

# VSB Grade 8

September 2021

## PROGRAMS

All 18 secondary schools in Vancouver offer challenging and comprehensive programs. Many schools have developed their own school-based enrichment programs for a wide range of student interests and abilities. In addition to the neighbourhood school, District programs also offer a set of enrichment programs to meet the needs of students.

Due to COVID 19 there have been changes to District Mini School Application processes. All information nights will be held through online platforms. There is no District Wide Assessment/Test.

### Important Dates

**General Registry:** Apply to the District Mini School General Registry between November 9, 2020 - December 17, 2020 by 3:00pm  
<https://govsb.ca/secondary-programs>

**Complete Program Application Processes:** Connect directly to each Mini School program site to submit required information, and documentation.  
Deadline: December 17, 2020 by 3:00pm

**Check our website for the most up to date information**  
<https://govsb.ca/secondary-programs>

**BRITANNIA HOCKEY ACADEMY** blends regular secondary school coursework, graduation programs and field studies with a licensed Hockey Canada Skills Academy (HCSA). Students receive on-ice training three times per week from September to June.

The BHA instructors are professional Vancouver School Board (VSB) physical education teachers who are trained and certified by Hockey Canada. In addition, a number of specialized certified guest instructors and instructor's assistants will be directly involved in the development of BHA participants.

**Info Night: November 2, 2020**

**BRITANNIA VENTURE PROGRAM** is an academically focused program in grades 8 to 10 that seeks to build excellence in critical thinking, communication and presentation, along with a strong sense of responsibility to self and community. The program is designed primarily to prepare students for future study in the **International Baccalaureate Diploma Program** offered at Britannia in grades 11 and 12.

**Info Night: November 2 2020**

[www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/britannia-secondary/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/britannia-secondary/Pages/default.aspx)

**BYNG ARTS** is designed for students who wish to direct their energy and passion towards the **fine arts**, work within a community of students who share their interests, and maintain strong academic achievement. As a comprehensive Grade 8 to 12 program, Byng Arts operates as a school within a school at Lord Byng Secondary. We promote academic and artistic excellence through curricular and extra-curricular activities in visual arts, literary arts, orchestral strings, concert band, choir, media arts and drama.

**Info Night: Nov 4, 2020**

<http://byng2.vsb.bc.ca/byngarts>

**DAVID THOMPSON ODYSSEY PROGRAM** is a unique combination of accelerated courses in Math and Science and enriched courses in Social Studies, and English taught in a cohort model. Our goals are academic excellence, leadership, and social responsibility through service to others. Odyssey students are curious and enthusiastic learners. We offer interdisciplinary thematic studies and field studies to extend learning beyond the classroom.

**Info Night:** <https://blogs.vsb.bc.ca/thompson-odyssey/>

**GLADSTONE MINI** is an accelerated program, in which learners **earn credit for grades 8, 9, and 10 in two school years.** The program emphasizes high academic achievement, creative and original thinking, independence and initiative, and responsibility and leadership. Successful applicants are self-motivated, able to work co-operatively and value thinking for its own sake.

**Info Night: October 28, 2020**  
[www.vsbcca/schools/gladstone/Teaching-and-Learning/Programs/Pages/Mini-School-Enrichment-Program.aspx](http://www.vsbcca/schools/gladstone/Teaching-and-Learning/Programs/Pages/Mini-School-Enrichment-Program.aspx)

**HAMBER CHALLENGE STUDIO PROGRAM** offers both acceleration and enrichment for highly motivated and capable students who have a desire to shape the direction of their own studies and a wish to pursue areas of passion. Creative and critical thinking, project-based learning, and student ownership are key tenets of this program.

The program consists of English, Social Studies, Technology Innovation & Design, and Critical Thinking/Fine Arts. Students may also be considered for accelerated and enriched Math and Science courses.

**Info Night: October 20, 2020**  
<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/eric-hamber/Teaching-and-Learning/Programs/Challenge%20Studio%20Program/Pages/Program.aspx>

**IDEAL MINI** administered by Churchill Secondary, in a unique self-contained campus, offers a complete 8-12 program. We feature a safe environment for academically motivated and creative students who feel they would **flourish in a smaller setting.** Ideal fosters an active tradition of student community involvement, social justice and academic excellence.

Suitable students for our program are those who are academically capable, community-minded, leadership-oriented, enthusiastic about learning and can work cooperatively with others.

