

THE HIGHLANDER

GRADE 8 NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



Welcome to the 2026–27 school year.
We are thrilled you chose to be a Highlander!

This step into high school marks an important transition and milestone, and we are here to support you and watch you thrive.



ADMINISTRATION & COUNSELLING TEAM

Mr. Rauh.....Principal (Grade 12 Administrator)
Ms. Towers.....Vice Principal (Grade 10/11 Administrator)
Ms. Frith.....Vice Principal (Grade 8/9 Administrator)
Ms. Rice..... Counsellor (Grade 8/9)
Mr. Chan.....Youth Worker
Ms. Krieger.....South Campus Office Administrator

SEPTEMBER AT A GLANCE

7: Labour Day

8: School opens:

- Gr. 8 meet at SOUTH CAMPUS GYM – 8:25am
- Gr. 8 dismissed at approx. 11am (after school photos are taken)

9–11: Regular schedule: 8:30am – 3:00pm

16: Grade 8 Parent Information meeting – 7:00 PM at WVSS Gymnasium

18: Grade 8 Team Building day at Fred Jopson Field (at Ambleside)

25: Professional Development Day – classes not in session

29: Meet the Teacher evening (school-wide) – 5:30 PM

30: National day for Truth & Reconciliation – school closed

2026		SEPTEMBER						
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					

GET READY FOR GRADE 8

A FEW THINGS TO DO BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

SEPTEMBER 1 - SEPTEMBER 11

POLICY & PROCEDURES FORM & STUDENT VERIFICATION FORM

***Action Item:** District Policies & Procedures Form is ONLINE. Parents **must** complete a West Van District Policy and Procedures online release form every year. Here is the link: **2026–2027 Online Policies & Procedures Form.**

***Action Item:** Student Verification Form is PAPER COPY. Students will receive a Student Verification Form on Tuesday, Sept. 8. It is imperative this form is filled out, checked for errors, and returned to the north or south school office.

- Due date for both forms: **Friday, Sep 11, 2026**
- Questions, please contact Ms. Rebecca Avotins at West Vancouver Secondary School

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

STUDENT TIMETABLES AND PORTAL ACCESS:

Student Timetables & Portal Access Friday, September 4 after 3:30pm.

- All students will receive an email in their school email account this week with their MyEd login information. They can use this information to log in to MyEd on Sept.4 to view their timetable.
- Grade 8 students will also receive a printed timetable next Tuesday at school.
- New students and new parents to the school should also receive an email from MyEdBc with their login information (please check your junk mail).
- Information for resetting passwords and other FAQs are posted on the web page: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/family-portal/>

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Recommended list of supplies for students: **WVSS SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST 26_27.pdf**

- **Tuesday, Sept. 8:** Students should bring a backpack with a binder to store important information/sheets that will be handed out (and pack a water bottle and snack).
- **Wednesday, Sept. 9:** A binder with lined paper and pencil/pen is sufficient. Teachers will discuss specific supplies needed during the first week of classes.

FIRST WEEK OF HIGH SCHOOL

YOUR FIRST WEEK: WHAT TO EXPECT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Grade 8 students: Please arrive at the South Campus gym (1735 Inglewood Ave) between **8:10-8:25am** where staff will greet you.

- **8:30-8:50am** – Short presentation in the South Campus gym.
- **8:55am** – Students will meet their Day 2, Block 1 teacher, and go to their class (with the help of the senior mentors).
- **9:00-10:15am** – Students will receive their timetable, a WVSS Athletic t-shirt, information about lockers, their **student verification form**, and other details pertinent to grade 8.
 - Students will also receive a **permission form** for the Sept. 18 Team Building day at Fred Jopson Field which must be returned, signed, by Sept. 11 to the South Campus Office.
- **10:15-approx 11:00am** – Senior mentors will take students to the new gym for their school photos. Once photos are done, students are dismissed from the new gym.
 - Parents/Guardians – if you are picking up your child from school, **please arrange a specific location with your child at either north or south campus for pick up.**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Regular Schedule: 8:30am – 3:00 pm

Day 2 – 1, 2, 3, 4

Students – Bring snack, lunch, water bottle. Bring a binder with lined paper and pencil/pen.
Teachers will discuss specific supplies needed during the first week of classes.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Regular Schedule: 8:30am – 3:00 pm

Day 1 – 2, 3, FIT, 1, 4

Students – Bring snack, lunch, water bottle, a binder with lined paper and pencil/pen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Regular Schedule: 8:30am – 3:00 pm

Day 2 – 2, 3, 1, 4

Students – Bring a snack, lunch, water bottle, and the school supplies you'll need for each class.

AROUND WVSS

STUDENT LIFE, ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS, COMMUNITY

STUDENT LIFE



ACTIVITIES

Gr. 8 Team-building event with Pinnacle Pursuits on Friday, September 18. Students will receive their permission form on Sept. 8, due back by Sept. 11



ATHLETICS

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

- Volleyball (Gr. 8 Girls)
- Rugby (Gr. 8 Boys)
- Cross-Country (Gr. 8 Co-Ed, no try-out, all are welcome!)
- Volleyball (Senior Boys' Team, grade 8s are welcome to try out)
- Field Hockey (Senior Girls' Team, grade 8s are welcome to try out)
- Swimming (Gr. 8 Co-Ed, pending - coach needed)
- Soccer (Gr. 8-10 Boys, pending - coach needed)



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).

Athletic Directors: Ms. Taylor & Mr. MacGillivray – feel free to reach out to them at: ptaylor@wvschools.ca & cmacgillivray@wvschools.ca

COMMUNITY

Get involved in our school community!

Consider joining one or more of the following:

CLUBS, MUSIC, ART, DRAMA, INTRAMURALS, STUDENT COUNCIL OR ATHLETICS!

Stay tuned for information on bulletin boards and in the weekly e-bulletin.

