is to be denied access to programs, events or field trips that are aligned to and enhance the BC curriculum. Administrative policy 506 stipulates that principals have the ability to waive fees due to hardship while continuing to demonstrate respect, sensitivity and confidentiality. In accordance with this policy, you can request support for food, fees and supplies or both.
2. Our Inclusion Support Team will continue to identify students and families who will benefit from access to food, fees and supplies as per our existing school process.

Please let us know if you have any questions about what we have shared with you. We are thankful to have options to help make back-to-school more affordable for our students and their families.

Sincerely,

David Mark
Principal

Steve Newlove
Vice-Principal