



JOHN OLIVER SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

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Principal

Ms. C. Kinnon

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Mr. P. da Silva

Director of Instruction

Ms. J. Alexander

Liaison Trustee

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

As we head back into school for the start of another action filled year of learning, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the John Oliver (JO) family. If you are a returning parent of a JO student it is great to have your son/daughter back with us for one more year, if you are the a parent of a starting Grade 8 or new student starting at John Oliver, I would like to welcome you for the first time.

I recognize that September can be an anxious time for parents and students. I can reassure you, however, that we have an exceptional staff at our school who are dedicated to providing support to each and every young person, as they transition back into the routine of school, once again. This year the school is continuing with the new curriculum implementation process, and we will be providing important notices and updates for parents as new information on assessment and reporting practices are implemented. The new curriculum provides a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to engage deeply in learning for the 21st Century. This year, the school has worked hard to provide a range of new and innovative programming to support the diverse learning needs of our student body, and we will be providing you with updates about these learning initiatives on our school website: jo-online.vsb.bc.ca and through our weekly parent bulletins (Week At A Glance or WAAG).

The school will be making use of our extensive community connections to plan a year of opportunities for students to extend their learning beyond the walls of the school. This may include field trips, outdoor education excursions, or preparing for major projects. Whatever it may be, these opportunities extend the learning in a host of ways, and provide important opportunities that allow students to develop confidence and to learn through many different modalities. Supporting students to find success at school is a major focus at our school, and we have developed a number of important tools to assist students to experience and to enjoy success. These include our school Code of Conduct, our School Agenda, and Agenda App. There will be assemblies that will be used to celebrate student accomplishment, and to share in the schools collective successes. Each year we develop extended learning opportunities that include active participation with the community and support students to become active citizens. Through community, volunteering and other opportunities students can enhance their learning and become global citizens.

Getting ready for school is always the major focus as the summer comes to a close and students and parents are busy preparing for the September return. The most important message that I can send you all at this time is to enjoy the final days of summer, and to return to school in September refreshed, excited and ready to learn!

Have a great summer I look forward to seeing you all in on September 4th!



Mr. Damian Wilmann
Principal

John Oliver Secondary School "Courage" Code of Conduct

COURAGE

Be the first to stand up. Take chances. Don't back up!

Compassion (All we need is love)

Have empathy for everyone in your school and in your community.

Optimism (Create your own sunshine)

Think positively because there's a solution to every problem.

Unity (Come together)

Come together as one community and embrace our differences.

Responsibility (Take charge of your choices)

Own up to your actions and choices, and be aware of the consequences.

Adaptability (Change happens, so be flexible)

Adjust to change and step out of your comfort zone to experience life.

Gratitude (Expect nothing; appreciate everything)

Recognize that there's always something for which to be thankful.

Engagement (Get involved)

Support each other and actively participate in the community, in school, and in your own life.



JO Reads!

At John Oliver, we believe that reading is an important life skill for all students. To support this, John Oliver dedicates 100 minutes of time per week to engaged reading, tied to the start of each day's second period.

This time is meant to support reading in general, promote literacy and allow for cross-curricular spinoffs. This twenty minutes per day is intended to support sustained reading in an area or a topic that interests your child. The goal is to provide a regular, consistent environment that encourages students to pursue reading for pleasure.

The John Oliver Learning Commons (Library) has a wide range of novels, biographies and non-fiction chosen to support students' interests. The Learning Commons' commitment is to provide a wide range of print material so that every student can find something to enjoy.

Encourage your child to read every day!

STUDENT EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

It is extremely important that the school office has an up-to-date Student Emergency Contact Form on file. In case of illness or emergency we need to be able to reach parents/guardians or emergency contacts. This form (pink) will be given to all students **the first day of school to take home and return the following day or in homeroom classes.**

OUR SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER

John Oliver welcomes back our School Liaison Officer, Cst. Vegt, who will focus his efforts in a pro-active fashion at the school, promoting positive relations between youth and the police, as well as acting as a resource person to the JO community in educational and, if necessary, enforcement roles.

