



KITSILANO SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

We are KITS

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Trustee Liaison:	Ms. B. Parrott	Website:	http://kitsilano.vsb.bc.ca	

Acknowledging that we live, work, learn and play on the traditional and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish people.

Principal's Message

Welcome back students, parents and families to the start of the 2021-22 school year. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and restful summer and time to re-energize as we begin the new school year. We look forward to reconnecting with you and welcoming our new class of Grade 8 students. On behalf of the Kitsilano community, I would like to extend a warm welcome to families new to the school. We are looking forward to the arrival of all students on the first day of school on Wednesday, September 8.

The new school year brings with it much anticipation and excitement and at the same time, for some, perhaps apprehension about a full return. We will approach the full return to in-person learning with great thought and care and support. Please know that the school has been prepared following all the guidelines of the Provincial Health Officer and BC Ministry of Education to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

The year ahead will include many events, activities and opportunities to shape and enrich each student's school experience. Success for every student looks different. I would encourage all students to approach the school year with their goal(s) in mind, a growth mindset, focus and commitment. The Kitsilano staff is dedicated in their efforts to support students in reaching their individual potential. We also recognize that our efforts within the school complement the work of families. We encourage collaboration and a strong partnership with parents and our families. Parents/Guardians are asked to stay connected with the school by keeping informed of the most current information on upcoming events and school news, and to participate in meetings and events whenever the opportunity presents itself.

This newsletter provides students and their families with start-up information that will help prepare for a good start and a positive and successful school year. Please review the information included in this letter that outlines our school opening procedures.

Mr. Gock, Ms. Sehmbi, the Kitsilano staff and I look forward to working with you and we wish you and your child every success in the upcoming school year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer break and we look forward to seeing students on September 8.

Ms. B. Kwon

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RETURN TO SCHOOL HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION

The health, safety and well-being of students and staff continues to be a top priority. The Vancouver School District's plan will provide for a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment. A variety of COVID-19 health and safety protocols and procedures, as advised by health officials, will be in place again this year to help keep everyone safe.

Daily health assessments

All students and staff are required to complete a daily health check prior to coming to school. Students and staff who have COVID symptoms and/or feel unwell should not attend school.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily before sending them to school.

The [K to 12 Health Check website](#) and app is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms. You can download the app on your device:

- [iOS devices \(iPhone/iPad\)](#)
- [Android devices](#)

Daily health checklists are available here: [English](#), [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#), [عربي](#), [简体中文](#), [繁體中文](#), [Français](#), [فارسی](#), [Tagalog](#)

If your child becomes ill while at school

Any child experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms will be moved to a secluded space, such as a first-aid room or designated health room, where they will be supervised and supported by staff. Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child as soon as possible.

Please ensure that the school has your current contact information, including emergency contact information, to ensure timely pick-up.

Wearing masks

As required in provincial guidelines, all staff, students in grades 4 to 12 and visitors are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, including:

- At their desks
- On school buses

Exceptions include:

- A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask.
- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

School staff will continue to focus on the importance of frequent hand washing (hand sanitizing) and of proper respiratory etiquette, such as coughing/sneezing into your sleeve or into a tissue. Over the past several months the District has replaced faucets in all Vancouver schools to enable proper hand washing. Schools have also been provided with hand sanitizing stations for common areas, classrooms without sinks and at entry and exit locations.

Cleaning and disinfecting schools

Like last year, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting will take place in every school in the District. This will include ensuring that all frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected at least once every 24 hours.

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RETURN TO SCHOOL HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)**School Visitors**

Schools in Vancouver will continue to welcome in-person visitors by appointment only. If you would like to make an in-person appointment, please contact the staff member directly. All visitors are required to wear a mask, complete a daily health check and follow all COVID-safety guidelines.

Keeping your distance

Schools will continue to create space between students. This will include management of the movement of students in common areas such as hallways and stairwells to prevent crowding. Students will also be reminded to respect the personal space of others, to keep distance between themselves and others, and, to spread out as much as possible. We will also continue to take students outdoors, as much as possible, to engage in learning opportunities.

During the lunch break, students may sit at tables located in the atrium and throughout the school. Whenever possible, students are encouraged to use the outdoor seating on the school grounds.

Entering and Exiting the School

The doorways to the outside will be designated as either entrances or exits.

