



ROCKRIDGE

ESSE QUAM VIDERI



Dec 19, 2024

ROCKRIDGE LINKS:

[Rockridge Secondary School website](#)

[WV School District Website](#)

[Follow Rockridge Secondary on Instagram](#)

[Follow Rockridge Secondary on X / Twitter](#)

Morning Announcements: *Bookmark this link for daily news, updates and Rockridge Athletics schedules*

CALENDAR UPDATE	
Fri, Dec 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pancake Breakfast - cost \$5 7:45 am ● 11:50 am - School Bus riders dismissed ● 12:00 pm - Buses Depart Rockridge ● 12:00 PM Student Dismissal - Happy Holidays!
Winter Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dec 23 - Jan 3 - School Closed
Jan 7th, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leadership Students Visit BICS ● Parents as Education and Career Coaches virtual presentation - Register here
Jan 8th, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leadership Students Visit Gleneagles
Jan 9th, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Law 12 Field Trip ● LSP to Grouse Mountain 8:00 – 8:30am ● Information Night for Incoming Gr 8 Students and Families
Fri, Jan 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flock to the Rock-Winter 2024/25 - Feeder schools visit Rockridge
FULL ROCKRIDGE WEBSITE CALENDAR with BLOCK ROTATIONS	
2024-25 At A Glance Calendar	
WV Youth Services click here	

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we approach the eve of Winter Break 2024, I hope our Rockridge families have plans to enjoy some quality time together over the holidays. I trust our students will return in January 2025 feeling rested, recharged, and ready for a new year of learning and success. Personally, I’ve been inspired this past week by special events like our Staff Winter Book club gathering, the Jazz Band morning performance and getting to serve free hot chocolate to our Ravens, seeing so many past grads at the Alumni event hosted by our fabulous Careers Department and gearing up for tomorrow’s pancake breakfast.

While there's no need for students to dive into planning for January just yet, taking time before the 6th to mentally prepare for the return to routines, schedules, and academic responsibilities can be a proactive step toward success. I share this message because I remain inspired by the commitment and

enthusiasm our students bring to their learning, even during these final days of December. Their maturity and focus amidst the festive energy of the season have been truly impressive.

Reflecting on the past four months, I am equally proud of the incredible school spirit we have shared as a community. At Rockridge, we know how to balance hard work with moments of joy and celebration! Tomorrow's Last Day of 2024 will kick off with a festive pancake breakfast, followed by school-wide trivia, carols, line dancing, and an early dismissal at 12:00 PM. We kindly ask all students to leave promptly at dismissal so that our staff can enjoy a well-deserved year-end luncheon and holiday celebration.

Finally, I wanted to be sure to extend our heartfelt thoughts to the Lions Bay community following last weekend's tragic events. To all those personally affected, please know that we are thinking of you and send our best wishes during this difficult time.

Wishing everyone a safe, joyful, and restful Winter Break!

SANTA'S BREAKFAST

Rockridge Student Council welcomes all students and staff to attend our annual Santa's Breakfast on Friday, Dec 20th. Cost is \$5 with all proceeds supporting community philanthropic initiatives.

LOST & FOUND - Items are on display in the front entrance hallway of the school. Students, please visit the tables to look at, and collect your belongings. Items not picked up will be donated to a local shelter in January that our EA lead Isabell Nielsen supports in Vancouver.

ATTENTION SQUAMISH FAMILIES - NEW FAMILY SEEKING CARPOOL

The family of a new Grade 8 student who is planning to register with Rockridge in the New Year is hoping to arrange carpooling with another family in Squamish. If you are interested, please email Ms. Radcliffe - jradcliffe@wvschools.ca and she will connect you with the family.

*Be sure to check out this week's attached **Raven Life** PDF. It is another fantastic edition! You'll see updates on student learning, sports, posters of upcoming ROPAC events, photos and more from this week at The Rock.*

From your MYP Coordinators:

PARENT COMMUNITY: DON'T SCROLL BY!

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH TWO THINGS!

