



Stein Valley Nlakapamux School

Welcome Back to Stein Valley Nlakapamux for 2023-2024!

Dear SVNS families,

On behalf of the staff at Stein Valley Nlakapamux School, I am happy to welcome you to the 2023-24 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to help our children achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience
- 2) Completes all assignments given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
- 6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school

Please consider joining our school Parent Advisory Council (PAC), as research shows that children can greatly benefit from your participation in the school's programs and its operations. A date for our first PAC meeting will be announced soon.

Improving our students' attendance this year will be an important goal this school year. To provide you with some information on why we are focussing on attendance, below is a table that tracked how many students missed a certain number of days:



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Days Missed SVNS Students

	0-5 Days	6-11 Days	11-20 Days	21+ Days
K4	0	2	2	3
K5/1	1	2	2	14
2/3	3	2	2	16
4/5	6	1	1	10
6/7	2	3	4	7
8/9	2	1	0	5
9/10	1	1	1	3
11/12	1	0	1	10
Average	15%	11%	12%	62%

For example, in grade 2/3, 16 students missed 21 or more school days, 4 students in grade 6/7 missed between 11-20 days. Research shows that half of students who miss 2 – 4 days at the start of the school year, go on to miss nearly a month of school.

Consequently, SVNS is developing an initiative to encourage regular attendance by our students. This will include weekly, and monthly prizes; ranging from certificates to gift cards. With your support, improving our students' school attendance will have a significant impact on their social, emotional and academic learning.

Changes to the schedule

You need to be aware that SVNS is reverting back to our previous end of day dismissal time: 2:45pm. Students will be getting on the bus at that time, and will be home 15 minutes earlier than the past several years.

Additionally, our doors will be open at 8:00am in the morning. This will allow students to get an early start on the breakfast and be ready on time for the start of the day.

Staff and Classes

We have several “new” staff members who have worked here previously: William Rowluck, who taught Humanities several years ago, has joined our staff in a new



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position, Language Coordinator, and Malvina Iron, was taught her several years, loved it so much, she wanted to come back!

Here are a list of our classes this year:

K4 Class: The teachers are Brant Webster and Katrina Sam will be teaching NlakapamuxchEEN immersion. There will be for 90 minutes in the mornings and afternoons. There are 8 students in the class.

K/Grade 1 Class: Abby Johnny returns to us after a year's leave. She will have 22 students in her class. The class SSW is Alison Brown.

Grades 2-3 Class: Alice Spinks has over 25 years of teaching experience and has 16 students in her class. Bev Swan is the SSW.

Grades 4-5 Class: This is Abby Kaur's second year with us. There are 22 students in her class and her SSW is Pamela Jumbo.

Grades 6 -7: Malvina Iron has also returned to our school after several years in Saskatchewan. She is excited to be back is teaching 19 grade 6/7 students.

Physical and Health Education: Peter Okyere-Kwarteng will be teaching PHE to K4 – 12. This is his second year here.

Grades 8 - 12: The teachers are Christie Folk, and Terence Loring. Christie will be teaching Math and Social Studies and has over ten years of teaching experience. Terence will be teaching the Sciences, Social Studies and ADST. This is his second year teaching at SVNS. There are 31 students in the high school.

NLAKAPAMUX Language and Culture: We are happy to have William Rowluck join our staff in a new position, Language Coordinator. His role is to help organize and plan NlakapamuxchEEN lessons for K4-12 classes and develop and "Language Nest," for SVNS. Katrina Sam will be teaching Kindergarten to Grade 5 Language/ Culture classes. Elementary classes will have 3 classes per week. Karen McArthur will be



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teaching the grades 6 – 12 classes, who will also have 3 classes per week. All grades will be participating in the cultural projects.

Music and Art: Students will be receiving Music and Art Education from Halyna Smolyarchuk again. This is her fourth year at SVNS. The first semester, Halyna will be teaching Art to all the grades, and in the second semester, she will be teaching Music.

Inclusive Education: To better support your child's learning needs, Deborah Nohr has moved from teaching grades 6/7, to assuming the Inclusive Education teacher role. If your child has an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P) Deborah will be contacting you to set up a meeting to review the I.E.P. with you.

Breakfast and Snack Program: Our staff, led by Desiree Peters, will prepare and provide your student(s) with a healthy and nutritious breakfast and snack every day. Karen McArthur is overseeing the program. Please be sure to let our staff know if your child has any allergies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at 250-455-2522. The wonderful SVNS staff and I feel privileged to be a part of this school family. We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you!

Merle Hubbard

School Principal

