

West Vancouver Secondary School



An IB World School



Grade 8 Transition

Guidebook

2021— 2022

Home of the Highlanders!

Home of the Highlanders!

Welcome to West Vancouver Secondary School!

This guide is designed to help you and your child feel at home at West Vancouver Secondary School (WVSS) and provides basic information about our school culture, what we expect from our students, and how they can make the most of their experience at WVSS!

OUR MISSION

To provide an environment in which students entrusted to our care gain self-confidence, recognize their self-worth, and become life-long learners and responsible citizens.

Mr. Steve Rauh	Principal	srauh@wvschools.ca
Mr. Shawn Anderson	Vice-Principal	sanderson@wvschools.ca
Ms. Crystal Tanfara	Vice-Principal	ctanfara@wvschools.ca
Mr. Jamal Ahmelich	Grade 8 Counsellor	jahmelich@wvschools.ca
Ms. Helen Marshall	Youth Worker	hmarshall@wvschools.ca
Ms. Joanne Pohn	I.B. Co-ordinator	jpohn@wvschools.ca
Mrs. Ursula Kerr	Admin Assistant\Office Supervisor	ukerr@wvschools.ca
Mrs. Brigit Forsyth	Grade 8 Office Support	bforsyth@wvschools.ca
Mrs. Jenny Madill	Business Manager	jmadill@wvschools.ca
Mrs. Catherine Schier	Registrar	cschier@wvschools.ca
Ms. Jo-Anne McKee	Athletic Director	jmckee@wvschools.ca

GENERAL INFORMATION:

School Website: www.wvschools.ca/wvss

School Address: 1750 Mathers Avenue, West Vancouver, B. C. V7V 2G7

Contact by phone: 604-981-1100 North Campus

604-981-1120 South Campus

Hours of Operation

School	7:15 am to 5:00 pm
Main Office	8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Office Voicemail	604-981-1100
Attendance Message Line	604-981-1234 (VM 2374)
Library	7:30 am to 4:00 pm
Cafeteria	8:00 am to 1:45 pm

How Can I Be Successful in Grade 8?

1. Believe in yourself

- Set goals for yourself both in and out of school.

2. Be organized

- Use your device to connect with teachers, resources, and build a collaborative network
- Use your agenda book
- Keep your locker organized!

3. Be an entrepreneur with your time

- Plan your week
- Develop a study plan, which includes a time and quiet location
- Schedule breaks and opportunities to connect with friends and social media
- Minimize distractions to your learning

4. Be successful in the classroom

- Manage class time appropriately
- Be adaptable to different learning environments
- Be prepared for each class
- Be an active participant in class
- Develop strong collaborative skills with classmates
- Ask questions!

5. Be an information manager

- Use different techniques to understand and remember what you have read
- Refer to class notes to support your reading
- Ask questions about what you read or heard
- Check for understanding with classmates and your teacher
- Use your binder everyday, and keep class notes organized

6. Be flexible

- Learn what works for you as a learner
- Be receptive to feedback
- Be a creative problem solver
- Be willing to listen to ideas from other people

Bring Your Own Device!

Can I Bring My Device to School?

Yes, you can, and we encourage it! In September 2014, West Vancouver Secondary School introduced a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative whereby students in grades 8 and 9 were requested to bring a device to school daily. *Cel phones are **not** considered a suitable alternative!!*

BYOD at WVSS is intended to optimize student learning, and to assist us as we develop student competencies including critical thinking and problem solving. The focus of BYOD is the concept of digital access, regardless of the device. Students will use their devices in a wide range of ways to enhance their learning. Some ways will be common to all (teacher websites), and some will be more personal (note-taking, research, creation). Students will be continually guided to engage in ways that are safe, responsible, and appropriate.

A website has been created to explain and support students and parents in this initiative, and can be viewed at digitalaccessatwvss.weebly.com



Google Apps for Educa-

tion (GAFE)

As a direct means to support BYOD, WVSS has engaged the Google platform for staff and students. GAFE is a globally-used collection of secure, online, “cloud-computing” tools that provide a set of robust applications for digital productivity, file storage, collaboration, and communication.

West Vancouver School District provides access to and manages GAFE accounts for all staff and students in the district. These applications are different from public Google applications as they are managed by the school district, do not present users with advertising, scanning of student or staff information for advertising, and allow for more strict filtering control by school district system administrators.

Students and parents will be required to sign a consent form prior to an account being issued.



