

John Oliver Secondary School

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2021-2022 GRADE 8 HANDBOOK

**Welcome
to
John Oliver Secondary School**

School Overview

John Oliver is a comprehensive school of nearly 1100 students in grades 8 - 12 supported by almost 60 teachers and 40 additional support staff.

John Oliver offers a varied and rich program that includes a strong foundation in academic skills, both in the main school and the Mini School.

As well, the school is home to some of the best technical studies shop spaces in the city, a vibrant teaching cafeteria and an acclaimed music program.

In addition to our Mini School, John Oliver has a number of district programs for special needs students and a district outdoor education program.

Extra-curricular opportunities are available in community service, clubs, social activities, music and drama. A full range of sports is offered throughout the year.

John Oliver has an enthusiastic and supportive Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and encourages all parents to contribute to our dynamic school community by joining PAC.

School Contacts

Principal... .. Mr. B. Schieman
Grade 8 Vice Principal 2020-2021... .. Ms. C. Kinnon
Articulation Co-Ordinator... .. Ms. C. Kinnon
Counselling Department Head.....Mr. R. Edge
Grade 8 Registration Counsellor for 2021-2022.....Mr. A. Steinruck

School Philosophy & Goals

THE FOUR PILLARS

The vision of success for learning for all our students is to develop their intellectual, emotional, and physical potential in order to enable them to appreciate their own worth and the worth of others, and to function responsibly and effectively in a changing and increasingly technological society. The school's focus has also been to articulate and pursue these aims in the broader context of developing, in students, the skills and competencies, reflected in the redesigned curriculum, that will enable them to live a meaningful, happy and well-balanced life. To this end, John Oliver's Honour your Education policy distils, into simple, practical actions, the embodiment of the value of education in a manner that is accessible for students.

Furthermore, John Oliver continues to emphasize the development of educated citizens. This is reflected in the school's ongoing work around the recently redesigned code of conduct, based on the courage to show **Compassion, Optimism, Unity, Responsibility, Adaptability, Gratitude, and Engagement**, both in learning and in life. It is our hope that students, staff and parents will embrace the spirit of the redesigned code of conduct in the classroom, in the school, and in the community.

In an inclusive process involving students, staff and parents, John Oliver has identified the following inquiry questions (previously known as goals):

Theme 1: Social & Emotional Well-Being

How do we nurture the social and emotional well-being of our students?

Theme 2: Building Curiosity & Imagination

How do we build students' curiosity and imagination in this process of life-long learning?

Theme 3: Accessible Learning

What instructional strategies can we use to support our diverse learners?

Theme 4: Indigenous Education

How do we increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

School Contact: John Oliver Secondary School
530 E. 41st Avenue
Phone: 604-713-8938 FAX: 604-713-8937
<https://johnoliver.vsb.bc.ca>

Administration: Principal: Mr. Schieman
Vice Principals: Ms. Sandri, Ms. Kinnon

Counsellors Ms. A. Alvares – Gr. 10
Mr. R. Edge (Department Head) – Gr. 11
Ms. E. Kenny – Gr. 9
Mr. A. Steinruck - Gr. 8

Gr. 12 students are shared amongst all counsellors. Parents are always welcome to contact their child's counsellor

School Website: <https://johnoliver.vsb.bc.ca>

Please visit the school's website for up-to-date information, announcements, a list of John Oliver's staff and much more information about the school.

MyEd is the District's system whereby parents and student can access the student's report card, attendance, and course schedules. The password created by the family should be shared amongst parents and students. Any problems with MyEd please call the office for help.

Fees: School and course fees are paid online at: <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/> Please log on to this website, register and all information about fees is available here.

Financial Hardship Policy

The Board of Education Trustees is committed to ensuring that no school-age student will be denied an opportunity to participate in a course, class or program because of an inability to pay fees. Parents and guardians unable to pay some or all of school fee are invited to speak to their child's teacher, school counsellor, and/or the school Principal.

Attendance: Parents are asked to call the school in the morning (starting 8am) to report a child's absence that day. The absence is then recorded as an 'excused' and the automatic attendance phone system will not call home. It is helpful to have the student number ready when calling.

