



Grade 8

September 2019

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.

To apply for most District programs, students must complete the **District Cognitive Skills test on November 20, 2018**

Important Dates

REGISTER ONLINE for the test October 26 to November 8, 2018

Test date and time November 20 at 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., 2018
(Students with a designated Special Need and IEP may choose to register to take the test at 9 a.m. at VSB Education Centre)

Application to programs deadline December 20, 2018 by 3 p.m.

Check our website for the most up to date information
www.vsb.bc.ca/programs/mini-school-registration

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.

Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 17, 2018

DAVID THOMPSON ODYSSEY PROGRAM is a unique combination of accelerated courses in Math and Science and enriched courses in Social Studies, English, and French 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.

Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 16, 2018

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.

No academic test required.
Info Night: November 14, 2018

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.

Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 22, 2018

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.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: November 7, 2018**

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.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 25, 2018**

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 (minimum B average), community-minded, leadership-oriented, enthusiastic about learning and can work cooperatively with others.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 30, 2018**

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.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: November 5, 2018**

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.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 15, 2018**

KING GEORGE MINI is for motivated and creative students entering Grade 8. This challenging program offers both **academic and technology enrichment in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.** Students entering this program will enjoy academic challenges with opportunities for creative problem solving, critical thinking, and teamwork focusing on the use of the iPad.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: November 6, 2018**

MAGEE SPARTS offers an educational program to students participating in **high performance athletics** at the provincial, national or international levels, and to students performing in an **area of the arts** at an extremely high level of excellence. Eligible students must possess a B average in their academics while also maintaining a rigorous 25 hour a week training schedule in their specific sport or art. 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.

**Test not required.
Info Night: October 24, 2018**

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.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 10, 2018**

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.**

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 16, 2018**





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.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 23, 2018**

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.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 18, 2018**

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.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 9, 2018**

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.

**Test required. Register online in Nov.
Info Night: October 11, 2018**

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.

**Test not required.
Info Night: November 1, 2018**



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.

Info Night: October 1 and 29, 2018

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 and Mandarin Bilingual

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

MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM

is offered at Eric Hamber for those students who have completed the Bilingual Program at Jamieson. This is a continuation of intensive language study as a cohort for grades 8 and 9 and options to continue studying Mandarin subsequently in grades 10-12.

Students take two Mandarin Language courses in Grade 8.

EARLY MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM

Students enrolled in the Norquay Early Mandarin Bilingual Program have the opportunity to continue their studies in Mandarin through their secondary years at Windermere Secondary School.

Other students with program level of Mandarin may also apply

School-Based Non-District Programs

School Based programs are developed at the school level and are offered to students district wide **only if space is available.**

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.
Info Night October 24, 2018

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.
Info Night October 15, 2018

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.
Info Night November 15, 2018



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