

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2025



Welcome to West Vancouver Secondary School!

Beginning high school is an important milestone, and we're here to support you every step of the way. This is your time to grow, discover new opportunities, and thrive—we can't wait to see all that you accomplish.

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES

~~~~~

SEPTEMBER 2025

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |     |     |

- 1:** Labour Day
- 2:** School opens: Gr. 8 meet at south campus GYM – 8:30am  
Gr. 8 dismissal is at 10:20am
- 2:** School photos
- 3:** Regular schedule: 8:30am – 3:00pm
- 4:** Regular schedule: 8:30am – 3:00pm
- 5:** Grade 8 Team Building day at Ambleside – 8:45am–2:30pm
- 10:** Grade 8 parent information meeting – 7:00 PM
- 20:** Meet the teacher evening (school-wide) – 6:00 PM
- 26:** Professional development day – school closed
- 30:** National day for Truth & Reconciliation – school closed



# Gearing up for a great year!

## **AUGUST 25–SEPTEMBER 5:**

- Please complete the school district Policy and Procedures Form:  
<https://eforms.sd45.bc.ca/Account/Login?rr=Form/PandP>
- This is an annual requirement for all families.
- If you have any questions about this form, please contact [ravotins@wvsschools.ca](mailto:ravotins@wvsschools.ca)

## **AUGUST 29:**

Student Timetables and Portal Access:

ACTION ITEM: Student Timetables & Portal Access Friday, August 29 after 3:30pm.

- All students will receive an email early next week with their login information on their school email.
- New students and new parents to the school should also receive an email from MyEdBc with their login information. Please check your junk mail.
- Grade 8 students will receive a printed timetable on Tuesday at school.
- Information for resetting passwords and other FAQs are posted on the web page:  
<https://westvancouver.schools.ca/family-portal/>

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES:**

No supplies needed for Tuesday, Sept. 2.

A 3 Ring Binder, with lined paper and pencil/pen is sufficient for Wednesday. Teachers will discuss specific supplies needed during the first week of classes. Here is a generalized list of useful supplies: [WVSS SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST 25\\_26](#)

We recommend students have their own laptop or Chromebook to use daily at school. Please see the district's policy on Personal Digital Devices on pg.5 of this newsletter.



# September 2-5 Overview

## Tuesday, Sept. 2:

- **Gr. 8 students: Please arrive at the South Campus small gym (1735 Inglewood Ave) between 8:10–8:25am where staff will greet you.**
- 8:30am – Short presentation in the small gym.
- Following the presentation, students will meet their Day 1, Block 2 teacher.
  - They will receive their timetable, an overview of what to expect, and have their school photos taken.
  - Students will receive permission forms for the Sept. 5 Team Building day which must be returned, signed, ASAP to the South Campus Office.
  - Students also meet their senior mentors and receive a WVSS athletic t-shirt.
- Dismissal is approximately 10:20am from the South Campus.

## Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 3 & 4:

- Regular school schedule: 8:30am–3:00pm

## Friday, Sept. 5: Grade 8 Community Building Event!

- Grade 8s will engage in team-building activities with their grade 8 classmates and staff at Ambleside (Fred Jopson Field) from 8:45am–2:30pm. More information will be shared next week.
- The event will be held rain or shine.
- Students dress with their House Shirt (which they will receive on Sept. 3), with extra layers for the weather, if necessary.
- Bring a water bottle and pack a lunch – students cannot use the concession stand.

### **ACTION ITEM FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:**

Please sign the permission form that students will receive on Tues. Sept 2 and return it to the South Campus Office by Thurs. Sept. 4 at 8:30am.



# Administration/Counselling Team

**Mr. Rauh: Principal**.....(srauh@wvschools.ca)  
**Ms. Towers: Grade 10/11 Vice Principal**.....(jtowers@wvschools.ca)  
**Ms. Frith: Grade 8/9 Vice Principal**.....(sfrith@wvschools.ca)  
**Ms. Rice: Grade 8/9 Counsellor**.....(arice@wvschools.ca)  
**Mr. Chan: Youth Worker**.....(ichan@wvschools.ca)  
**Ms. Krieger: South Campus Office Admin**..... (tkrieger@wvschools.ca)

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We encourage all of you to get involved in our school community whether it be through **CLUBS, MUSIC, ART, DRAMA, INTRAMURALS, STUDENT COUNCIL OR ATHLETICS**.  
Stay tuned for more information coming up.

## ATHLETICS

### Athletics updates:

- **Athletics Bulletin Board:** Information and team meeting dates are posted on the athletics bulletin board on the main campus (in between new and old gyms)
- The South Campus will also have information specific for Grade 8s.
- Check out [highlandersathletics.ca](http://highlandersathletics.ca), @wvss\_athletics on Instagram
- **Athletic Directors: Ms. McKee & Mr. MacGillivray** can answer your questions! – [jmckee@wvschools.ca](mailto:jmckee@wvschools.ca) & [cmacgillivray@wvschools.ca](mailto:cmacgillivray@wvschools.ca)

**Fall Sports:** Tryout dates will be posted on the Athletic Bulletin Board

- Volleyball (Girls)
- Field Hockey (Girls)
- Cross-Country (Co-Ed)
- Rugby (Boys)
- Swimming (TBD)



# West Vancouver Schools

## Personal Digital Devices (PDD) Best Practice Guidelines

Personal Digital Devices include any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as cell phones, phones, laptops, tablets, smartwatches and any other portable technology device.



Laptops are the preferred device for school use.

### Plans and Routines

- Have a plan for personal digital devices use in your classroom.
- Have a place for students to store their devices when not in use
- Have a process for how you will handle students who choose not to follow expectations

### Communication

- Direct teach your digital device expectations to all of your students and make sure it is posted and visible in your teaching space
- Make sure students understand your expectations and the consequences of not following them
- Refer to your digital device policy often, especially after winter and spring break
- Make sure you have communicated your digital device expectations and consequences to parents/guardians

### Classroom Environment

- If there is no instructional purpose, technology should not be used
- Before using tech, be clear with your purpose and connection to instruction
- Be clear on expectations for use as well as consequences for misuse
- Begin class with technology turned off
- When the teacher is speaking or direct instruction is occurring, student devices should be closed, clam-shelled or turned over
- Students should not be using devices in unsupervised areas like hallways
- Be consistent with your actions and instructions

Where possible, involve students in developing class expectations around PPD use



Teachers should model proper PDD use

Teachers should monitor student PDD use by wandering around the class and checking in with students often



- Ensure that all adults working with students are aware of the expectations for PDD

### Elementary

Cell phones should NOT be used in elementary



### Secondary

Cell phones should only be used in class if specifically required for a learning task