Parent Self-Study Reflection

As part of our Middle Years Program Evaluation at Rockridge, we are required to complete a Self-Study reflection looking at how we implement the various aspects of the program. YOU get to be a part of this too! We'd love to have your feedback and reflections by completing [this form](#)!

International Baccalaureate Visit to Rockridge - Parent Team Assemble!

From **April 14 - 16, 2025** we will be having an important virtual visit from the International Baccalaureate to evaluate the ongoing implementation of the Middle Years Program here at Rockridge. We are looking for a group of parents who would be willing to participate in the evaluation of the program. ***Thank you to the parents who signed up already! We have 4 volunteers. We'd like some other voices to be added as well!***

Your commitment would mean that you'll:

- Try to attend two 'Coffee with the Coordinators' mornings from 7:30 - 8:30 (*January 21 & March 6*) to help set you up for the topics that would be discussed with the virtually visiting officials.
- The evaluation meeting with the IB evaluation team in April (*30 minutes maximum during school hours on Tuesday April 15*).

The evaluation meeting is a time for honest discussion with the IB team regarding your knowledge and thoughts regarding the MYP program here at the school.

Could this be you? Could we add you to our parent feedback team?

If so, please fill out [THIS FORM](#). Thank you! (*We will be in touch soon!*)

SAVE THE DATE: PERSONAL PROJECT EXHIBITION

Parents/Guardians with a CLE10 student!

With the end of the year fast approaching, students have been working on completing a draft of their Personal Project Report. This means that students should have addressed the following criterions:

- ***Criterion A: Planning***
 - State a learning goal, as well as a product goal.
 - Develop success criteria that will be used to evaluate the product.
 - Create a detailed plan to ensure that all components of the learning and product goals can be successfully completed in a timely manner.
- ***Criterion B: Applying Skills***
 - Identify specific Approaches to Learning Skills (i.e. Communication, Social, Self-management, Research, Thinking) that will be necessary to achieve the learning and product goals.

Students will complete the remaining criterion (C: Reflecting) after the Exhibition in February, once they have actually created their product and presented their learning journey. So, over the holiday season, please feel free to ask your Grade 10 learner about how their product goal is going, as they may need an extra reminder to "wrap things up" in regard to the product-creation process!

As well, for an extra bit of motivation and inspiration, students had a visit in their CLE classes from Mr. Kolkea over the past two weeks. Mr. Kolkea shared his enthusiasm about the Personal Project and how it leads into the Capstone Project of Grade 12. This school year's Personal Project Exhibition is on

Thursday, February 6th, 2025 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. It's just a couple of months away now, and we are absolutely brimming with eager anticipation!

Thanks for learning and growing with us!

**Your RR MYP Coordinators,
Meghan LeSieur & Rhonette Millare**

West Vancouver Schools Registration Opens January 15th, 2025

K-12 registration for both in-district and out-of-district students opens on January 15! If you have students in your family or network who are looking to join our district, please help spread the word about this important date.

West Vancouver Schools offer a wonderful opportunity to be part of a community that values excellence in education. Our schools take pride in creating meaningful learning experiences and providing opportunities that support the growth, well-being, and success of every student.

To learn more about registration expectations and processes, please visit our admissions page: [West Vancouver Schools Admissions](#)

We look forward to welcoming new students and families to our vibrant and supportive school community!

Information Night for Incoming Gr 8 Students and Families-Jan 9th, 2025 | 6-7:30 pm - see *Raven Life

TOUR OF THE ROCK DAY

The next tours will be Monday, January 13th & Feb 10th @ 12:00PM to 1:00 PM. Do you know a family that may be interested in registering at Rockridge in the future? Please pass along this information to them so they can join us for our next school tour. The Tour of the Rock is hosted and led by our principal or vice-principal and senior student leaders. Inquiries and RSVP: rockridge@wvschools.ca

PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICE EXPECTATIONS

As we reflect on the first four months of the school year, we're proud to recognize the progress we've made together in implementing our Personal Digital Device (PDD) expectations. Thanks to the collective efforts of our students, families, and staff, we've seen a significant improvement in how digital devices are used in our schools. This has fostered more focused and engaged learning environments, aligning with our shared goal of supporting student success.