How Can I Get Involved? Student Activities and Clubs

WVSS offers students a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Getting involved is a great way for you to adapt to your new school. Opportunities at WVSS include the following clubs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Badminton ◆ Best Buddies ◆ Book Club ◆ Climbing ◆ Cycling ◆ Dance Crew ◆ Debate Team ◆ Diplomacy (Game) ◆ Environmental Protection ◆ Film Club | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Guitar ◆ Newspaper (Highlander Report) ◆ Knitting ◆ Math ◆ League of Legends ◆ Student Events Council ◆ Table Tennis ◆ Willing Hearts ◆ Pizza with a Purpose |
|---|--|

For a complete list please come to the office.

We have over 65 student led clubs!

- ◆ Gardening

SPORTS

FALL

- ◆ Rugby
- ◆ Swimming
- ◆ Volleyball—Girls
- ◆ Cross Country Running
- ◆ *Field Hockey—Girls
- ◆ *Boys' Soccer

WINTER

- ◆ Basketball
- ◆ Gymnastics
- ◆ Skiing/Snowboarding
- ◆ *Curling

SPRING

- ◆ Football
- ◆ Track & Field
- ◆ Mountain Biking
- ◆ *Badminton
- ◆ *Golf
- ◆ *Tennis
- ◆ *Girls' Soccer
- ◆ *Ultimate

*No specific grade 8 team, but Grade 8 students may try out.

*For a complete list of Athletic opportunities at WVSS please click [HERE](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

(please see a Vice-Principal, the Library or Counsellor to sign-up.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Assemblies ◆ Library | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Drama & Musical Productions ◆ Grade 7 Orientation ◆ Parent-Teacher Interviews |
|---|---|

What Courses Will I Be Taking?

The courses offered at grade 8 are designed to develop a strong foundation in the core subject areas, and at the same time, provide opportunities to explore other areas of interest. Although the senior secondary school years provide opportunity for greater specialization, parents and students should be guided by the belief that a broad liberal education provides better preparation for the students.

We are proud to offer diverse educational opportunities to meet the needs of all of our students; students and parents can collaboratively make decisions about program requirements for grade 8. We recommend contacting the grade 8 counsellor if you have any questions regarding programming.

Easing the Transition to Secondary

Students in Grade 8 will be organized into **TEAMS**

- ◆ Teams of approximately 25 to 30 students
- ◆ Teams are created using information provided by elementary schools
- ◆ Teams usually attend 4 or 5 of the main academic courses together (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, French)
- ◆ Students are re-sorted/grouped for PE and Elective Rotation courses (opportunity to meet other students in their grade)

Grade 8 Courses (typical timetable of required courses)

1. English (*English Language Adapted*)
 2. Social Studies (*Social Studies Language Adapted*)
 3. Mathematics (*Mathematics 8 Enriched*)
 4. Science (*Science Language Adapted*)
 5. Physical Education
 6. French
 7. Applied Skills (*Drama/Art/Photography/Dance*)
 8. Fine Arts Rotation (*Foods/Textiles/Woodworking/Mechanical Technology/Health & Careers*)
 9. **Optional Band and Choir**
 - Concert Band & Choir — Before school at 7:30 am (9th class)
 - Orchestra — String players or those that are advanced
- * Fine Arts and Applied Skills will rotate throughout the year.

SD45 District Programs at WVSS (please contact your counsellor for more information!)

- ◆ [Art West 45](#)
- ◆ [Basketball Academy](#)
- ◆ [Dance Academy](#)
- ◆ [Honour Choir](#)
- ◆ [International Baccalaureate Program](#)
- ◆ [Robotics Academy](#)
- ◆ [Youth Train in Trades](#)
- ◆ [Volleyball](#)

Course Descriptions

ENGLISH 8 / LANGUAGE ADAPTED ENGLISH 8

English Language Arts incorporates reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing. Areas of study will include short stories, poetry, novels, non-fiction, drama, media, and writing. Students will continue to develop and work towards levels of greater sophistication in their language usage and their appreciation of literature.

TRANSITIONAL ENGLISH 8

These courses are designed to cover the six areas of the language arts program: Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Viewing and Representing. Materials and coursework are adapted for ELL students to enable them to work towards meeting the learning outcomes of the regular English Language Arts program. Literature includes adapted short stories, novels, poetry, plays, and non-fiction, as well as adapted course work. Enrollment in transitional classes follows the assessment of the student's abilities in English. Students will be placed in an appropriate section for their language skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8/LANGUAGE ADAPTED SOCIAL STUDIES 8

This course begins with an introduction to mapping and atlas skills and an exploration of major world religions. It then focuses on the historical, political, social and economic development of European civilization from A.D. 500 to 1600, with emphasis on the fall of the Roman Empire, and Medieval and Renaissance Europe.