• Entrance Doorways

- [West-side main doorway from Trafalgar Street](#)
- [North-side entrances from 10th Avenue](#)

• Exit Doorways

- [East-side doorway leading to school artificial turf](#)
- [South-side doorway leading to 12th Avenue](#)
- [West-side stairwell doorway to Trafalgar Street](#)

- Teachers in classrooms that have entrance/exits doorways that directly lead from/to the outside of the building may designate these doorways as access points to their classes.
- All doorways are available and considered exits in the event of an evacuation scenario.

Ventilation

Over the past year, significant improvements to ventilation systems have been made at all schools. This work has included making repairs and upgrades to mechanical systems, replacing and upgrading filters, setting controls to maximize the intake of outside air into learning spaces. Work has also been done to make sure windows in learning spaces can be opened to provide good ventilation.

More information

More information about plans and guidelines to keep schools in British Columbia open and safe can be found [here](#). The District continues to encourage everyone who is eligible, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Details about vaccinations are available [here](#).

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OVERVIEW OF 2021-22 SCHOOL SCHEDULE

All Vancouver secondary schools will be implementing a new semester schedule. The new schedule is designed to better meet the needs of learners and is based on feedback received last year from students, families, teachers and school-based and District staff.

Semester 1	September 8, 2021 – January 31, 2022
Semester 2	February 1 – June 29, 2022

Students will take four courses from September to January and another four courses from February to June. The adoption of the semester model will see a standard timetable and bell schedule across all secondary schools. School will begin at 8:40 AM and finish at 3:06 PM. This schedule is consistent across all secondary schools in the District and meets the instructional hours set out in the *BC School Act*.

The new timetable also includes two 50-minute periods of flexible instructional time per week. This is instructional time designed to support students’ personalized learning. The intent is to build-in flexibility and choice within a student’s schedule that allows them to determine how, when and where their learning takes place, to access extra help from teachers, collaborate with peers and pursue other learning activities. During this time, all staff will be on site and students will be supported in determining how to use this flexible instructional time.

For more information about the secondary semester schedule, visit the [District’s website](#).

KITSILANO SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

	M/W/F	T	Th
Period 1	8:40 – 10:01	8:40 – 9:36	8:40 – 10:01
Break	10:01 – 10:11	9:36 – 9:41	10:01 – 10:11
FIT		9:41 – 10:31	
Break		10:31 – 10:36	
Period 2	10:11 – 11:32	10:36 – 11:32	10:11 – 11:32
Lunch	11:32 – 12:17	11:32 – 12:17	11:32 – 12:17
Period 3	12:17 – 1:38	12:17 – 1:38	12:17 – 1:13
Break	1:38 – 1:45	1:38 – 1:45	1:13 – 1:16
FIT			1:16 – 2:06
Break			2:06 – 2:10
Period 4	1:45 – 3:06	1:45 – 3:06	2:10 – 3:06

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SCHOOL OPENING DAY: Wednesday, September 8

All students will attend a student orientation in their Period 1-1 class on September 8. On September 4, students will be able to view their schedule on MyEducation BC (<https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/asp/en/logon.do>) to find their Period 1-1 class. Students who do not have a class scheduled in Period 1-1 will report to the Theatre/Auditorium. Please refer to the schedule below for when to attend.

	TIME	LOCATION
Grade 9 Orientation	9:00 – 10:00 AM	Period 1-1 Class
Grade 10 Orientation	10:00 – 11:00 AM	Period 1-1 Class
Grade 11 Orientation	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Period 1-1 Class
Grade 12 Orientation	12:00 – 1:00 PM	Period 1-1 Class
Grade 8 Orientation	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Turf Field

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL STUDENT ORIENTATIONS

During the student orientation, students will receive their schedule, school forms, school agenda, health and safety information and reusable mask. Students should bring a pen/pencil to write with and a backpack/bag to carry materials being distributed.

To ensure the health and safety of everyone, please adhere to the following:

- do your student health check; stay home, if you're not feeling well
- wear a mask
- wash or sanitize your hands upon arriving at the school and proceed directly to your class
- spread out and maintain as much space between other people
- exit the school immediately after your orientation using the exterior doors closest to your Period 1-1 class

GRADE 8 ORIENTATION

As a part of the student orientation for grade 8 students, Link Crew leaders have organized a tour and activities for grade 8 students. Students should wear running shoes and dress comfortably and in clothing appropriate for an afternoon of activities.

During the school year, Link Crew leaders will work with grade 8 students by connecting and checking in. The mentor-mentee relationship will help to support our new students as they make the transition to high school.

FIRST WEEK AT A GLANCE

Please take note of the first week's school activities and plan accordingly.

