



SENTINEL

Secondary School · École Secondaire

<http://westvancouver.schools.ca/ecole-sentinel-secondary/>

Welcome to Sentinel for the 2025/26 school year!

You may be new to Sentinel, or you may already be acquainted with us. Either way, we are happy that you have joined the Sentinel community! We hope that you find the information contained in this mailing useful. There will be another email update closer to the start of school in late August. Should you have any inquiries over the summer, please email sentinel@wvschools.ca. During the school year don't hesitate to reach our office staff, counsellors or administrators by phone or email with any questions. We look forward to working with you and your child so that they may have a successful and enjoyable school year as a Spartan!

What to expect on the first day at Sentinel.

We are very excited to welcome the Grade 8s to their first day of school at **8:30 AM on September 2nd**. The Grade 8's will meet in the main gym for a short presentation then attend their homeroom where they will receive important information on the up-coming school year and receive their schedules, agendas, and lockers. The Grade 8s will have the school to themselves to explore before being **dismissed at approximately 10:00 AM**.

What do you need on the first day at Sentinel.

Students will not require any specific supplies on the first day of school. Tuesday September 2nd is about getting acquainted with the school. On Wednesday, they should come prepared with a binder, pen/pencil, and paper. They will begin to meet their teachers for the coming year, who will provide course outlines and list any required materials students may need.

School photos will be taken on **Friday, September 5th**. Retakes are on Thursday, October 2nd.

For even more information, please visit our website:

<http://westvancouver.schools.ca/ecole-sentinel-secondary/>

Administrators and Counsellors

Mr. M. Finch	Principal (Grade 12)
Ms. C. Tanfara	Vice-Principal (Grades 8 and 10)
Mr. S. Anderson	Vice-Principal (Grade 9 and 11)
Ms. L. Ulinder	Counsellor (last names A-F)
Ms. R. Britten	Counsellor (last names G-LIT)
Mr. S. Huskison	Counsellor (last names LIU-SAM)
Ms. A. Thureau	Counsellor (last names SAN-Z)

Mission Statement

The mission of Sentinel Secondary School is to enable students to become lifelong learners by providing quality learning opportunities in supportive environments and by encouraging personal growth through active involvement.

It is our hope that by starting the Grade 8s off in this manner we will have lived up to our mission statement in providing a supportive environment. In terms of active involvement, there are many ways Sentinel students can be involved in the school. Such opportunities allow them to meet other students and build feelings of belonging and community. Two specific ways students can become involved are through school sports and school clubs.

Information regarding sports, clubs, volunteering and more is provided to students regularly through the weekly E-Bulletin every Thursday, via TV school monitors, through morning announcements and in the Grade 8 Google classroom. In addition, a list of clubs is posted outside the counselling suite. In October, there is a Clubs Day to give students an opportunity to learn about the various clubs and sign up for the ones they are interested in. Students can sign up for a club at any time during the school year by seeing the club sponsor teacher.

CODE OF CONDUCT

At Sentinel Secondary School, we have high standards for personal conduct as it involves other people, our environment, and our work. Moreover, we view the pursuit of appropriate conduct as a shared responsibility among students, parents, and staff members. [Our Code of Conduct is](#) based on respect and responsibility. These expectations apply to behaviour at school, at school-organized or sponsored events, and at other times where inappropriate behaviour (including on-line behaviour) may negatively impact the school environment and/or student learning.

[SCHOOL VALUE STATEMENT \(G.U.A.R.D.S.\)](#)

GRIT – We recognize that the pursuit of mastery requires independence, perseverance, and a growth mindset

UNDERSTANDING – We celebrate diversity and attend to others with empathy and open mindedness

ACTION – We pursue personal and academic excellence with purpose, honesty, curiosity, and integrity

RESPECT – We respect ourselves, others, our learning environment & show gratitude towards our community

DECISIONS – We consider the implications of our choices and take responsibility for our actions

SPIRIT – We engage in a fun, safe, inclusive, and dynamic school community

What sports can I play at Sentinel?

The objective of extra-curricular athletics at Sentinel is to foster a healthy appreciation of competitive individual and team sports. Specifically, our program aims for the pursuit of excellence in the areas of commitment, competition, skill development, enjoyment, cooperation, and participation. Please see our [Athletics page](#) on our website.

The focus for teams at the Bantam and Juvenile levels (Grades 8 & 9) is to maximize participation, improve individual fundamental skills, develop team skills, and provide student athletes with positive athletic experiences. The principles of fair play are to be always adhered to.

If your child has not signed up for any sports team, you may want to take the initiative and encourage them to participate. Encourage your child, alone or with their friends, to listen to the daily announcements, check the TV monitors, review the website, and get involved. If you need additional information, contact the Sentinel Athletic Directors, Brooks McNiven and Todd McGowan (email: sentinelathletics@wvschools.ca).

Different sports are played at different times of the year, as follows:

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Winter</i>	<i>Spring</i>
Volleyball - Girls	Basketball	Track and Field
Cross-Country	Wrestling	Tennis
Swimming	Skiing/Snowboarding	Golf
Girls Field Hockey		Girls Rugby
Junior Boys Soccer		Volleyball - Boys
Senior Boys Soccer		Junior Girls Soccer
		Senior Girls Soccer
		Mountain Biking
		Badminton
		Ultimate

There are different levels of sports depending on the grade you are in. Each sport may not have a team for each level as this depends on the number of students interested and on available coaches.