This success would not have been possible without everyone's ongoing support and commitment. While we celebrate these strides, it's important that we remain consistent in maintaining these expectations and continue to remind and support students to ensure this positive momentum is sustained.

Why We're Doing This

The purpose of these expectations is to minimize distractions and maximize learning opportunities. Digital devices, when used appropriately, are powerful tools for collaboration, creativity, and

communication. However, ensuring they don't interrupt instructional time or disrupt the learning environment remains a priority.

What You Can Continue to Do

Here are some ways families can help reinforce these expectations at home:

1. **Celebrate Progress** - Acknowledge your child's efforts in adhering to the guidelines and discuss how this has positively impacted their focus and learning.
2. **Reinforce Healthy Habits** - Continue encouraging a balanced approach to device use at home by promoting activities like reading, outdoor play, and family time.
3. **Model Consistency** - Show your support by modeling mindful device use when on the school grounds or in the school building AND during shared family time.
4. **Support School Communication** - Please avoid contacting your child during instructional time, this includes communication through phones and smartwatches. Remind them that non-urgent messages can wait until after school. If urgent communication is needed, please contact the school office.
5. **Stay Engaged** - Revisit the Parent/Guardian Guide to Personal Digital Devices to refresh your understanding of the expectations and discuss them with your child.

Thank you for your partnership and continued support in making this initiative a success.

Annual Winter Weather Reminder - See [Weather Closures and Procedures](#)

With the recent weather events and the potential of flurries, we wanted to remind everyone of the West Vancouver Schools *Winter Weather* protocols.

West Vancouver Schools endeavours to keep schools open on regular instructional days, including those with accumulating snowfall ([Weather Closures and Procedures](#)). Any decision to close schools will be made by the Superintendent and will be based on the safety of students and staff. We aim to communicate any decision to close schools by 6:00 am.

Please check the [school district website](#) for the most current information on school closures.

ROCKRIDGE SCHOOL NEWS

FAST (First Aid Swim Training) Program - Applications for the 2025-2026 School Year Are Now Open!

The **First Aid Swim Training (FAST) Program** is a unique opportunity for students to develop the essential skills and confidence to become successful lifeguards while also building leadership and resilience.

By the end of the program, students will earn **key certifications** that are prerequisites for the **National Lifeguard Course**, which they can take independently at age 15 or older. Completing the National

Lifeguard Course qualifies students to work as lifeguards, opening doors to meaningful, in-demand employment.

Certifications earned in FAST include:

- **Bronze Medallion**
- **Bronze Cross**
- **Standard First Aid & CPR-C**

Program Highlights:

In addition to earning certifications, the FAST Program provides a practical foundation in:

- **First Aid Training:** Building strong emergency response skills
- **Swimming and Stroke Development:** Improving confidence and technique in the water
- **Cardiovascular and Resistance Training:** Developing fitness and endurance
- **Leadership Development:** Encouraging teamwork, communication, and responsibility

This program is ideal for students interested in aquatics, leadership, and gaining valuable job-ready skills. [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND APPLY NOW!](#)

ROCKRIDGE PAC NEWS

Reminder: Staff Appreciation Luncheon Tomorrow!

Thank you, parents, for all your support for tomorrow's staff appreciation lunch. It's a wonderful way to show our amazing Rockridge staff how grateful we are for all that they do throughout the year.

Important Details for Food Contributions - Clearly label your dish with:

- Dish name
- Ingredient list, especially food allergens such as dairy, nuts (nut type, if possible), gluten
- Your name and contact number (if you want your dish returned)

Drop-off Instructions

- Valets will assist with dish drop-offs in the roundabout from 11:30-12:30 PM
- If you need to drop off earlier, you can leave your dish in the office or find Rachel Clearwater in the roundabout at 8:30 AM
- Pick your dish up from the Foods Classroom at 2:15 PM on December 20th or inside the front doors in January

For any questions, contact Sophie Ukani at sophieukani@yahoo.com

Happy Winter Break!