LANGUAGE ADAPTED SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Social Studies Language Adapted courses are designed for English Language Learners whose skills are at levels 3 and 4. The goal of the courses is to develop the students' English language skills, while concurrently developing the critical thinking skills they will need to progress in Social Studies courses. The regular Social Studies curriculum is used to design units of study for these courses, while cooperative group work, research, writing skills, and public speaking are developed through the learning activities.

TRANSITIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Transitional Social Studies 8/9 is a program designed for English Language Learners whose English skills are at levels 1 and 2. Emphasis will be placed on acquiring academic language and understanding of the core content of the Social Studies 8/9 curriculum.

MATHEMATICS 8

This mathematics course is designed to develop numeracy skills by combining mathematical knowledge, communication skills, problem solving, connecting ideas, reasoning, mental math, estimation, visualization and the use of technology. Students will construct their own meaning out of mathematics, understand math in meaningful contexts, and learn to move from concrete to abstract ideas by linking concrete, pictorial and symbolic concepts.

MATHEMATICS 8 ENRICHED

The core content of these courses will be the same as Mathematics 8, but many of the topics will be extended. Selection for the Mathematics 8 Enriched courses will be made during the Spring of the following year by way of a problem-based assessment administered at West Vancouver Secondary School – extra space will be made in the fall for those students new to the District.

SCIENCE 8/LANGUAGE ADAPTED SCIENCE 8

Science 8 provides a general background for all students in the major science areas. Theory and laboratory work are dealt with in all topic areas: Life Sciences – characteristics of living things, microscopes, cells, body systems, the body's immune system; Physical Science (Optics) - waves, types of electromagnetic radiation, properties of visible light, mirrors and lenses, human vision; Physical Science (Fluid and Dynamics) - force, kinetic molecular theory, density and fluid systems; Earth and Space Science (Water Systems on Earth) - how water and ice shape landscapes, fresh and salt water properties, species distribution in aquatic systems.

Course Descriptions

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

Objectives:

1. To promote a positive attitude towards an active and healthy lifestyle.
2. To assist students in developing and maintaining physical fitness.
3. To develop skills and knowledge in a wide variety of athletic and recreational pursuits.
4. To offer an environment which encourages co-operation, responsibility, sportsmanship and the development of self-esteem.

Students will be offered the following activities:

Fitness activities, Basketball, Volleyball, European Handball, Soccer, Football, Road Hockey, Dance, Softball, Track & Field, Lacrosse, Rugby, Weight Training, Minor Games and Badminton.

FRENCH 8

Students will continue to build on previous knowledge. Students will learn to discuss their activities, exchange opinions, ask for and give personal information, describe events, situations and experiences in a variety of meaningful, real-life situations. Authentic communication is emphasized. Aspects of francophone culture will be introduced through stories, music and film. The emphasis will be on communication. Initially, speaking and listening skills are stressed. As students progress, reading and writing enhance and develop the communication. Students with high fluency in French may be automatically promoted to French 9.

APPLIED SKILLS 8 Rotation

Five to six mini-courses make up Applied Skills 8. Students take Home Economics, Information Technology, Health & Career Education and Industrial Education. Home Economics units include food studies and textile studies. Computer programs include drafting and an introduction to a variety of computer programs. Industrial Education includes woodwork and mechanical power systems.

FINE ARTS 8 Rotation

Four mini-courses make up Fine Arts 8 (Art, Dance, Drama, and Photography). Students will rotate through each.

GRADE 8 ELECTIVE: A music elective is available to students before school:

JUNIOR CONCERT BAND and/or CHOIR

Junior Concert Band a/o Choir may be taken as an extra, ninth/or tenth course. These courses are offered in the morning prior to regular classes or during the regular schedule instead of Fine Arts 8.

THE LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Learning Support Program offers instruction to students from grades 8-12. Learning support is a scheduled block of time during which students are given assistance with homework, test taking skills and other learning strategies. Program adaptations may be made to fit the learning styles and needs of the individual student. Students require a learning designation from the Ministry, and must be admitted through a school-district screening committee.

HEALTH AND CAREER (HCE) 8

Students receive HCE as part of their Applied Skills elective program. The topics (healthy relationships, safety and injury prevention, and substance abuse) are covered in 16 lessons and students receive a grade for this section.

What is the IB Diploma Programme?