- Tuesday, September 7 District Anti-Racism Training for Staff
Classes are not in session and school is closed.
- Wednesday, September 8 School Opening Day
Students will only attend for part of the day.
- Thursday, September 9 First full day of school
Classes start at 8:40 AM and end at 3:06 PM
- Friday, September 10 School Photo Day

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SCHOOL START-UP INFORMATION

Please carefully read the information below about our school start-up. Note, some items are time sensitive.

SCHOOL FORMS

During the September 8 student orientation, students will receive two forms (see list below). Please complete and sign all forms and return to your child's Period 1-1 class by **Friday, September 17**. Students who do not have a Period 1-1 class, please return forms to the school office.

- *Kitsilano Secondary – AUP/CASL/Media Consent Form 2021-2022*
- *Emergency Student(s) Reunification Authorization form*

A paper copy of the *Student Verification Form* is usually provided to families to update. This form will now be provided to families electronically to update. The form and instructions on how to update the information on the form will be sent out to families the first week of school.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees are now available to view and pay online through [School Cash Online](#). Families will have to set up an account to pay for school fees using debit or a credit card, or a cheque online.

To register for [School Cash Online](#) go to the school website at <http://kitsilano.vsb.bc.ca>

→ click on the icon, "Pay Fees" at the top of the home page

→ click on the icon, "Sign In" if you already have an account or click on the icon, "Register" to create an account and pay fees

Please note that course fees for workbooks and class materials will not appear on accounts until September 13 when student schedules will be settled. Grad fees will not be collected at this time due to the uncertainty of COVID and its effect on grad events.

To view the school and supplemental fee schedules, go to <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/kitsilano/Families/Fees/Pages/default.aspx>.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Schedules will be available to view on MyEducation BC starting on September 4. To log into your account, use the same log in and password from last year. If you are unable to log in, please email kitsswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca.

The school timetable was constructed based on our enrollment last June. The timetable is extremely tight as is the timeline to make course changes. Student requests for course changes are only permitted if there was an error in programming or there has been a significant change in the student's desired program over the summer.

Change requests may be made for subjects, but not for teachers or to be with peers.

Please note the following:

- Counsellors will not be available to see students in-person to discuss course change requests.
- To request a correction in your schedule, please complete a *Course Error Form* online at <https://forms.office.com/r/WBeA2f630A>. The online form is available starting **Tuesday, September 7** and closes **Friday, September 10, 3:30 PM**. Do not email your counsellor. Requests for changes will only be accepted from the online form.
- Counsellors will contact students directly about their request for a schedule change.
Students are to follow their current schedule until they are contacted by their counsellor.
- Students who do not have a class to go to because they are missing a course, are to go to the Library to work. Priority will be to reconcile incomplete schedules first.

Thank in advance for your patience. Your cooperation will help with the process of reconciling student schedules as soon as possible.

LATE STUDENT RETURN TO SCHOOL

Please notify the school office immediately if your child will be returning to school after September 8. Please provide information with whether your child will be returning and the date of their return to school. Students who have not attended any classes the first week and have not contacted the school may have their courses dropped. Schedules will be held until September 13.

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COUNSELLORS

Students are assigned to a counsellor based on their grade and for grade 8s, their surname.

Grade 9 & Grade 8 Surnames A – E	Ms. B. Patenaude
Grade 10 & Grade 8 Surnames F – Le	Ms. M. DeYoung
Grade 11 & Grade 8 Surnames Li – R	Mr. D. Lin
Grade 12 & Grade 8 Surnames S – Z	Ms. C. Pitman

LOCKERS

The assignment of lockers will take place during the month of September. Students must stay in their assigned lockers and use the school lock provided. Locks are the property of the school and students will be responsible for the cost of replacing the lock if it is damaged or lost. **Students are not to move their lockers without the permission of the administration.** Grades 8 and 9 students have purchased a school lock to use for their PHE classes.

Please note that neither the school nor the Vancouver School Board has insurance to cover loss by theft or damage to personal property of students or teachers. Although supervision by staff and the cooperation of students minimize the possibility of theft, **no money or valuables should be left in hallway or change room lockers.** It is recommended that valuable items be left at home.

STUDENT PHOTOS AND ID CARDS

The Artona Group will be onsite taking photos of all students on **Friday, September 10**. Student photos are used for the Yearbook and a Student ID Card.

Photo Re-takes will take place on **Friday, October 1**. Re-takes will be available for students who were absent on the original photo day, and for those whose original photo did not turn out.

