



# BRITANNIA NEWS UPDATES FOR FAMILIES

FRIDAY, MAY 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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## Hello Britannia Families,

We have several updates and information to share with you about what is happening at the school, in the district and province wide.

Goals for this past week:

- To deepen our understanding of the TEAMS learning environment.
- To continue to support students without access to technology throughout the week.

Vancouver School District Priorities During the COVID – 19 Response:

1. Safety and wellbeing
2. Communication
3. Connection
4. Continuity of Learning

## Health and Safety

- Ensuring health and safety is our top priority as we all work to support our students.
- Should you have any pressing concerns or needs including food and groceries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's grade counsellor or program teacher.

## Student Belongings and Learning Materials Pick-up **and drop off!!**

- We continue to permit access to the school by students to visit their lockers and pick up learning materials.
- This will continue next week as well on Tuesday and Thursday between 11:30 pm and 1:00 pm.
- Students may come to the school, **if they have been contacted by their teachers**, to pick up materials for learning at home.
  - Distribution of materials will be done **at the doors leading to the GYM.**
  - Students who would like to retrieve materials from their lockers may also come at this time (Tuesday and Thursday between 11:30 and 1:00).
  - **Students must report to the doors leading to the Gym** where they will be escorted to their lockers.
  - Only students (not adults) will be permitted in the school.
- Students may **return school materials and library books** during this time. There is a non-contact drop box available.
- Class assignments are not to be dropped off; these must be shared electronically with teachers.

## Continuity of Learning

- The continuation of learning and assessment of student learning during the COVID-19 response is important. When it comes to assessing students' learning and providing final grades, teachers will recognize and reflect the following learning goals:
  - Learning Together: A partnership between families and educators
  - Learning in a New Space: A journey with many pathways of curiosity and exploration
  - Learning for All: An opportunity for engagement and connections for all students
  
- Assessment and Reporting of Continuity of Learning
  - The district has published information on their website for families to explain the guidelines for the assessment and reporting of the learning that will take place during the COVID-19 pandemic. This information may be found [here](#).
  - For more information about learning from home,
    - see the VSB resource hub [here](#),
    - the district page containing [Tips for Parents](#) for supporting your grade 8 to 12 teen,
    - the district's [COVID-19 Updates](#)
    - [Keep Learning](#)
    - [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
  - For additional details or questions about your child's learning, please contact your child's teachers or administrator.
  
- Summer School and VLN
  - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vancouver School District changed how summer school will be offered. This year, summer school will be:
    - Offered online only
    - Be limited to grades 10-12 academic completion courses
    - Be six weeks in length from July 2 to August 5, 2020
    - Be available only to students currently enrolled in a Vancouver Public School.
    - Registration for grade 12 students is more limited. Any grade 12 interested in summer school, please contact your counsellor.
  - Registration will be on a first come first served basis, via online only. Registration opens on May 11, 2020 and closes on June 12, 2020. [Visit \*\*summer.vsb.bc.ca\*\* for more information.](#)
  - Additional learning opportunities for students is available through the [Vancouver Learning Network](#).

## Graduation 2020

- Please refer to a [letter from Robert Schindel](#), VSB Associate Superintendent, regarding a decision to cancel in-person graduation ceremonies and celebrations at secondary schools in Vancouver.

The administration and staff of Britannia understand this is disappointing and we will work with our grad committee and staff to determine how to celebrate the milestone using the approach described in the letter.

We will be in contact with graduates and their families in the coming days to share details about our plans for graduation, and the distribution of the many awards and scholarships at Britannia.

## BC's Restart Plan and Reopening our Schools

- The Vancouver School district and staff at Britannia Secondary are beginning discussions and planning for the potential reopening of our schools in response to the announcement from the BC government on Wednesday of this week. As plans are developed, they will be communicated with our communities.
- The following information on School's reopening is taken from **BC's Restart Plan** posted on the government of BC website:
  - As COVID-19 spread, governments everywhere took action to reduce in the classroom learning.

For most British Columbians with young children, this meant having to stay at home to look after their kids. While many workplaces have made work-from-home accommodations, that hasn't been an option for everyone.

Our schools and educators rose to the challenge with online instruction and resources to keep our kids learning, but this placed a heavy burden on parents to support their kids as they learned at home.

We know there is no substitute for in-class instruction — and an important step toward our recovery is getting kids back into the classroom, so parents can get back into the workplace.

Initial health data indicates children are less affected than adults by the COVID-19 virus. Public health staff and officials will continue to review the health data. And the Ministry of Education and school divisions all around B.C. are reviewing options to allow for a safe return to school.

An announcement on a phased approach to resuming in-class instruction will be made in the coming weeks.

This will not be a return to normal. With weeks left in the school year, we anticipate many kids will not return to the classroom until September.

But we are also exploring ways to safely get some kids back to school before the summer, to allow more parents to return to work. How these changes unfold are the focus of intensive discussion among Ministry of Education officials, school trustees, the BC Teachers' Federation, CUPE, and other education sector partners.
- The ministry also released a **Measured approach to phasing in a return to learning in classrooms**. This document briefly indicates (on page 4) a phased-in approach to resuming in-class instruction. Note that we are currently in stage 4 and the next phase is stage 3 where we would provide access to in-class learning as needed for grades 6 to 12 on a part-time basis, and remote and online learning would continue to be available for students.
- For more information on protective measures that will be required of schools and post-secondary institutions, please refer to the **BC COVID-19 Go-Forward Management Strategy** and the **BC COVID-19 Go-Forward Management Checklist**.

## Additional Resources

- **Vancouver Coastal Health COVID-19 Information**
- Once again, we would like to pass on a link to an online resource, created by one of our teachers, that gathers info about supports for our students and their families **<https://careerlifeclass.com/pandemic-support>**

## Coffee & Questions with VSB Board Members

- VSB Board Chair, Janet Fraser, and Vice Chair, Carmen Cho, are doing a Virtual Coffee & Questions Live on Saturday at 10.30am.

It is an opportunity for parents and families to ask questions & hear about Board work.

**Questions need to be submitted in advance (until 12pm Friday, May 8).**

Details at <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/News/Pages/Coffeeandquestions.aspx?rf=32595fe2-c2a4-4ef7-bc2a-ac6a8ed193b5>

## Staff Contact Information

- If you would like to contact a teacher, counsellor or administrator, their emails may be found here

Yet again we wish to thank you for your patience and understanding as we all work to support the students of Britannia Secondary. We do know that this is not forever, but it is for now. As Dr. Bonnie Henry reminds us, be calm, be kind and be safe.

Take care,

**The Brit Admin**

Britannia Website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/britannia-secondary/Pages/default.aspx>