The IB Diploma Programme is designed as an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepare students, normally Grades 11 and 12, for success at university and life beyond.

The Benefits of an IB Diploma

- IB is designed to lead to a diploma that will be accepted and valued in many countries
- IB students are well prepared for first year university and have a high completion rate
- IB students have enhanced opportunities to win awards and scholarships
- IB students who achieve well are given advanced placement and/or credit at university
- IB also enriches students with a global perspective

Highlander Pride

West Vancouver Secondary School's first group of IB Diploma students graduated in 1989. We are the oldest and the largest IB Diploma Programme on the North Shore and proud of our Highlander tradition of excellence in academics and athletics.

WVSS has a diverse and international student population, so IB is a perfect fit. The literal translation of WVSS's motto "Faire Sans Dire" is "do without speaking". IB is also all about action and change.

Contact Information:

Joanne Pohn, IB Coordinator
West Vancouver Secondary School
1750 Mathers Avenue, West Vancouver, B. C. V7V 2G7
604-981-1100 jpohn@wvschools.ca

General Information is available on the IB website: www.ibo.org or [HERE](#)



What Will My Report Card Look Like?

Reporting Dates

There are three formal reporting periods during the school year, each followed by a report card.

Term One:	September—November - On Line
Interim Reports:	Mid October (Comments only—no marks) - On Line
Term Two:	December—March - On Line
Term Three:	April—June - On Line and Distributed to students

Parent Teacher Conferences

Term Two:	January
-----------	---------

Throughout the year, progress reports or other informal reporting, providing incomplete work or suggestions for improvement, can also take place at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

Student Evaluation and Grades

Students will receive percentages and a letter grade on all formal reports. The chart below lists the B.C. Ministry of Education percentages:

A	(Excellent)	86 - 100%
B	(Very Good)	73 - 85%
C+	(Good)	67 - 72%
C	(Satisfactory)	60 - 66%
C-	(Minimally Acceptable)	50 - 59%
I	(In Progress/Incomplete)	Learning outcomes not completed
F	(Failing)	0 - 49%

Work Habits

G = Good
S = Satisfactory
N = Needs Improvement

“I” In Progress or Incomplete

This symbol is used to alert students and parents that the student is not demonstrating minimally acceptable performance in relation to expected learning outcomes. When students and parents are informed of an “I”, the teacher will specify a plan of action that the student must undertake to achieve the necessary learning outcomes. An “I” reporting symbol must be assigned before an “F” letter grade can be given. Students with “I’s” or “F’s”, or “Needs Improvement” on their term and final reports do not qualify for Honour Roll Status.

Final Examinations

Some courses may have a final exam. In most cases these will be completed during class time. Please ensure that family holidays, trips and other events take place after all exams are written.



How Do I Make The Honour Roll?

The school maintains two Honour Rolls

The Academic Honour Roll and the Highlander Honour Roll

The **Academic Honour Roll** will be calculated once a year using the final percentage marks for students in grades 8 through 11 and the term two marks for students in grade 12. Grade 12 students who do not maintain their marks in term three may not qualify for the Honour Roll. In Grade 8, it is calculated on students' six full year courses.

- A calculated average percentage of 79.5 to 85.4 will be recognized as Honours.
- A calculated average percentage of 85.5 to 100 will be recognized as Honours with Distinction

The Highlander Honour Roll – for Work Habits

The Highlander Honour Roll recognizes students with an outstanding work ethic and provides an opportunity to honour those students who consistently demonstrate a high level of performance in this area. It will be determined at the end of every term. Students must maintain G's in every term and be enrolled in at least eight courses (credit or non credit).

Student Work Habit Rubric

West Vancouver Secondary students' work habits will be evaluated using the following criteria. Students will earn a 'G' Good, 'S' Satisfactory, or 'N' Needs Improvement :

Responsibility:

- ◆ Attendance
- ◆ Punctuality
- ◆ Preparedness: materials, work and attire.
- ◆ Completion of assignments
- ◆ Homework
- ◆ Respect for work
- ◆ Catches up missed work

- ◆ Participation (attitude/ contributes)
- ◆ Teamwork
- ◆ Respect for others
- ◆ Following Instructions

- ◆ Time on task
- ◆ Effort
- ◆ Attitude
- ◆ Time management
- ◆ Seeks extra help when needed

Independence:

Cooperation:



What Does My Day Look Like?