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Co-Chairs: Sheril Gelmon, Sukhminder Guru and Ramandeep Minhas

All parents/guardians of students at John Oliver automatically belong to and are voting members of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). The PAC is dedicated to the education and well-being of the children and helps provide the best educational support possible for its students working towards common goals. Parents are encouraged to participate in meaningful educational activities and decision-making to strengthen the role of families in education. The role of the PAC includes:

- supporting educational opportunities for students
- promoting co-operation between home and school
- communicating between parents and the school
- providing a forum for dialogue between parents and the school
- assisting parents to familiarize them with school events/activities
- advising the administrative team of ongoing issues/problems
- advising the administrative team/staff of parental views about school programs, policies and activities
- organizing educational and special events

Parent meetings are usually held once every month and the Principal or a Vice-Principal attends. This is a time for all parents to hear updates happening at John Oliver. There are parent representatives on the working committee (PAC Executive). Through meetings, newsletters and meeting minutes there is an active effort to keep all parents informed and involved in school activities.

PAC Meeting dates for 2018-2019:

7pm, JO Learning Commons

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Wednesday, October 24, 2018

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

No meeting in December

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

No meeting in March

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

W E L C O M E !!!
Tuesday, September 4th, 2018



Gr. 8 Students: Grade 8 students are asked to report to John Oliver's **gym at 8:30 am**. They will be met by our Link Crew students who will guide them through a fun filled day of activities. Grade 8s will also have a homeroom at 10:00 am where they will be given their schedule, locker, and other important school documentation. The grade 8 students will be dismissed once homeroom activities have concluded, which should be no later than 11:30am.

Gr. 9 – 11 Students Grade 9, 10 and 11 students are expected to meet in the Auditorium at 11:00 am. The students will be introduced to the school administration and counselling team. Once the assembly is completed, the students will proceed to their homeroom to hand in school fees and also collect their schedules, lockers, and important school forms. Students may also bring payment for school fees with them. Grade 9, 10, 11 students will be dismissed once homeroom tasks are completed, which should be around 12pm.

Grade 12 Students Grade 12 students are expected to arrive in the Auditorium at 1pm where they will meet their administration team and counsellors. Once they assembly is completed, grade 12 students will proceed to their homeroom to hand in school fees and also collect their schedules, lockers, and important school forms. Grade 12s' dismissal will be approximately at 2pm.

WHAT TO BRING

Please bring your school fees to homeroom during the first week of school. School fees may be paid by cheque, cash, or online (please see online payment option registration procedures on the school website or under the General School Fees section of this Newsletter). Cheques are payable to John Oliver Secondary School.

Classes begin Wednesday, September 5th, so please bring binders, paper, pens, pencils, erasers, white-out and lunch (full cafeteria service is scheduled to start on Wednesday, September 5th).

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULES

Counsellors will be in the school on August 27, August 28 and August 29 to correct schedules for the 2018-2019 school year.

Students will be contacted by telephone by their counsellor during these three days for schedule corrections involving conflicts, incomplete schedules and changes based on Summer School completion. **No requested schedule changes can be considered at this time. Students will receive their timetable during Homeroom on Tuesday, September 4th.** Enjoy the rest of your holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all back in September.

Counsellor assignments for the 2018/2019 school year are as follows:

- Grade 8 Ms. S. Birkenhead
- Grade 9 Mr. A. Steinruck
- Grade 10 Mr. R. Edge
- Grade 11 Ms. A. Alvares
- Grade 12 Ms. A. Alvares (all students with last names ending A-C)
Plus: Peer Counselling and International Students
 Ms. S. Birkenhead (all students with last names ending D-L)
 Mr. R. Edge (all students with last names ending M-P)
Plus: Take A Hike
 Mr. A. Steinruck (all students with last names ending Q-Z)

BELL SCHEDULE FOR 2018-2019

	TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	Collaborative Planning Bell Schedule
WARNING BELL	8:35			8:35
PERIOD 1	8:40 - 9:50	1	1	8:40 - 9:35
BREAK	9:50 - 10:05			
J.O. READS	10:05 - 10:25			
PERIOD 2	10:25 - 11:35	2	2	9:43 - 10:38
LUNCH	11:35 - 12:20			
WARNING BELL	12:15			
PERIOD 3	12:20 - 1:40	3	3	10:45 - 11:35
				Lunch: 11:35 - 12:20
PERIOD 4	1:45 - 3:03	4	4	12:20 - 1:40 Collaborative Planning Time: 1:45 - 3:03

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT J.O.