Required Forms: <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/>

Log on to this website and all necessary forms each student is required to do is listed here. Please do this as soon as you can as they are mandatory and the office will need to follow up with those who have not done so.

There will be some forms that are necessary to have parent's signatures and these will be provided in classes during the first week of school.

September

Every fall John Oliver organizes special events or puts in place certain initiatives to help our Grade 8s feel more comfortable in their new school and be more successful. Usually included in this are the following:

GRADE 8 WELCOME

The first day of school is a series of interactive games and encounters designed to welcome the new Grade 8s and provide a positive initial contact between these younger students and their older peers. The events help our new Grade 8s to adjust to their new settings, structures, relationships and expectations.



GRADE 8 WEEK

A theme week that is built around a series of events designed to build a strong sense of belonging and inclusion. The events help our Grade 8s to make new friendships and connections with teachers.

CLUBS DAY

Mid-September usually sees the set-up of John Oliver's Clubs Day where over 20 of our active clubs showcase their special events and activities planned for the year.

TIMETABLE & BELL SCHEDULE

John Oliver operates on a Day 1/Day 2 timetable. Classes are between 70 and 80 minutes in length with four classes per day. There are four rotations of the blocks throughout the year. A schedule of these rotations and dates will be sent to students' homes with the August newsletter and will also appear in the Student Agenda which is handed out in September. From year to year, small adjustments may be made to the sample schedule below.

	Monday - Friday
Warning Bell	8:35
Period 1	8:40 - 9:50
Break	9:50 - 10:05
JO Reads	10:05 - 10:25
Period 2	10:25 - 11:35
Lunch	11:35 - 12:20
Warning Bell	12:15
Period 3	12:20 - 1:40
Class Transition	1:40 - 1:45
Period 4	1:45 - 3:03

Support For Learning Success

PEER TUTORING Grade 11 and 12 students work in small group settings to assist students in being successful in their course work. Peer tutors help students by organizing them, keeping them on task, sharing learning strategies with them and by showing students how to go about completing particular assignments.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE The Skills Development Centre at John Oliver provides students with study skills and academic support. Recommendations by teachers and counsellors will be made as to the students enrolling in this course; this course is usually taken in lieu of French 8 or a grade 8 elective.

GRADE 8 READING AND WRITING ASSESSMENT Every fall John Oliver does a reading and writing assessment for all new Grade 8s in order to assess reading levels, comprehension, and proficiency in writing. This information is then shared with Grade 8 teachers so that specific student needs and concerns can be addressed.

Support For Transition Success

HEALTH SERVICES The school nurse is available in the Health Room located next to the main office. Office hours are posted each fall. The nurse is available to discuss health concerns such as healthy eating, stress, birth control or a student's unique health problems. The school also has a First Aid attendant should there be a need.

COUNSELLING SERVICES Counsellors provide assistance and support to students in personal, social, educational, and career matters. Referrals to community agencies and district programs are provided for students who are having difficulty coping with their school work. Counsellors work with students, teachers, parents, and administrators to ensure that each student's needs are met. Parents with questions about the Grade 8 program should contact their Grade 8 counsellor(s) at the school.

REPORTING ON STUDENT PROGRESS There are four formal reports per year, an interim and three full report cards. In addition, once a term interim reports for students who may be struggling are mailed home. Parent/Teacher Conferences take place after Term One Report Cards and provide an opportunity to discuss more fully the progress a student is making. Parents may contact classroom teachers at any time via phone or email.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL TEAM Our Community School Team works to ensure that there is a coordinated and seamless transition from Grade 7 to Grade 8. The team works to provide students with extra support or to connect students with other programs, clubs, athletics, or support organizations.

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER The school police liaison officer has an office next to the Medical Room. The officer visits classrooms every fall to introduce himself and is available to counsel students on police and legal matters.