WVSS TIMETABLE - Regular Dismissal

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2
First Period 8:30 9:49	1	1	2	2	3	3
Second Period 9:57 11:15	2	2	3	3	1	1
Recess 11:15 11:25	<i>Nutrition Break</i>					
Third Period 11:30 12:50	3	3	1	1	2	2
Lunch 12:50 1:27	<i>LUNCH</i>					
Fourth Period 1:32 2:53	4	4	4	4	4	4

COLLABORATION DAY TIMETABLE

Once a month, regular instruction will begin at 9:45 am, as teachers are engaged in Collaboration Time in the morning. By creating this time, staff will be able to collaborate to continue to develop aspects of West Vancouver Secondary School's Assessment Vision.

The goal of this dedicated time is to move our assessment practices to a place that is more transparent, consistent, and focused on student learning. The Timetable is amended as follows:

Period 1	9:45 – 10:45
Period 2	10:50 – 11:50
Nutrition Break	11:50 – 12:00
Period 3	12:05 – 1:05
Lunch	1:05 – 1:40
Period 4	1:45 – 2:53

How Do I Use My Lock?

For Example - Combination 8 - 29 - 42



1. Turn right two or more whole turns and stop at the first number (8)

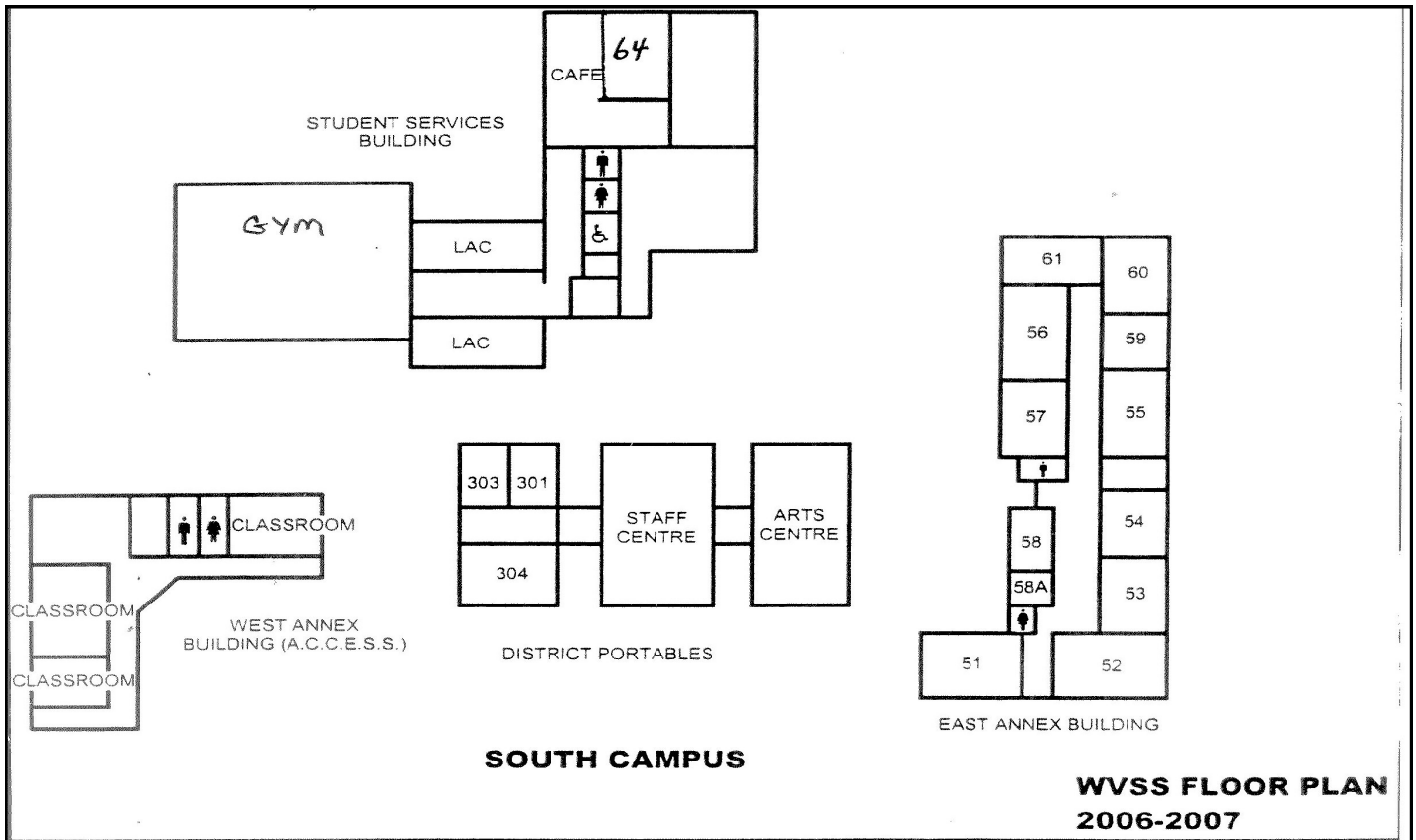


2. Then turn left one whole turn past the first number and stop at second number (29)



3. Now turn right directly to last number (42), pull down to open

South Campus Map



A Few Other Details

The following section is intended to provide additional information that may be of interest to both parents and students. Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you ever have any questions, or are unsure about different policies and procedures. We will always be happy to assist you!

