



ODYSSEY ADVANCED PLACEMENT MINI SCHOOL PROGRAM

David Thompson Secondary School
1755 East 55th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5P 1Z7
Tel: 604-713-8278 Fax: 604-713-8277

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

David Thompson Odyssey students learn new things every day in a fun, tight-knit classroom. As the “AP Headquarters of Vancouver,” David Thompson currently runs more Advanced Placement courses than any other school in the VSB. The opportunity exists to earn university credits in a diversity of subjects such as Physics, Biology, Calculus, English Literature, and Economics.

As part of the Odyssey program, students remain as a cohort in English, French, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Applied Skills in grades 8 and 9. Students will complete the grades 8-10 Science and Math requirements in two years, instead of three, which gives them more opportunities to pursue their passions at a higher level. In grades 10–12, students continue with enriched and Advanced Placement courses in English, French, Math, Science, and Social Studies (see table on page 2).

At the senior level, a variety of additional Advanced Placement courses are offered, including Calculus, Physics, English Literature and Composition, Chinese Language and Culture, Human Geography, Microeconomics, Psychology, and Statistics. Students may participate in any of these programs if they meet the established criteria. Thus, this program can accommodate students who have a variety of talents and interests.

By starting their Odyssey in Grade 8, students may compete in national and international science fairs, job shadow a mentor, earn top honors in math contests, and find volunteer opportunities to promote personal growth. If students choose, they may participate in a sister school exchange with the Yokohama Science Frontier High School in Japan. Extended field trips to regions in BC and Alberta may also be available. By the end of their high school journey, students will have lifelong friends and five years of priceless memories.

Your Odyssey begins here!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students in grades 8 and 9 are required to fulfill a minimum of 20 hours of community service at each grade level. The students are expected to find a suitable placement that will help them develop a sense of social responsibility.

SELECTION PROCESS

Students are selected through testing for entrance during their grade 7 year. Any students who wish to enter the program during grade 8 or later should contact the Odyssey AP Program Coordinator to inquire if space is available. Selection will be based on student records and the results from a variety of testing instruments. A committee of representative teachers will review applications and determine the successful candidates.

STRENGTHS OF OUR PROGRAM

- ❑ Odyssey has been a successful program since its establishment in 1989.
- ❑ Students are integrated into the whole school community in other courses.
- ❑ David Thompson offers a wide selection of elective courses and extra-curricular activities.
- ❑ Historical results show impressive student outcomes in both AP exams and post-secondary choices.

CONTACT

Please direct any questions about this program to the Odyssey AP Program Coordinators: dtodyssey@vsb.bc.ca

Fostering critical thinking through enrichment and acceleration
ODYSSEY ADVANCED PLACEMENT MINI SCHOOL PROGRAM

SUMMARY OF COURSES

COHORT CLASSES		PATHWAYS		
GRADE 8	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12
English 8E	English 9E	English 10E	English 11E	English 12E/AP English Literature & Composition
French 8E	French 9E Mandarin 9 Spanish 9	French 10E Mandarin 10 Spanish 10	French 11E Mandarin 11 Spanish 11	French 12 Mandarin 12 Spanish 12
Math 8E	Math 10E	Math 11E	PreCalculus 12E	Calculus 12 AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics Geometry 12
Science 8E	Science 10E	Biology 11E Chemistry 11E Physics 11	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics 1 and 2 AP Psychology	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics 1 and 2 AP Psychology
Social Studies 8E	Social Studies 9E	Social Studies 10E	20 th Century World History 12E	AP Human Geography 12 Law 12 Philosophy 12 Social Justice 12

Other AP courses	AP Chinese Language and Culture AP Microeconomics
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PROJECTED FEES:

Field Trips:

Local: \$30-\$100

Multiday: \$400-600

Odyssey Clothing: \$35-55

Social Activities (optional): TBD

Students are expected to participate in group fundraising activities for the multi-day field trip.

TIMELINE

Parent Information Evening: Thursday, October 17, 2019, 7PM in the Auditorium

Entrance Testing: Cognitive, Math, and Writing Examination on November 19, 2019, 1PM at sites to be determined – notification through elementary schools

School Application Deadline: Thursday, December 19, 2019, 3PM
Submit to the school office with report cards attached.

Personal Interviews: To be announced

Notification of Acceptance: First offers on February 19, 2020 by e-mail (or telephone)
Second offers on February 26, 2020 by e-mail (or telephone)

HOW TO APPLY:

Step 1: Complete the general online application form at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/programs/mini-school-registration>
The online application is available October 24 – November 7, 2019. Completion of this application automatically registers you only for the entrance testing.

Step 2: Go to the David Thompson website: <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/thompson/Programs/Pages/Odyssey.aspx>
to complete the Odyssey Mini-School application form.

Step 3: Submit a copy of your final Grade 6 and Term 1 Grade 7 report cards to the David Thompson Secondary School main office by no later than 3 PM, Thursday, December 19, 2019.