

John Oliver Secondary School

530 E. 41st Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5W 1P3

Phone: 604-713-8938

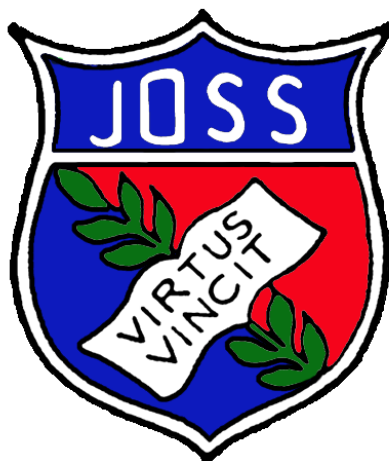
Fax: 604-713-8937

Web: <http://jo-online.vsb.bc.ca>

GRADE 8

HANDBOOK

2017 - 2018



*“The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man’s
foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher”.*

Thomas Huxley

**Welcome
to
John Oliver Secondary School**

School Overview

John Oliver is a comprehensive school of nearly 1200 students in grade 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. P. da Silva
Grade 8 Vice Principal 2017 - 2018 Mr. D. Wilmann
Articulation Co-ordinator Ms. L. Reynolds
Counselling Department Head Ms. A. Alvares
Grade 8 Registration Counsellor for 2017 - 2018 Ms. A. Alvares
Parent Advisory Committee - Chair..... Ms. A. Montgomery

School Philosophy & Goals

As a school, John Oliver sees as its prime task that of helping parents to prepare their young people for purposeful and productive living. The school recognizes different kinds of achievement at many levels and offers diverse programs to allow for different pupil development patterns.

In an inclusive process involving students, staff and parents, John Oliver has identified two school goals:

1. To improve the achievement of all John Oliver students with a focus on literacy and numeracy
2. To reinforce and improve Social Responsibility at John Oliver

To help reach these goals, students have played an integral part, participating in student forums and contributing their ideas and perspectives at School Growth Committee meetings. In addition, the school's very successful "J" Code - our code of conduct and responsibility - helps in creating an atmosphere in which both academic success and social responsibility can best take place.

Justice:

Create and support a safe, caring, just and honest environment.

Ownership:

Take responsibility: own your behaviour and actions.

Knowledge:

Strive for the best possible education in all aspects of school life.

Effort:

Make an effort at all times.

Respect:

Respect all people, their property, values and differences.

Success:

Follow the J.O.K.E.R. code to achieve success.



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)

ENGLISH 8

The main goal of English 8 is to provide a smooth transition from elementary Language Arts to Secondary School English studies. The emphasis in language is on the elements of the sentence, the paragraph, and the essay, and on writing as a process with several stages; the emphasis in literature is on reading and comprehension of a variety of literary forms. Appropriate texts are offered to promote enjoyment of reading and writing. In particular, a focus on independent reading is included in order to foster a love of reading in young students.

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.

MATHEMATICS 8

Mathematics 8 is a continuation of Mathematics 7. All students in grade 8 take a math course. Students who have struggled with Math 7 should, with parental permission, be enrolled in Mathematics 8 Adapted, a course designed for students who need extra math support. Elementary school teachers also make recommendations for certain students to enter Mathematics 8 Adapted.

A blackboard with white chalk writing. The quadratic formula is written as $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$. Below it, a calculation shows $\sqrt{49} = 7$.

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 \$10 deposit is required for the use of the BC Science 8 Workbook.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 BOYS/GIRLS

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.

FRENCH 8

French 8 uses the new Ca Marche Program in a communicative approach to teach basic vocabulary and structures. Students will create and present projects such as a photo-web on their likes and dislikes, a demonstration of their favourite recipe and a technology based presentation on one area of the French-speaking world. Course work includes reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students will participate in group, pair and individual work. (Based on referrals from teachers, French 8 may be replaced with a Skills Block or an English Learning Center (ELC) block.



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 work place, 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.

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

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:

CHOIR 8

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

BEGINNERS BAND 8

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

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.

Applications forms are available online, at John Oliver's main office or one can be sent via facsimile by phoning (604) 713-8938.

(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 Grade 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 an academic standing of "B" or better. The Program is limited to 30 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.

Learning Support Program (LSP)

The goal of the Learning Support Program is to provide a supportive classroom where students can be successful in grades 8 and 9. An additional goal of the program is to encourage greater social awareness and self esteem. In grade 8 and 9 the curriculum in the four core academics of English, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics is adapted to meet specific learning needs with an emphasis on developing effective learning strategies and on providing remediation for academic deficits. A skills support block is included to help students focus on thinking skills and appropriate study strategies.

Students will be fully integrated in Physical Education, Fine Arts, and Applied Skills courses.

GRADE 8 PROGRAM

- ◆ Core English
- ◆ Core Socials
- ◆ Core Science
- ◆ Core Mathematics
- ◆ Skills Support
- ◆ Physical Education
- ◆ Applied Skills
- ◆ Fine Arts 8 / Choir 8 / Band 8

The program is limited to 15 students in grades 8 and 9. All students will be working on an Individual Education Plan. Students will be integrated into the larger student body at John Oliver when they enter grade 10 or another appropriate placement.

Admission into this program is through Central Screening.

Support For Learning Success

MATHEMATICS/SCIENCE TUTOR CLUB

The Math & Science Tutor Club is comprised of the top grade 11 and 12 math/science students at John Oliver. These individuals donate their time to help students from grades 8 – 12 every Tuesday & Thursday after school in the Learning Commons throughout the school year.

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.

READING PROGRAM

John Oliver has a daily Reading program(20 minutes per day) where students read for pleasure. Sixty plus years of research has shown over and over that students who read for pleasure will be more likely to succeed academically in all subject areas.

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.

PEER COUNSELLORS

Senior students complete counselling training and are available to work with students who may be having difficulties adjusting to secondary school. Peer Counsellors have experienced many of the same difficulties in the past few years, therefore, it is often easy for younger students to talk with them. Peer Counsellors also work closely with the students' Counsellors.

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.

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.

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 WELCOMING

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 including a Grade 8 Dance and a day of games is 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.

CLUBS BOOKLET

Published every fall, this booklet introduces students to a wide and varied range of clubs that they can join. Examples include the Dance Squad, Counterattack, Destination Imagination, the Eyes of Hope Club and dozens of others.

FINE ARTS PRESENTATIONS

Every year the Fine Arts Department puts on a multitude of events:

- JO Film Festival (in conjunction with ReelCanada.ca)

- A Main Stage Drama production

- Winter Festival Music Concert

- Karaoke Nights

- Art Exhibits

ATHLETICS PRESENTATION

Every year the school's Athletics Director presents to the incoming Grade 8s information related to a wide and varied selection of team and individual activities which include:

Fall: volleyball (girls), field hockey, cross country, soccer (boys), rugby (boys 8/9)

Winter: basketball, wrestling

Spring: track & field, golf, volleyball (boys 8/9), soccer (girls), softball (girls), ultimate, badminton, rugby

John Oliver Athletics Website: <http://jo-online.vsb.bc.ca/athletics>

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.

Timetable and 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

Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.

Carl Sandburg

Notes