Table of Contents

Page 15	Daily Attendance
Page 15	Family Holidays and Missed Work
Page 16	Communication
Page 17	Frequently Asked Questions
Page 18	General Information
Page 19	General Resources
Page 20	Parent Participation



Daily Attendance

Students are expected to be in all classes at all times and on time. Grade 8 students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during school hours.

Excused Absence from Class

Parents must be aware that absences, whether excused or not, will impact achievement. If a student is ill or will be late for school, parents are requested to inform the school (981- 1100) before 8:25 a.m. and state the name (spelling the last name), grade and the reason for the absence or lateness. If you are reporting an absence for a previous day, please call the school.

Illness, family funerals or emergencies are generally the only acceptable excuses. Early family vacations do not constitute a 'compelling extenuating situation'. It is the students' responsibility to contact teachers or friends to find out what work was missed.

Students who must leave the school before afternoon dismissal must sign out through the Main Office. If a student does not have a note and a parent cannot be contacted, the student will not be given permission to leave except in exceptional circumstances.

Students are not excused from one class to do work for other classes. **Missing one class to do work for another class constitutes an unexcused absence.**

Unexcused Absence from Class

Attendance is recorded by teachers on the computer network every period. Initially, subject teachers will deal with students about unexcused absences by applying consequences. However, if a student is developing a pattern of unexcused absences or lates, counsellors and administrators will be involved, and consequences will follow progressive discipline as outlined in the code of conduct.

School Messenger

West Vancouver Secondary has an "electronic call-back" communications/technology to enhance communication between the school and parents/guardians.

- * Starting at 6:00 p.m. each evening; phone and email the parent or guardian of each student who has been (absent) unexcused from one or more classes that day.
- * Completes calls by 9:00 p.m. Should there be no answer at the home a voice message will be left on answering machines.

Communication

A further function of School Messenger is the ability to communicate information to all parents/guardians. Examples may include: school closure (emergency procedures), information on reporting, report card distribution, future activities, and even specific messages to grades or groups. e.g. Grad Requirements, etc. .

Family Holidays and Missed Work

If parents opt to take their sons/daughters out of school, it is their prerogative. Any work missed is solely the student's responsibility. An 'extended absence' form must be completed prior to the start of the absence. The teachers should be informed at least one week in advance. However, teachers are not expected to provide extra classes, make-up tests, or specific work to be completed. Some class activities cannot be replaced.

Communication

School Website: <http://westvancouver-schools.ca/westvancouver-secondary/>

Our website is our first line of up-to-date information for students and parents. Student achievement, special events and activities are also highlighted. We encourage all students and parents to bookmark and check the school website often for informational updates and celebratory messages.

School Announcements

P.A. notices are read every morning and are also posted daily on our school website. We do not interrupt classes during the day with student messages; only very urgent messages.

School Messenger “Electronic call back system for attendance”

West Vancouver Secondary has an “electronic call-back” communications/technology to enhance communication between the school and parent(s) / guardians. This is used every day for attendance (See daily attendance). A further function of School Messenger is the ability to communicate information to all parents/guardians. Examples may include: school closure (emergency procedures) or future activities, etc.

School Newsletters

School newsletters will be posted to our website.

Student Telephone

A free student telephone is available in the South Campus and North Campus offices if needed.

E-Bulletin

The school e-bulletin is the primary means of information communication to families. We will be sending out an electronic bulletin every Thursday with up to date information and reminders of upcoming events. It is very important that we have your correct emails in our system in order that you receive these weekly bulletins.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is West Vancouver Secondary's academic record?

West Vancouver Secondary School consistently ranks among the top public schools in British Columbia.

My child is interested in the International Baccalaureate Program; what is the application process?

Any student interested in IB is encouraged to discuss this option with both their counsellor, and our IB Coordinator Ms. Joanne Pohn.

Where can I find staff emails?