Do you want to know when the next Professional Development Day is? Or when and where your child's final Provincial Exams are being held? What about homework assignments? Do you want to know what intramural sports are being held this fall?

John Oliver, like most Vancouver schools, is providing more and more of our important information online. And while every teacher may not yet have a blog and some information may still not make it to the J.O. website, please consider using the school's website to find out what is happening at your child's school: <http://jo-online.vsb.bc.ca>

During our transition to a more environmentally wise form of communication, we will do our best to keep all information current and accurate. Any suggestions you might have to help our school better connect to our community is always appreciated.

Teachers, counsellors and administrators may all be contacted through the school's main phone number: **604-713-8938**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The school is in a partnership with parents and the students in order for the students to have a successful and fulfilling high school career. We need to work together to make this happen.

School and VSB expectations of behaviour:

Your child's Agenda Book, which he/she will receive on the second day of school, has a section at the beginning detailing the Code of Conduct and behavioural expectations regarding drugs and alcohol, violence, harassment, academic honesty (cheating), and internet use policy. Please read carefully.

SECURITY

We urge students to not bring large sums of money, expensive electronics and other valuables to school. The few thefts that occurred in the last school year occurred because students shared lockers with others (which is strictly forbidden by school policy) or shared their combinations with others. This can cost families a great deal of money at the end of the year, in particular if textbooks are stolen. The average cost of textbooks is \$90.00. Students are liable for the cost of textbooks even if they are stolen. Parents and students are reminded that neither the school nor the Vancouver Board of Education has insurance to cover the loss or damage of students' personal property.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is one of the most important factors for success at school. At John Oliver the majority of the students are conscientious, responsible learners. We want to encourage our new students to begin their high school careers in the best possible manner. Among those students who have the most difficulty in school and go on to fail courses or their year, are the ones who have poor attendance. The school is working hard with all students to make it clear that good attendance in all classes is a requirement both for success and continued standing in the school. We are hopeful that all parents and guardians will work closely with us to support good attendance. Here are some important ways you can help.

Absence Notes:

Students must come with a note from home whenever they have been absent, even if you have phoned the school ahead of time to let us know that the student is ill or will be absent. The reason for this is that teachers need to see the note in order to record the absence as a legitimate absence and so the note can be processed by the office and the Counsellor.

The note must contain the following information:

- student name, student number, reason for absence, parent or guardian signature, current phone number where parent/guardian can be reached, date and blocks absent

If there is no note for an absence it will be deemed “unexcused”, and parents may expect phone calls from teachers, counsellors, or the administration depending on the severity of the problem. You may be required to come in to meet with school personnel and your child may have consequences that include attendance cards or contracts.

A computer phone system is in place which will contact your home on the day of the absence to let you know if your child has missed any classes.

You should always feel free to contact the Counsellor if you are concerned about your child’s attendance or any other aspect of his or her schooling.

WHEN THERE IS A PROBLEM

If your son or daughter is falling seriously behind in his or her work or attendance, you may receive a phone call from individual teachers or an interim report in the mail. These will be mailed out once a month in the last week of the month. Please assure that address information is kept current. The interim will indicate which subject the student is having difficulty with, and what the problem is, along with a grade or percentage.