Top Suggestions to Ease Your Child's Transition to High School

Parents should:

- ◆ Provide young children with manageable tasks that will help them develop organizational skills and responsibility.
- ◆ Encourage children to try new things and to regard failure as a necessary part of learning and growing.
- ◆ Become knowledgeable about the needs and concerns of young adolescents in transition.
- ◆ Help children turn their anxieties into positive action by learning about school rules, schedules, locker procedures and the availability of counseling.
- ◆ Attend school functions and stay involved in children's schooling.
- ◆ Support children in their efforts to become independent.
- ◆ Maintain strong family connections with young adolescents.
- ◆ Be alert to signs of depression or anxiety in their children and seek help.



Leadership and Social Responsibility

John Oliver is a school deeply committed to the value and benefits of socially responsible initiatives. Contributing in the classroom and the school community in the areas of volunteering, leading, participating, and cooperating is as important as academic, intellectual, physical, artistic and aesthetic achievement.

Socially responsible behaviours are important educational outcomes. They help create safe, orderly, and positive school environments that improve learning.

Each year John Oliver actively incorporates a wide range of socially responsible activities into the school year - everything from initiatives to help the poor and homeless to literacy projects working with our partner elementary schools. Grade 8's are encouraged to participate in these activities and enrich the lives of others while at the same time showing the depth of their character and commitment.

Regular Grade 8 Program

All students in Grade 8 take eight courses. Students must take seven required courses and one elective course selected from three different options.

REQUIRED COURSES (seven courses in total)

APPLIED DESIGN, SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGIES 8

This course will provide grade 8 students with the opportunity to take a combination program of Business Education, Home Economics and Technical Studies.



In the Business Education part of this course students will learn the technological systems available at JO and in the workplace, which may include: coding, building e-based logs and other forms of digital communication.

In Home Economics students will study Foods and Textiles. They will have the opportunity to learn food preparation and sewing techniques.

In the Technical Studies part of this course students will study Electronics, Woodwork, and Creative Metalwork.

With exposure to so many different areas, students will be better able to select appropriate electives in future years.

FRENCH 8

French 8 is a fun year where teachers and students collaborate to create silly stories using useful vocabulary. Stories will often incorporate elements of francophone culture, geography, food and music. By year's end, students will be able to have simple yet spontaneous conversations in French and will be on the road to learning a new language! This class is a gateway to French 9 and first year Spanish.



LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Using both an individual and a collaborative approach, students in Language Arts 8 will explore texts in a variety of formats: oral, written, visual, and digital. Within the framework of communication, thinking, social and personal competencies, Language Arts 8 encourages students to respond to ideas and experience text as a source of creativity and joy, as well as provides them with opportunities to engage critically when reading and viewing material.

The texts considered in this course catalyze the exploration of identity and the self, and look at the world from a multitude of perspectives, including the First People's perspectives. Students will learn content such as story and text structures, strategies and purposes, language structures and conventions.



MATHEMATICS 8

Mathematics 8 is a continuation of Mathematics 7. All students in grade 8 take mathematics. The big ideas of Mathematics 8 involve understanding ratios, rates, and percents, computing operations with fractions, representing linear relationships, understanding surface area and volume of 3D objects, and analyzing data by using averages.

A black chalkboard with white chalk writing. The quadratic formula is written as $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$. Below it, the square root of 49 is written as $\sqrt{49} = 7$.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 8

Physical and Health Education 8 is an introduction to the John Oliver Physical and Health Education Program. In grade 8 students are exposed to a variety of activities in the realm of team and individual sports, minor games, dance, gymnastics and fitness. Students will develop an appreciation for personal fitness, the development of life-long physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. They will also learn to work in a collaborative setting, to problem solve and to explore and enhance their leadership skills. Finally, students will develop the ability to make healthy choices with respect to their emotional and mental well-being, and to incorporate strategies for developing positive relationships and connections with others in their community. All JO PHE students are encouraged to purchase JO PHE clothing and an additional lock to secure their valuables in the changing rooms located in the gymnasium. Appropriate athletic attire is required for participation.

JO PE Intramurals: is an in-school athletics league that allows students to participate in various athletic and recreational activities throughout the school year during lunch hour. The focus of the intramural program is to promote life-long recreational pursuits in a fun, cooperative learning environment while enabling students to positively contribute to their school community.