Bantam Grade 8
 Juvenile Grade 9
 Junior Grade 10
 Senior Grade 11 and Grade 12

What Clubs are offered at Sentinel?

There are approximately 75 student and staff-lead clubs at Sentinel Secondary School! We encourage students to get involved or start a club as it is a great way to meet peers with similar interests. If students are interested in starting a club, please visit the office or the counsellors. Students will have the opportunity to explore the clubs available to them at Clubs Day. Some examples of clubs from past years are below and found on our [Clubs link](#):

Best Buddies	Film Club	Model United Nations Club
Chess Club	Future Business leaders	SPCA Club
Comite d'immersion Francaise	Garden Gurus	Streamkeepers club
Debate and Speech Club	History Bee and Bowl Club	Vex Robotics Club

Schedules: Bell Timetable and Block Rotation Schedule

Important: Please see our [Sentinel Bell Schedule 2025-2026](#), located on the front page of our website. In addition, our [Sentinel Block Rotation Schedule Sept 1-Oct 24](#) is also found on our website. Students can find the daily rotation in the office and on our TV monitors. **Punctuality:** We ask parents to make every effort to encourage their child to be on time for all classes, so no instructional minutes are lost.

FIT – Flexible Instructional Time

Sentinel will be continuing with **flexible instruction time** for the 2025-2026 school year for all students. The new model will provide student two 50-minute FIT blocks a week. The purpose of the FIT is to provide students with choice, voice, and flexibility with their learning. FIT provides instructional time for students to collaborate with peers, receive support from teachers, and engage in a personal area of interest.

Sentinel Bell Timetable

**Non-FIT Day Schedule –
Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday**

Time Period	Activity
8:30 – 9:50	Block 1
9:50 – 10:00	Transition
10:00 – 11:20	Block 2
11:20 – 11:35	Break
11:35 – 12:55	Block 3
12:55 – 1:40	Lunch
1:40 – 3:00	Block 4

FIT Day Schedule – Monday/Thursday

Time Period	Activity
8:30 – 9:37	Block 1
9:37 – 9:52	Break
9:52 – 11:00	Block 2
11:00 – 11:50	FIT
11:50 – 12:55	Block 3
12:55 – 1:40	Lunch
1:40 – 2:50	Block 4

Communication

The school provides information through weekly E-bulletins every Thursday and special mailouts. Links to publications, schedules, staff emails are found on our [Sentinel Website](#). Please follow us on Instagram or Twitter @Sentinel_SD45. Information on athletics, clubs, upcoming events, counselling news, and more will be provided.

What do I do if my son or daughter is absent/dismissed early from School?

If your child is going to be absent from school for the entire day; miss any classes; arrive late or leave early please let us know via a parent email at sentinelattendance@wvschools.ca. If this is not possible, please call: 604-981-1130. All attendance related notices must be received by our office staff by 2pm on the day of the absence. If a child's absence remains "unexcused", you will receive an automated call/email on the evening of the absence.

How should I deal with any concerns that I have with my child in a class?

All schools in West Vancouver deal with teacher / student concerns using a three-step approach. Step 1 is for the student to discuss their concern with their teacher. If this fails or the student is not inclined to speak with their teacher, step 2 is for the parent, student, and teacher to discuss the issue. If this does not bring resolution the final step 3 is for the parent to bring the issue to the administrator for that grade level

This process makes sense as it is the teacher, who best knows your child in class. Parents often remark that when they discuss an issue with the teacher, they learn something unexpected or worthwhile about their child.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025-2026

September

1	Monday	Labour Day Statutory Holiday
2	Tuesday	School Opens
24	Wednesday	Meet the Teacher, 6:00 pm
25	Thursday	Collaboration Day- students start at 9:30 am
26	Friday	Professional Day- no school
30	Tuesday	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Statutory Holiday

October

13	Monday	Thanksgiving Day Statutory Holiday
24	Friday	Professional Day – no school
30	Thursday	Collab Day- students start at 9:30 am

November

11	Tuesday	Remembrance Day Statutory Holiday
24	Monday	Professional Day- no school
25	Tuesday	Learning Update 1 marks posted.
27	Thursday	Collaboration Day- students start at 9:30 am

December

19	Friday	Last day before Winter Break, early dismissal 12:00 pm
22	Monday	Winter Break (Dec 22-Jan 2)

January

5	Monday	School Re-opens
28	Wednesday	Parent/Teacher Conferences, early dismissal 12:00 pm
29	Thursday	Collaboration Day- students start at 9:30 am
30	Friday	Professional Day – no school

February

13	Friday	District Reading Break- no school
16	Monday	Family Day Statutory Holiday

March

5	Thursday	Collaboration Day- students start at 9:30 am.
6	Friday	Learning Update 2 marks posted.
13	Friday	Last day of classes before Spring Break
16	Monday	Spring Break (March 16 – March 27)
30	Monday	School Re-opens

April

3	Friday	Good Friday Statutory Holiday
6	Monday	Easter Monday Statutory Holiday
23	Thursday	Collaboration Day- students start at 9:30 am

May

15	Friday	Professional Day- no school
18	Monday	Victoria Day Statutory Holiday
28	Thursday	Collaboration Day- students start at 9:30 am

June

22	Monday	Last day of classes and attendance
25	Thursday	Completion Day, Last day of school
25	Thursday	Learning Update 3 marks posted.