

# ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES AT ALDERGROVE CAMPUS

**Celebrating Community • Excellence in Education**  
**Inspiring Healthy Living**

June 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions

The District and Aldergrove schools expect students and families to have questions about changes coming to Aldergrove Community Secondary School and Betty Gilbert Middle School. Below is a series of questions and answers to help all members of the school community understand how the District will be Enhancing Opportunities at Aldergrove Campus.

### What Changes Are Expected at The Aldergrove Campus?

A series of positive changes aimed at Enhancing Opportunities are coming to Aldergrove Community Secondary School and Betty Gilbert Middle School communities to help inspire our learners to reach their full potential and create a positive legacy for the future. Our goal is for students, staff, and families to feel a sense of belonging, identity, and pride at every stage of the learning journey. The changes focus on celebrating community, excellence in education, and inspiring healthy living.

### What Are the Physical Changes to The Aldergrove Campus?

The District is implementing many positive physical changes including a state-of-the-art Fit Core outdoor athletic centre linking the two schools, a new learning studio dedicated to explorations at Betty Gilbert Middle School, and physical upgrades to the interior and exterior of both sites. The small gymnasium at Aldergrove Community Secondary School will have fresh, vibrant murals painted featuring the mascots of both schools to embrace the spirit of the two school communities coming together. At Betty Gilbert Middle School, there will be new educational resources focused on technology, digital media, and arts on site.

### What Will These Changes Mean for Students?

These positive changes for students, staff and families are intended to be long lasting. These changes are the foundation which both school communities will continue to build on as the Aldergrove community grows and welcomes future students. Below are samples of impacts expected for students:

- ✓ Students will be provided more physical health education and athletic opportunities from specialist teaching staff at ACSS, promoting student health and wellness.
- ✓ Students will be able to use the new Fit Core athletic centre on Aldergrove Campus.
- ✓ Grade 6/7 students will be with one teacher at ACSS over two years helping foster a stronger connection and relationship, in alignment with the middle school model.
- ✓ BGMS grade 6/7 students will have more explorations offered on site in a new learning studio. Grade 8 students will continue being provided explorations at ACSS.
- ✓ BGMS students will be provided with more opportunities to strengthen relationships and engage with ACSS student leaders and mentors. ACSS students will be provided with more leadership and mentoring opportunities on site with BGMS students.
- ✓ ACSS students will continue with the same academic and elective course offerings.

## What Are the Impacts on the School Communities and School Spirit?

These changes will bring the two schools even closer together than before. The creation of mentorship opportunities for ACSS students will help develop them as leaders in and outside of the school community. These relationships will also help BGMS students thrive and foster a successful transition to secondary school. The staff collaboration between the schools and focus on building a culture of care on campus will help everyone feel more connected.

## What Are the Staff Changes at Betty Gilbert Middle School? How Will This Impact Student Learning?

Betty Gilbert Middle School teachers and staff have diverse experiences and passions. Building on their skills and expertise, educators will be offering all explorations to grade 6/7 students on site such as Digital Photography and Robotics. The addition of a new studio dedicated to explorations will give learners a safe space to be innovative and creative with teachers they are already familiar with. Grade 8 students will continue explorations at ACSS, helping ease the transition to secondary school. Our goal is for all students to have enhanced educational opportunities while also facilitating independence and growth in our older students. BGMS will continue prioritizing literacy, numeracy, and social emotional learning.

## What Explorations Are Expected to be Available at BGMS in the 2021-2022 School Year?

Exploration classes at the middle school level are designed to provide all students with an opportunity to participate in creative, innovative, and engaging activities. Through a diverse offering of courses, explorations are structured to facilitate student discovery of personal skills and strengths. The District strives to offer the same learning opportunities at BGMS as other middle schools based on the resources and student numbers. The long-term goal is to continue to build on explorations at BGMS as the school community grows.

Types of Explorations expected in 2021:

- |                       |                       |               |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| ✓ 3D Art with Pottery | ✓ Digital Photography | ✓ Guitar      |
| ✓ Coding and Robotics | ✓ Drama               | ✓ Leadership  |
| ✓ Computer Skills     |                       | ✓ Visual Arts |

## What Are the Staff Changes at Aldergrove Community Secondary School? How Will This Impact Student Learning?

Aldergrove Community Secondary School has a robust athletics department with talented physical health education teaching staff. Building on this strength, ACSS will become the hub for physical health education classes and athletics for both schools. Teachers will become wellness coaches for students, working alongside them to achieve a better body, mind and spirit. The use of the new Fit Core outdoor athletic centre will help promote fitness, health and well-being, but also launch new passions for sports and extra-curricular activities for individual students and teams. Our goal is to create enhanced health and wellness learning opportunities for all students. Through healthy living education we aspire to develop students to be leaders both academically and athletically. Building on Aldergrove's strong history of athletic excellence, our schools strive to continue inspiring future athletes.

These changes will preserve academic courses and successful trades opportunities which have been a long-standing tradition at ACSS such as Carpentry, Automotive Service Technician, and the Hairstylist Program. ACSS will continue prioritizing literacy, numeracy, and social emotional learning.

## What Are the Impacts to Scheduling for Both Schools?

There will be limited impacts to scheduling for ACSS students. Scheduling plans for BGMS students aim to reduce the number of trips between schools. BGMS students may start their morning classes at ACSS. Depending on explorations, BGMS students will end their day at BGMS. Scheduling will be finalized by staff and communication to students and families ahead of September 2021.

## When Will These Changes Happen?

Operational changes behind the scenes are happening now and throughout the Summer. All changes will be in place by the start of the school year in September 2021.

## Who Will These Changes Impact?

Students, staff and families at both ACSS and BGMS.

## Why Is This Happening?

In the Middle School Consultation in 2019, the Langley School Board heard from the community loud and clear that improvements were needed at both schools. In response, the District and school staff have been working on a strategy that will meet the educational, physical, and social emotional needs of students. The Enhancement Opportunities at Aldergrove Campus ensures students at both schools have the same educational experiences as their peers across the District but also provides them with new, unique, outside-of-the-box opportunities.

## Why Is There No Consultation with the Community Regarding These Changes?

As part of the Middle School Consultation in 2019, the Langley School Board collected a tremendous amount of feedback from the Aldergrove community including students, staff, and parents/guardians. Information was reviewed and considered to help develop the plan for the Enhancement Opportunities at Aldergrove Campus. The direction from the Langley Board of Education was for District staff in collaboration with the administration at both schools to work together on a strategy that will support the needs of students.

## What Should Parents/Guardians Do in Preparation for These Changes?

- ✓ Review and understand the enhancement opportunities at Aldergrove Campus.
- ✓ Take note of any changes regarding facilities, scheduling, or educational programming impacting your child.
- ✓ Assist your child in adapting to any changes.
- ✓ Support your child in their educational journey.
- ✓ Engage with the school, ask questions, offer feedback.
- ✓ Help build community in the Aldergrove Campus in your own way.
- ✓ Get excited for these awesome changes coming to Aldergrove Campus.

## Who Can Students and Families Contact Regarding Questions, Comments or Feedback?

The District and schools value our school community and invite questions and feedback at any time. Get in touch with us:

ACSS Principal, Mike Palichuk:

[mpalichuk@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:mpalichuk@sd35.bc.ca)

BGMS Principal, Jonathan Harris:

[jharris@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:jharris@sd35.bc.ca)

District:

[feedback@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:feedback@sd35.bc.ca)