GRAD PHOTOS

Grad photos will take place September 20-25 at Artona Studios in Vancouver. Book an appointment online for a photo sitting at <https://artona.com/schools/KITS>. Grads must be photographed to be included in the grad composite and yearbook even if they will not be purchasing grad photos. There is no cost to have your photo taken.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Kitsilano has many active clubs and membership is open to all students who are interested in participating. Students are encouraged to get involved with the school community to enhance their school experience. More information will be shared later in September about clubs and how to get involved. Stay tuned.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Communication of school information and events contributes to strong partnerships with families in the support of their child's school success. We have a variety of ways in which school information can be communicated to you and for you to keep informed about what is happening in the school. Please consider the following to receive school information in a timely manner:

1. Bookmark the school website and check regularly.
<http://kitsilano.vsb.bc.ca>
2. Read the weekly bulletin posted on the school website.
3. Ensure that we have your correct email address.
Email us at kitsswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca for any updates; be sure to include your child's name and student ID number.
4. Follow us on Twitter ([@KitsilanoSS](https://twitter.com/KitsilanoSS))

CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

If your contact information – address, email, phone, changes at any time during the school year, please be sure to notify the school office at 604-713-8961 or email the school at kitsswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca. If your address is incorrect in our records, you will not receive mailings from the school which can include, newsletters, interim reports, report cards, forms, etc. Similarly, if your child's emergency contact or health information changes during the year, please notify the school office. The safety of your child may depend upon us having correct information on file.

PASSWORD RESETS

There may be times during the year that students will need assistance with re-setting their passwords for their MyEducation BC and/or VSB Student accounts.

- MyEducation BC Account
Email kitsswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca for assistance.
- VSB Student Account
Contact the school librarian for assistance.

KITSILANO PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The Kitsilano Secondary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is very active and welcomes parents to join and attend their monthly meetings. Meetings take place in the evenings and are a wonderful way to get to know what is happening in your school.

More information will be coming about the first meeting of the school year. **All parents are encouraged to attend. This is an excellent way to learn about the school and become involved in your child's school.**

For more information, visit the [Kitsilano PAC website](#).

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ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is very important for success in school. Students are expected to attend all their classes, on time, prepared and ready to learn. If absent, students and families have a responsibility to connect with classroom teachers to obtain and make up work missed during the absence. Please refer to the school website for details on reporting excused absences.

EXTENDED ABSENCES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

It is not recommended that parents take their child out of school for long periods of time as this will impact a student's learning and success. Parents who plan to take a student out of school for an extended absence during the school year should note the following:

- The staff are not responsible to provide a detailed listing of work missed during the absence for your child to complete.
- Families are responsible for providing an educational program for their child.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to practice academic honesty and personal integrity by not participating in or encouraging plagiarism or cheating. Should academic dishonesty occur, the classroom teacher will develop a student success plan in collaboration with the student and their family.

CLOTHING/PERSONAL ACCESSORIES

At Kitsilano we dress in a manner that is appropriate for a learning environment and does not reflect messaging or images which are offensive, discriminatory, or refer to prohibited substances.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal electronic devices are not permitted during class time unless permitted under the direction of the teacher.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The use of fireworks, firecrackers, laser pointers/pens, water toys or balloons, skateboards, and snowballs, is not permitted on school property. Skateboards must remain in lockers during the school day.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

We take ownership of our school and take pride in maintaining a safe and clean environment. The student and the student's parents are jointly liable for any graffiti or other vandalism that may occur. Please obtain permission from the administration before posting or distributing any advertising or publicity material on school property. There is a Vancouver School Board policy of no smoking/no vaping in the school building, on the school grounds, and at school functions.

VISITORS

The school welcomes purposeful visitors, including parents and guardians. Visitors are asked to report to the office to obtain permission to remain in the building. Visitors who have no legitimate business at the school will be treated as trespassers and asked to leave.

SMOKING, VAPING, ILLEGAL DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Please review the following policies with your child:

- City By law: no one may smoke or vape in a school building or on any property, at any school function or on field trips. Possession of vapes and cigarettes are not permitted and will be confiscated.
- No student may be under the influence of, or be in possession of, illegal or non-prescribed drugs or alcohol in the school, in the vicinity of the school or at school-sponsored functions or on field trips. Any infraction will be considered serious and will result in the immediate implementation of school and Board policies dealing with drugs and alcohol, namely, suspensions/transfers/expulsions of students involved.

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