



# Stein Valley Nlakapamux School

September 10, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of SVNS,

Hello! My name is Merle Hubbard and I am the new principal at Stein Valley Nlakapamux School. I wish I was introducing myself to you under normal circumstances, however, I know we will have future opportunities to meet one another in person, and I look forward to that.

While I have taught for over 20 years, and have held various administrative positions in British Columbia and Alberta for the past seven years, I am excited to be returning to Lytton. I was born here, and spent time growing up in the area, as my grandparents had a ranch down Highway 12. I have been married for twenty years to my wife, and have three children, twins who have just started at TRU, and a younger daughter now beginning grade 11.

Due to the current situation here in Lytton, we are starting our year with online learning on Monday, September 13. Your student's teacher has contacted you already with Monday's start time. We are tentatively scheduled to be online for 6 weeks, however, it could be reduced or extended depending on Lytton First Nation's Evacuation Order. For ease of reading, I have broken the information into bullet points and an explanation to follow:

## Key Points:

- Elementary students are expected to be with their teachers, online from 8:30 to 3:00 Monday to Thursday, High School teachers, Monday to Thursday, from 8:25 to 3:05.
- On Fridays, students **will not** be online.
- Students will be following a schedule as if they were doing in-class learning.
- Students need to remain online while they are working independently. That way, they can ask their teachers questions, and teachers can check in with them.





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- Students are to leave their cameras on while in class. No exceptions.
- Students are expected to complete assigned work, and submit it on time. If students do not complete their work, especially in the older grades, it is possible the student will not be promoted. Attendance is important and time spent in class will be monitored and tracked.
- Please make sure you and your students have signed the, “ Technology Use Policy Summary.” Please return this week’s work and the next package is dropped off.

## Explanation

This has been an incredibly difficult 18 months for our students. Being in and out of classes has a significant, negative impact on learning. We are trying to instill a sense of normalcy to schooling this year. Setting an online schedule that mimics a typical in-class day is one way of doing that. Setting a schedule, meeting students daily during the scheduled class time, is extremely important in re-establishing these routines, which will help ease the transition back into in-person learning. Because online learning is a fact of life now, and students are entering year 3 for this experience, our expectations for all students are as if we were in person and in school. Students are expected to submit their work on time, and complete it to the best of their ability. If this does not happen, there is a real possibility of students repeating a grade level.

Teachers will be treating these on-line classes as a “typical”, in-person class: The teacher will present a lesson, give the assignment, students will be given time to do the work, and the teachers will spend the last five minutes reviewing and checking with the students. That is why it is important the camera stays on, students can ask questions, and teachers can check in with the students. Working on-line provides teachers with the opportunity to check work being completed online much like they would when monitoring student work in class. Consequently, the students’ camera must stay on, if it does not, the teacher will remove the student from the class and the student will be marked as absent. Being visually present is an important part of establishing these routines and connections.





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A key for structuring online classes like this is relationship building. SVNS families and students have had a difficult 18 months, and an even worse past three months. Spending time, even online, will help us build our relationships. Being present, consistently, visually, and with voice, is important - we all need these social connections. We are aware there will be issues, especially with the technology, but structuring online learning will increase our students' chances for success.

While this year will be a lesson in resilience, it will also allow our kids to practice integrity and personal responsibility and I am sure they are up for the challenge! I am looking forward to an exciting year and meeting you all very soon.

Sincerely,

Merle Hubbard  
Principal