Department Website: <http://jo-online.vsb.bc.ca/blogs/jo/pe>. Find all the information you need to answer your PE questions.

SCIENCE 8



In this laboratory-centered and science literacy focused course, students will engage in a variety of fascinating science topics as they strengthen science inquiry skills and learn to use lab equipment. Students will continue to develop the core competencies of critical thinking, communication, and personal and social responsibility.

Major subject areas include lab safety, processes of science (scientific method and literacy), life science (cells as the basic unit of life), physical science (matter and energy), and earth science (plate tectonics). A deposit is required for the use of the BC Science 8 workbook.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Social Studies 8 includes geography concepts and skills: location – latitude & longitude, grid systems; map skills and identification – scale, elevation, landforms, bodies of water, political and natural boundaries and features, time zones. Social Studies 8 also includes historical topics such as Civilizations of the Americas (North, Central and/or South), Civilizations of Europe (Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment & Age of Reasoning, Age of Exploration, Industrial Revolution), Contact, Exchange & Conflict between Civilizations (European Colonialism and exploration in North America, Economics and Settlement). Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on development of skills (geography, historical inquiry, critical thinking) in conjunction with the building of content and knowledge.



Regular Grade 8 Program – Elective Courses (Select one course only)

1. FINE ARTS 8

Fine Arts 8 includes three main areas: Arts, Drama, and Digital Arts. Students take one each term with specialist artists/teachers to broaden their horizons.

The Visual Arts component includes the elements of art and the principles of design with relationship to drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture. Original images and ideas are encouraged and developed in both the 2d and 3d art projects.

The Drama content of this course consists exclusively of creative and improvisational drama with some script work.

The Digital Arts component explores the various digital tools we have at JO to explore self expression and the digital world in which we live.

OR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

2. CHOIR 8

Students will learn a range of different choral styles. No previous experience is required.

3. BEGINNERS BAND 8

This course is for students with no previous experience on Concert Band instruments (brass, woodwinds, and percussion).

4. JUNIOR BAND 8

Prerequisite: At least one year of secondary, elementary, or private band experience.

Class meets on timetable concurrently with Intermediate Band.

ELL

In consultation with elementary school staff, it may be determined that a student's educational needs can best be met through placement in our ELL program. The goal of the program is to develop, as quickly as possible, the English language skills necessary for success in mainstream courses.

John Oliver Mini School Digital Immersion Program

Admittance by application only through District Process. Applications forms are available online through our website. Important dates regarding application deadlines, district-wide testing dates and acceptance timelines are made available each fall. Please call the school or check out the Vancouver School Board website.

Candidates are interviewed before being accepted into the program. John Oliver Mini School offers accelerated learning for academically gifted students and endeavours to provide students with a technology supported and enhanced learning environment. Each incoming student will work with a laptop in which he/she will be able to learn, build, and improve upon their skills and knowledge by learning through rich media and web-based delivered content in a wireless classroom.

Field trips and outdoor education are integral components of this Program and are used to enrich student learning. Students are provided with opportunities for leadership and service to the school and community and will participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Challenge beginning in Gr. 9.

Students who have a keen interest in computer technology, are highly motivated, creative, able to think critically and who have a strong desire to become well-rounded global digital citizens should apply to our Program. Students should have a good academic standing. The Program is limited to 28 new Grade 8 students per year.

Students are still part of John Oliver Secondary School and have full access to elective courses, clubs and athletics in the school. The model that we follow is a "school within a school" which encourages a small community environment where everyone has an important role in the overall functioning of the school and the Program.

District Special Education Programs

John Oliver supports students with learning needs through a wide spectrum of services. Students who are fully integrated into regular classes can be assigned a block through the Skills Development Centre where they receive instruction in learning strategies and help with their daily assignments. Where appropriate, a Resource Teacher is assigned to students with specific learning disabilities to monitor their progress, liaise with teachers and provide individualized support. Specific programs are in place to address the learning needs of students. These programs are accessed through Central Screening. Refer to the John Oliver website for more specific information on individual district programs available.