Staff emails are listed on the school's website under the "Staff Information" tab.

What happens if my child is ill?

If your child is ill before school, please phone the main school number and report the absence. If the child will be away for more than 3 days, please contact your child's teachers by email for homework or consult the teacher website. If your child becomes ill or is injured at school, a parent will be contacted.

What happens if I need to contact my child in the event of an emergency?

In the event of an emergency, please call the Main Office (604-981-1100) and a staff member will get your child immediately, so you can speak with him or her. Make sure to tell the staff member that this is an emergency.

What services does the Counselling Department provide?

Personal, educational and career counselling, as well as referrals to outside community support agencies such as Family Services, Mental Health and Alternatives.

What if my child fails a course?

Students are promoted or failed by course, not by grade. The failed course must be repeated in Grade 9 (the next school year) or at summer school.

What about summer learning?

Please refer to the School District Website <http://www.wvschools.ca/> for Summer Learning information.

What should my child do if they are bullied or witness others being bullied?

West Vancouver Secondary does not tolerate bullying, harassment or intimidation. Students should report incidents of bullying to a trusted adult at the school and at home. Staff members are trained in detecting bullying and dealing with reports or incidents of bullying. Anti-Bullying programs are delivered to students during the school year.

General Information

Calendar of Events

A comprehensive calendar of events will be posted to the web site, printed in the Student Agenda and given to the student in the first week of school. Please refer to this calendar for school closure dates, early dismissals, report card distribution, school exam period, concerts, tournaments and many other important events happening throughout the school year. If there are any changes to our school calendar, you will be notified by e-bulletin, which is sent every Thursday.

School Nurse & Medical Records

A Community Health Nurse is assigned to the school on a liaison basis. Her primary functions are immunization and counselling. It is very important that parents provide the school with updated medical information.

Visitors

All visitors are required to report to the main office upon arrival. Parents should not drop off items directly to classes; please bring the items to the office.

WVSS Timetable

The timetable is designed to accommodate 8 classes in a "Day 1—Day 2" rotation with the 4th period fixed each day. (See page 3 for timetable). All students are expected to be in the next class and ready to learn before the bell. Consistent punctuality and attendance is very important. Classes are in session from 8:30 to 2:53 each day as well as some early morning or after school classes.

Demographics

Please make sure that all of your demographic information is correct. Let us know if you move or your contact numbers change, so we may update our database.

Field Trips

A field trip is a privilege that may be offered in both curricular and extra-curricular areas. To be eligible for privileges such as field trips, a student must be regularly attending all classes, following the WVSS Code of Conduct and be maintaining an acceptable achievement in all courses. Students attending a field trip are responsible for all missed work and are encouraged to contact their teacher (s) for any missed work while on the field trip.

Grade 8 Retreat

All grade 8 students are invited to attend a Grade 8 Retreat at Camp Summit in the Squamish Valley for 1 day in early September. On this field trip, they will participate in activities focused on fun, challenging activities such as ropes course, archery, climbing wall, mountain biking and team building games. . In addition, students are encouraged to team-build and make new friends! They will also have the opportunity to meet students and teachers from other schools. Outdoor School will be supervised by West Vancouver Secondary staff.

General Resources

WVSS Library ([here](#))

The library is an extension of the classroom and as such, it is an integral part of WVSS' educational system. The focus of the library is the acquisition and promotion of materials which support the curriculum. Current resources promote and encourage leisure reading and learning activities. In addition, another important objective of the library is to promote information technology skills. This enables students to locate, gain access to, retrieve, evaluate and synthesize vast amounts of information. Computer workstations, laptops and e-readers are available to students for online educational research and reading throughout the day. The library also provides quiet study and reading areas for use during students' unstructured time: before and after school as well as at lunch.

Student Services—Counselling Department ([here](#))

The school counsellors provide a wide range of services to students. These services include course planning, career education, post-secondary information, interest inventories, scholarship and bursary information, new student orientation, personal counselling support and referrals to other school system services or non-school agencies. Although each counsellor is assigned specific grade responsibilities, students may seek assistance from any counsellor. Counselling offices are located down the hall from the Main Office at both campuses. Appointments are made through the individual counsellor.

