

Community Service and Volunteering

These are clubs or service opportunities that provide a chance for students to help each other or offer a service to the school or community. Clubs and services can include:

- peer helpers;
- peer tutors;
- peer counsellors;
- library monitors;
- multicultural clubs;
- gay/straight alliance clubs (mostly at secondary schools);
- lunch monitors (especially at elementary schools).

What if a school does not offer a club or activity that interests my child?

You can approach the school administration, Student Council, and/or Parent Advisory Committee to let them know that there is a special club or activity you would like the school to offer. The school will decide whether it is possible, if there is a volunteer who will sponsor the activity, and if there is sufficient student interest.

Student Council (SC)

All secondary and many elementary and middle schools have some form of Student Council. A student council is a group of students usually representing each grade level. Under the supervision of a teacher, the SC plans and organizes special student activities. These may include:

- social activities such as dances;
- special school days such as 'crazy hat day';
- fund raising activities for the school and community;
- events that support community activities.

It is important to remember that all extracurricular activities are offered voluntarily by school staff. It is not part of their job to offer these activities.

Elementary, middle, and secondary schools offer extracurricular activities for students. However, the types of activities will vary from school to school. Ask at your local school to see what they offer for your children.

“Extracurricular Activities”

This brochure is one in a series sponsored by the VSB SWIS program and produced collectively by a group of ESL teachers and the VSB MCLW team.



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Extracurricular Activities



Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

What is meant by extracurricular activities?

Extracurricular activities include clubs and other activities offered to students outside of the regular school day.

These activities are:

- for students to pursue special interests.
- offered before and after regular school hours or at lunch time.
- voluntarily supervised by adults, usually teachers, or other school staff.

What is the purpose of extracurricular activities?

These activities:

- allow students to develop additional skills;
- give students a chance to meet more students and make new friends; and
- provide a healthy way to become involved in the school community.

What benefits are there for students to participate in extracurricular activities?

Students benefit by:

- having an opportunity to practice English;
- learning more about Canadian culture;
- meeting more students and making new friends;
- becoming part of the school community;
- developing their special interests and skills;
- practicing leadership skills; and
- working as part of a team.

What types of activities are offered?

Activities can include:

- visual and performing arts;
- academic challenges and/or competitions;
- sports;
- community service and volunteer opportunities.



Visual and Performing Arts

Schools at all levels offer a range of activities in this area that may include:

- drama;
- art;
- dance;
- film;
- photography;
- choir;
- band.

Academic Activities

These often include clubs that focus on activities such as:

- chess;
- creative writing;
- science;
- math challenges;
- student newspaper;
- the environment.

Sports

A wide variety of sports are offered throughout the year. There are fall, winter and spring sports teams. They are usually offered to students at specific grade levels and may be boys' teams and girls' teams or mixed teams of boys and girls. There is often a wider variety of sports offered at the secondary level than at the elementary or middle school level.

Typical sports include:

- badminton;
- basketball;
- soccer;
- softball;
- table tennis;
- track and field;
- volleyball;
- wrestling.