An “I” (Incomplete) report is given to a student who is at risk of receiving a failing mark. The “I” report form will show exactly what the student needs to do to bring his or her mark up to a Pass. There is a portion on the bottom for you to sign. Please sign it to indicate you have seen the report and return the signed portion to the subject teacher.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- * During the year there will be several opportunities for parents to come to the school. Some of these will be in order for you to meet your son/daughter’s teachers and discuss his/her progress and program, others will be to showcase the musical, athletic or dramatic talents of our students. We welcome you and urge you to attend these events. You will find them very useful and very enjoyable.
- * The school welcomes your calls. You may contact individual teachers, the counsellor or the Administration if you have concerns or questions about anything that is happening at school or in classes.
- * Being successful in high school requires a commitment on the part of the student to attend, be punctual and do the required work and study. Parental support for these efforts is crucial. Make sure your son/daughter is leaving home in plenty of time to arrive at school with time to go to her/his locker and **arrive in class before the bell goes at 8:40 a.m.**
- * Establish a homework time and place.
- * From time to time your son/daughter will bring home fliers and letters informing you of up-coming events. Please read these items and call the school should you have specific questions or concerns.

Ten Ways to Help Your Child Get Organized

Developing good organizational skills is a key ingredient for success in school and in life. Although some people are by nature more organized than others, anyone can put routines and systems in place to help a child "get it together." The following is a list of strategies that you can use to help your child get — and keep — her life under control.

1. Use checklists.

Help your child get into the habit of keeping a "to-do" list. Use checklists to post assignments, household chores, and reminders about what materials to bring to class. Your child should keep a small pad or notebook dedicated to listing homework assignments. Crossing completed items off the list will give him a sense of accomplishment.

2. Organize homework assignments.

Before beginning a homework session, encourage your child to number assignments in the order in which they should be done. She should start with one that's not too long or difficult, but avoid saving the longest or hardest assignments for last.

3. Designate a study space.

Your child should study in the same place every night. This doesn't have to be a bedroom, but it should be a quiet place with few distractions. All school supplies and materials should be nearby. If your young child wants to study with you nearby, too, you'll be better able to monitor his progress and encourage good study habits.

4. Set a designated study time.

Your child should know that a certain time every day is reserved for studying and doing homework. The best time is usually not right after school — most children benefit from time to unwind first. Include your child in making this decision. Even if she doesn't have homework, the reserved time should be used to review the day's lessons, read for pleasure, or work on an upcoming project.

5. Keep organized notebooks.

Help your child keep track of papers by organizing them in a binder or notebook. This will help him review the material for each day's classes and to organize the material later to prepare for tests and quizzes. Use dividers to separate class notes, or color-code notebooks. Separate "to do" and "done" folders help organize worksheets, notices, and items to be signed by parents, as well as provide a central place to store completed assignments.

6. Conduct a weekly cleanup.

Encourage your child to sort through book bags and notebooks on a weekly basis. Old tests and papers should be organized and kept in a separate file at home.

7. Create a household schedule.

Try to establish and stick to a regular dinnertime and a regular bedtime. This will help your child fall into a pattern at home. Children with a regular bedtime go to school well-rested. Try to limit television-watching and computer play to specific periods of time during the day.

8. Keep a master calendar.

Keep a large, wall-sized calendar for the household, listing the family's commitments, schedules for extracurricular activities, days off from school, and major events at home and at school. Note dates when your child has big exams or due dates for projects. This will help family members keep track of each other's activities and avoid scheduling conflicts.

9. Prepare for the day ahead.

Before your child goes to bed, he should pack schoolwork and books in a book bag. The next day's clothes should be laid out with shoes, socks, and accessories. This will cut down on morning confusion and allow your child to prepare quickly for the day ahead.

10. Provide needed support while your child is learning to become more organized.

Help your child develop organizational skills by photocopying checklists and schedules and taping them to the refrigerator. Gently remind her about filling in calendar dates and keeping papers and materials organized. Most important, set a good example.

Adapted from "Tips for Developing Organizational Skills in Children" by the [Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities \(CCLD\)](#).