Counsellor:

Grade 8

Mr. Jamal Ahmelich jahmelich@wvschools.ca 604-981-1327

School Fees

School fees are necessary to provide a range of goods and services to students. These fees subsidize locks for lockers, Student Agendas, Go Cards, Athletic expenses, uniforms, medals, plaques, certificates awarded at Awards Ceremonies, Student Council activities, intramural games, prizes and postage. Virtually all students benefit when activity fees are paid. The WVSS Yearbook is sold in advance to interested students at the beginning of the year. A number of elective courses have a supplementary fee to offset the cost of specialized materials. Students are issued textbooks at no charge, but are responsible to return the books in good condition. Assessments will be made at the end of the year for lost or damaged textbooks and other missing school items. Fees are reviewed on an annual basis by the School Board and are posted on the school website.

School Supplies

Students should bring the basic supplies (binders, loose-leaf paper, pens, pencils) on the first day, and their teachers will let them know if they need anything specific for each class. Grade 8 students will need at least 2 large 3-ring binders, scientific calculator, PE strip, running shoes and a lock for their PE locker.

General Resources

Lockers

All students, grade 8 to 12, are assigned lockers on the first day of school. The locker is the property of the school, and the student agrees to the following conditions:

- The locker may only be used for the storage of books, school supplies and equipment, outerwear, school sports equipment and lunches
- The locker is to be kept clean and foodstuffs are to be removed on a regular basis
- Students are responsible for cleaning and removing all material from their lockers at the end of the year or when they leave the school
- No illegal substances, weapons or other prohibited or offensive materials are to be placed in school lockers
- School officials may search student lockers at any time and without prior notice in order to ensure compliance with the conditions of use and other school policies and rules
- Permission to use the locker may be terminated where a student does not comply with the conditions of use or school policies or rules
- Students are urged not to bring valuables such as jewelry and unnecessary electronic devices to school. Students are responsible for the care and safety of all their personal belongings and the school cannot accept responsibility for lost, damaged or stolen items

Additional lockers are provided in the P.E. change rooms. In order to secure personal belongings,

STUDENTS SHOULD STORE ALL CLOTHES AND VALUABLES IN A P.E. LOCKER EVERY P.E. PERIOD. Please bring an additional lock for your P.E. locker.

If your son/daughter forgets his/her combination or has difficulty opening their locker, please have them come to the office for immediate assistance.

West Vancouver Secondary welcomes the active participation of its parents—spend time at the school, get to know the staff, attend your child's extracurricular activities, visit the school website, and read each newsletter. Working together as a school community, we can give our young people a great start and ongoing support through their years at WVSS.

WVSS Parent Advisory Council

The best way to get involved and find out what's happening at the school is to attend Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings held the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm in the school library. Please visit the PAC page of the school website under the 'Parents' tab. The PAC wish to create a favourable environment and culture for education through constructive relationships. Email contacts can be found on the PAC web page (here). Their objectives are:

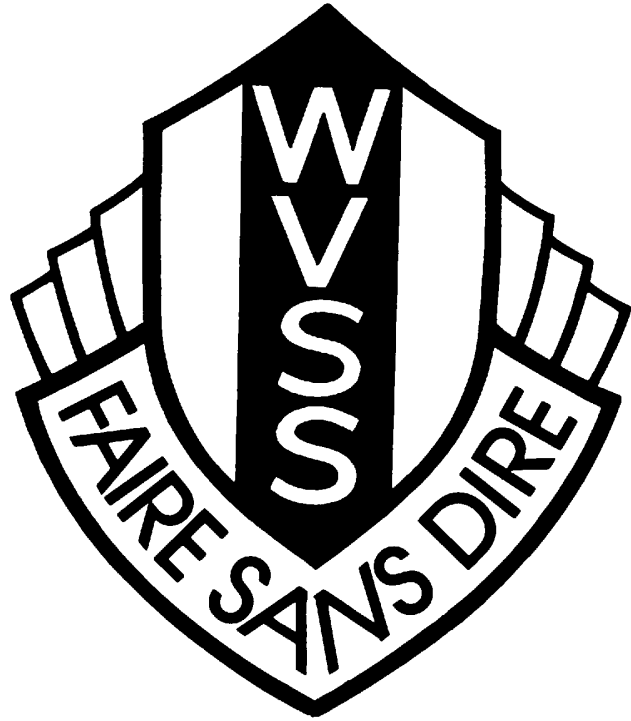
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Consultation
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Parent/student relationships

Volunteer Opportunities

WVSS hosts many student events throughout the year that often require the energy and assistance of parent volunteers. Parents wishing to volunteer as coaches in the extracurricular athletic program are encouraged to contact the Athletic Director. Ask your child if you can help with any extracurricular activities—whether it's coaching or building sets for a theatre production—there's always an opportunity for parents to get involved!

Welcome to West Vancouver Secondary School!

NOTES



Home of the Highlanders!