**Info Night: November 3, 2020**  
<https://www.idealminischool.ca/>



**JOHN OLIVER DIGITAL MINI** is a program that promotes strong, self-directed and motivated lifelong learners who are able to maximize a **technology enhanced** learning environment. There will be experiential and practical hands on learning through extended field studies related to core subjects, leadership and **outdoor education** as well as math acceleration and enrichment in core subjects.

**Info Night: October 26, 2020**  
<https://blogs.vsb.bc.ca/jo-minischool/>

**KILLARNEY MINI** is a grade 8 - 10 program that focuses on **project based learning, outdoor education and enriched cross curricular study** that challenges students to innovate and excel. Our goal is to provide an environment where academically strong students become well rounded learners who have a passion for BC's natural wilderness and a drive to ask the big questions that lead to deeper understanding.

Our courses include Science, Social Studies, English as well as our project based learning course "Project Innovation" and can include accelerated honours mathematics.

**Info Night: October 14, 2020**  
<https://sites.google.com/view/killameyminischool/home>

**KING GEORGE MINI** is a program designed for highly motivated, academically capable, and leadership oriented students. Students are scheduled into four (Math, Science, English, Socials) of eight classes together in grades eight and nine. This scheduling arrangement facilitates teacher and student collaboration along with an enhanced sense of community and cooperation. The program is focused on: **Enriched International Baccaure Middle Years Program, Leadership & Service in Action, Accelerated Math Program.**

**Info Night:** <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/king-george/Teaching-and-Learning/Programs/KG-Mini-School/Pages/Default.aspx>

**MAGEE SPARTS** offers an educational program to students participating in high-performance athletics in provincial, national or international competitions, and to students performing in an area of the arts at an elite level. Due to the rigour of competition, training and learning, potential SPARTS students should be able to work independently at an above average or Applying level, have excellent work habits and organizational skills and possess a positive attitude towards learning.

Sparts students are at Magee for half a day taking only academic courses, and receive Fine Art or PE credit for their training outside of school.

**Info Night: October 19, 2020**  
[www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/magee/Teaching-and-Learning/Programs/SPARTS](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/magee/Teaching-and-Learning/Programs/SPARTS)

**POINT GREY MINI** is a comprehensive, 8-12, academic, enriched programme which values **community, leadership, and service.** Successful students are self-motivated, academically able, and have a high degree of self-discipline. Program components include cross-grade courses and activities, cultural outreach, and outdoor education.

**Info Night: October 15, 2020**  
<https://pgmini.org/>

**PRINCE OF WALES MINI** is a district enrichment program established in 1973 to meet the needs of highly capable, motivated students. Our school seeks students who are academically capable, self-motivated, leadership-oriented and enthusiastic. We encourage students to develop as well-rounded individuals – to find an **appropriate balance of academic, athletic, artistic and social pursuits.**

**Info Night: October 21, 2020**  
<https://www.pwminischool.com/>



**TEMPLETON MINI** is a grade 8 to 12 **enrichment program** for students who have demonstrated above average academic achievement and whose curiosity and motivation lead them to seek a challenging and enriching school setting.

At Templeton Mini we strive to create a program that promotes critical thinking through problem solving, project-based learning, and cross-curricular activities. Participation in community service and outdoor education leads students in the Mini School to graduate as engaged, thoughtful, and productive members of society.

**Info Night: October 27, 2020**  
<https://templetonminischoolwixsite.com/templeton/home>

**TUPPER MINI** is a five-year district program that is designed to meet the needs of **academically advanced** and motivated students. Tupper Mini includes English, Socials, Math, Science and may include French.

This program also has a Mini Council (two students per grade) where opportunities for networking, team building and problem solving are planned under the supervision of the Mini School Coordinator. Field trips, debates, assemblies, event planning, live performances, and an annual mentorship conference are some of the many enrichment activities offered throughout the five years.

**Info Night: October 22, 2020**  
<https://www.tupperminischool.ca/>

**VAN TECH FLEX HUMANITIES** is a vibrant, continually evolving, enriched **liberal arts program**, structured on the basis of student self-directed learning.

Critical thinkers, who thrive in active, autonomous, cooperative groups, have a passion for philosophical and historical thinking, and who are comfortable in a relatively unstructured learning environment, will excel in Flex Humanities.