Wishing you and your family a joyous and restful winter break! We look forward to seeing you at our next ROPAC meeting on Tue, Jan 16th at 9:45 AM in the Learning Commons.

Follow ROPAC on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) Rockridge WhatsApp Groups: [Parent Info](#) (brief one-way info) and [P2P](#) (parent conversation).

ROCKRIDGE SENIOR STUDENTS' INFORMATION

Parents as Education and Career Coaches

EducationPlannerBC invites parents, families, and student supporters to join our virtual presentation on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Learn about post-secondary education and career opportunities, as well as tools to best support your student in planning for their future. The information will be especially helpful for families with students in grades 10-12.

Come explore our website! Search thousands of programs, get to know trades, and discover career paths. Find helpful resources, including financial aid options, admission requirements, FAQs, and the Glossary. Learn how to create an account, save programs, paths, and careers to My List, and apply to post-secondary in B.C.

EducationPlannerBC with SD 44, 45, 46, 48

School Districts: North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Registration is required. Register [here](#).

The session will be on MS Teams.

For more information: support@educationplannerbc.ca

School district contact: SD 45 West Vancouver: Leesa Alldred LAlldred@wvschools.ca

Also note, we will not be recording the session. We will, however, email all registrants the next day with some links and resources shared during the presentation.

Rockridge Grad Class Calendar 2025

To assist parents and students in the Grad Class of 2025, please see the following Rockridge calendar links:

- **For Students:** bit.ly/postsecondaryrockridge
- **For Parents & Guardians:** [Here is the link to view the calendar using your browser](#)

ACTION ITEMS FOR ROCKRIDGE PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Online Policies & Procedures Form 2024-2025 - Now at 84% of online consent forms completed!

This online verification and consent form requires a parent login and must be submitted for each student at the start of each school year. We ask that it is submitted ONLY ONCE PER STUDENT in September, as the upload gets very onerous with multiple submissions. For later changes, please inform the office.

- If you previously created an account to complete the 22/23 form, the account is the same.
- If you have forgotten your password, you can follow the instructions to reset it.

- Once logged in, you will have the option to either update a P+P form created last year or start a new one.
- Without a completed consent form, students will not be permitted to attend field trips, join school teams or have their photos included in the yearbook. Permissions expire on August 31 each year.

FEEDING FUTURES

As part of the Ministry of Education and Childcare [Feeding Futures initiative](#), the West Vancouver School District has established a food security structure to confidentially assist students and families. The West Vancouver School District Food Security Plan will help students and families by providing confidential financial support for families facing food insecurity. Families are encouraged to reach out directly to Mr. Kolkea tkolkea@wvschools.ca or to feedingfutures@wvschools.ca if they need support with food-related costs. Please be assured that all requests will be addressed with sensitivity, respect, and confidentiality.

ROCKRIDGE ATHLETICS

If you are looking to keep up with our Raven Athletics Events, just scroll through our [Morning Announcements](#). The second page of the announcements is dedicated to Raven Athletics teams, schedules, upcoming events and results. See *Raven Life* for highlights from the past weeks.

We are always looking for passionate individuals who want to create positive experiences for our student athletes. If you are keen to volunteer your time with us next year, please complete the Coaching Expression of Interest form linked below: [Expression of Interest Form](#)

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to our new Athletic Director Mr. Stefanon, mstefanon@wvschools.ca *Go Ravens!*

Alpine Race Team - Ski & Snowboard

- [Team Schedule](#)
- **First Training Day - Wednesday January 8th. Be at the bus for 6:35am**

COUNSELLORS' CORNER

West Vancouver Schools Counselling

At West Vancouver Schools, we acknowledge the importance of high school course selection, post-secondary guidance and the role of schools in supporting improved student mental health outcomes. We maintain a collaborative website with the counselling teams from Rockridge, Sentinel and West Vancouver Secondary. In this website there are an abundance of resources for students that will help guide them to whatever level of education they desire: from grade school to graduate school.