Supplies:

- 1 – 1½" or 2" binder (for academic courses)
- 1 – 1" binder (for elective courses)
- binder dividers
- lined loose leaf paper
- highlighter pens
- sticky notes (ie. Post-it Notes)
- multiple pens
- multiple pencils
- ruler
- erasers
- calculator with fraction button
- pencil case for supplies

Extra Supplies

- pencil crayons
- felt markers
- scissors
- USB stick
- graph paper
- email address

****Note that these supplies will likely have to be replenished throughout the year.**

SCHOOL FEES

At the beginning of the year, students pay **General School fees, an optional Yearbook fee, and for some courses, a supplemental/enrichment fee.** Throughout the year the students will be asked to pay for field trip expenses to cover the cost of enriched learning experiences outside the classroom. They may also pay athletic fees to participate in school-sponsored athletic activities. Lost or damaged textbooks will be charged to the student at the current full replacement cost.

John Oliver policy is that all fees, field trip expenses, textbooks and monies owing to school programs must be paid by cash (**Exact Amount Owing**) or cheque. **Cheques should be made payable to: JOHN OLIVER SECONDARY SCHOOL and be attached to a fee schedule, field trip permission form, athletic form, or fee owing receipt and include the student name, student number and homeroom.**

Thank you for your co-operation in implementing this policy.

General School Fees

Prior to the commencement of each school year, the Vancouver School Board is required to publish a schedule of the fees which will be charged to students in the coming year.

Standardized General School Fee Schedule

Fee Type	Gr. 8	Gr. 9	Gr. 10	Gr. 11	Gr. 12
<i>Student Agenda Book</i>	\$ 9.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
<i>Student Activities/Student Leadership</i>	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00
Student locker and lock	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00
Total	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00

Includes: intramurals, clubs, student welcome events, social responsibility activities, Student Council

Optional Fees	Gr. 8	Gr. 9	Gr. 10	Gr. 11	Gr. 12
<i>Yearbook-not required</i>	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
<i>PE T-Shirt (recommended)</i>	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
<i>PE Lock</i>	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 9.00

Online payment registration

You are now able to register – a simple process that takes only a few minutes – by visiting <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com> or visiting our website at <http://www.jo-online.vsb.bc.ca> under Publications. You will need your child's usual first name, last name and date of birth to register.

IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED IF PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE ONLINE INSTEAD OF SENDING CASH/CHEQUE WITH YOUR CHILDREN – THANK YOU

Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the parent help desk at 1-866-961-1803 or by visiting schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support

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.

The Ministry of Education provides an allocation to School Boards for basic instructional materials. In order to finance programs to the level our parents and students expect, there may be a need to charge supplementary fees in some areas. In accordance with Bill 20, supplemental fees may be charged for optional workbooks, materials and equipment for projects which the student will be able to take home. These fees are collected by the individual classroom teacher.

Fine Arts:

Art 8 (sketchbook)	\$10.00
Art 9/10 (supplementary supplies)	\$25.00
Art 11/12 (supplementary supplies)	\$30.00
Art Careers	\$35.00
AP Art	\$35.00
Photography 9/10	\$20.00
Photography 11/12	\$30.00

Home Economics:

Foods & Nutrition 10	\$35.00
Foods & Nutrition 11/12	\$45.00
Home Ec. 8	\$ 5.00
Textiles Studies 10	supplemental cost based on individual projects
Textiles Studies 11/12	supplemental cost based on individual projects

Technical Studies:

Tech Ed. 8	\$5.00
All other Tech Studies courses	supplemental cost based on individual projects

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

AP courses Fee of \$140 charged (subject to change per AP / USD exchange rate)

Certification Programs Fee may be charged for optional certification programs
(ie SuperHost, FoodSafe, First Responders, CPR)

Optional Field Trips/Activities Fees may be charged

Refundable Workbook Deposits Fees may be charged

The Vancouver School Board recognizes that some families may not be able to afford the fees described in this notice. Board policy states that no student will be denied an opportunity to participate in a course or activity because of an inability to pay school fees. If you feel you may have difficulty paying some or all of the amounts listed, please speak to your child's teacher, school counsellor (where applicable), or an administrator.