Students explore a unique, sequential blend of Philosophy, Literature, Social Justice, History, Geography, Political Science, Fine Arts, Film Studies, and Spanish.

**Info Night: October 21, 2020**  
[www.vsbcca/schools/vancouver-technical/Teaching-and-Learning/Programs/Pages/Flex-Humanities-Mini-School.aspx](http://www.vsbcca/schools/vancouver-technical/Teaching-and-Learning/Programs/Pages/Flex-Humanities-Mini-School.aspx)



**VAN TECH SUMMIT PROGRAM** is an accelerated **science & math program** with an additional emphasis on social justice, community involvement and leadership.

Successful students will have a strong background in science and math, good organizational capabilities, be task oriented, and be willing to take on leadership both inside and outside the school community.

**Info Night: October 8, 2020**  
<https://vtsummit.wixsite.com/summit>

**WINDERMERE LEADERSHIP** students are part of a community support network that prioritizes **social responsibility, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.** Throughout the program, students fully participate in a variety of school, community, and outdoor education activities that provide them with a diverse range of experiences. Our inclusive approach and ability to engage the community have made our classroom a dynamic place for learning while concurrently providing opportunities for students to get involved in many vital issues.

**Info Night: November 3, 2020**  
<https://www.windermereleadership.org/>

# FRENCH IMMERSION AND MANDARIN

## The **UNIVERSITY TRANSITION PROGRAM**

is a two-year program that offers an annual cohort of 20-25 BC academically gifted adolescents from diverse BC School Districts the opportunity to engage in rigorous and intensive preparation for early entrance to UBC and successful studies thereafter. Students build a strong community of care and develop effective strategies for individual and collaborative learning while they pursue their BC Dogwood and entrance to UBC.

**GOLD** is for intellectually Gifted students who meet the Ministry criteria for Learning Disabilities, often referred to as 'twice-exceptional'. David Thompson Secondary and Prince of Wales Secondary have GOLD programs.

Students need to be referred from their Elementary school for this program.

**FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMS** (Grade 8-12) are at Kitsilano, Churchill and Van Tech.

The secondary component of the French Immersion program provides students with the opportunity to continue their studies and the development of higher level thinking and verbal skills in their second language.

**Students must have completed the elementary French Immersion program (or its equivalent if transferring from another district, province or country).**

[www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\\_Learning/Secondary/French\\_Immersion/](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Secondary/French_Immersion/)

## **EARLY MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM**

is at Windemere Secondary. Students take two Mandarin courses in grade 8, and one Mandarin course in grade 9 as a co-hort. **In grades 10-12 students complete coursework in the mainstream program.**

**Priority is given to students who complete the Early Mandarin Bilingual program at Norquay.** Other students with program level of Mandarin are welcome to apply.

**MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM** is at Eric Hamber Secondary. Students take two Mandarin courses in grade 8, and one Mandarin course in grade 9 as a co-hort. **In grades 10-12 students complete coursework in the mainstream program.**

Priority is given to students who complete the Mandarin Bilingual program at Jamieson. Other students with program level of Mandarin are welcome to apply.

## SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

Priority for enrolment is given to students who live in the school catchment. If space is available, after catchment students have been accommodated, out of catchment students will be considered. Out of catchment students will be considered through the cross boundary application process.

**MAGEE LEADERS** program fosters the responsibilities of citizenship and individual potential to **effect positive change in our society** by encouraging students to act on their convictions and to exercise sound judgment in doing so. The Leaders' timetable of enriched courses also includes classes outside of the cohort, cultivating a greater sense of connection with our entire Magee community.

**Note: This is not a District Program.**

**SYNERGY AT CHURCHILL** is for students who are talented and capable of going **beyond the standard curriculum in scope and depth.** Synergy students stay together for English, Socials, Applied Skills, and Science. Bright curious creative thinkers who have leadership potential are candidates for Synergy.

**Note: This is not a District Program.**

## **STEM PROGRAM AT TEMPLETON**

combines science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into a multi-course cohort that engages students in project based learning. Exemplifying BC's new inquiry-based curriculum, students work in collaborative teams to activate core and curricular competencies through authentic, multi-week design challenges based in real-world problems.

Students have full access to facilities, elective courses, clubs and teams at Templeton Secondary School.

**Note: This is not a District Program.**



**Check with your local secondary school for up to date information on school based programs.**