You can find the [Counselling site](#) under the DEPARTMENT tab on the [Rockridge Secondary School website](#).

FAMILY SMART Monthly Events - LINK - Online & In-Person for Parents and Caregivers 2024.

Federal Mental Health/Suicide Crisis helpline: 9-8-8 Call or Text

You deserve to be heard. A safe space to talk, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. <https://988.ca/>

Mental Health and Substance Use: A Resource for Educators and School Communities

[Language Matters! An Introductory Guide for Understanding Mental Health and Substance Use: A Resource for Educators and School Communities](#) is now officially available on the [mental health and well-being](#) erase website.

ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY NEWS

For "Community Connections" including local programs, events, and resources click [HERE](#).

Homestay Families Needed

Each year, the West Vancouver School District welcomes students from around the world to live and study in our vibrant community. We strive to place secondary school international students with families who live in West Vancouver to support each student's integration into the school and wider community.

Share your home and your heart

1. \$28,000* in reimbursements
2. Full-service homestay team support
3. Single placements and 5-month students available

*Based on two international students both hosted from September to June.

If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to our Homestay Coordinators at homestay@wvschools.ca. More information about the homestay program is available on our website at <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/international/>.

FAQ & HELPFUL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE - Notifying the Office and Extended Absences

If you know your student will not be in attendance for all, or part of a school day, we ask that you please let our office know in advance - rockridge@wvschools.ca Please include your child's first and last name and reason for absence in your email.

Daily attendance is critical to ensure student success here at Rockridge. **We do not recommend** absences during the school term but realize they may be unavoidable. Please keep in mind that certain classroom activities and assessments may not be able to be made up if missed.

Please notify the school a minimum of one week in advance using this [form](#) for an extended absence. Teachers are not required to provide extra classes, make-up tests or specific work to be completed.

ROCKRIDGE CALENDAR

- This is a very helpful resource to access for daily block rotations and school events.
- Please click the following link to access the [FULL ROCKRIDGE WEBSITE CALENDAR](#)
- Then click *Subscribe* in the task bar above the calendar.
- Please ask your child if they have subscribed as well!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

If there are any changes to address, legal custody, or citizenship status, please upload documentation to support the changes using [this link](#). The changes will not be reflected until the documentation is submitted.

MYED BC Parent Portal

For all students and parents, logging into the MYED portal is a very important step in supporting your child's learning and progress at Rockridge.

If you need assistance logging onto the parent portal, please use this link [MyEd Parent Portal](#) for instructions on registering your MyEdBC account. Each parent or guardian has their own separate account. If you are having difficulty accessing your account, please see the online video aid [here](#). If you have further questions, please email Rockridge@wvschools.ca

School Drop Off/Pick Up Safety

As you are probably aware, there can be heavy traffic around our school site at opening and dismissal times. It is difficult for vehicles to enter and exit our school parking areas as well as the Caulfeild Mall. The passage of emergency vehicles would be impeded which is of considerable concern. Please consider carpooling, dropping off and picking up your children at a predetermined location away from the school property, and encouraging active transportation (biking, walking). Another helpful action, if possible, for those that have to drive is dropping off your child early. An 8:00 AM arrival is always a great plan and chance to hang in the cafeteria, get some work done at a hallway workstation, or connect with a teacher.

Please note that designated visitor parking spaces at the front of the school are a 'no parking' zone in the morning and after school. The driveway in front of the school entrance is a NO STOPPING zone. All numbered parking spaces are designated for individual staff members. Please do not park in these spaces at any time during school hours.

ATTENTION DOG WALKERS

The Rockridge sports field is a Classroom space, used by classes and teams, many of which have begun regular practices and games this fall. There has been a large amount of Dog Poop that is not only a distraction and slipping hazard, but also a health issue. We remind our community members that West Vancouver Bylaw prohibits dogs on the field and thank you for your cooperation in respecting this outdoor classroom space. *We would appreciate it if you would pass this on to other community members who should have this information.