



JOHN OLIVER SECONDARY SCHOOL
604-713-8938
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<http://jo-online.vsb.bc.ca>

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Mr. P. da Silva
Principal

Ms. L. Reynolds
Vice Principal

Mr. D. Wilmann
Vice Principal

TBA
Director of Instruction

TBA
Liaison Trustee

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

The summer is coming to an end and a new school year will begin shortly. On behalf of the John Oliver Secondary School staff, we welcome all new and returning John Oliver students and their families.

This year we will introduce our new code of conduct to John Oliver school. The COURAGE code of conduct, located on the following page, was created with input from students, staff, and parents. Our expectation is that our community embodies the spirit of the COURAGE code in the classroom, school, and broader community.

The new British Columbia curriculum will be implemented for grade 10-12 courses in the Fall of 2018. As a result, our staff will be focussed on transitioning from the current curricular standards to the new curriculum during collaboration days. In preparation for the new curriculum we will hold information sessions for any parents who may have questions regarding the upcoming changes. More information will be coming with regards to this.

The new curriculum will require that students have a strong set of foundational skills - digital competencies, organizational competencies, numeracy skills, and literacy skills. This year the school will put a strong emphasis on the organizational competencies – work habits, attendance, study habits, and time management skills. We encourage parents to work with us to develop your child's organizational competencies by going over the digital or paper-based agenda, checking that homework is entered and completed, and following up with your child if there are any absences. Together we can foster the development of well-rounded educated citizens.

I am looking forward to this year and hope that it will be a successful year at John Oliver for you and your family.

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)

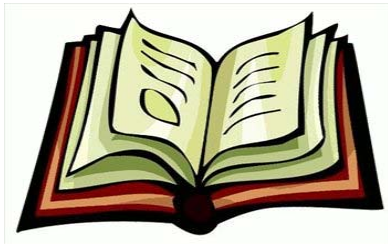
Adjust to change and step out of your comfort zone to experience life.

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 on 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 regardless of their reading level. The Learning Commons' commitment is to provide a wide range of print material so that every student can find something he or she enjoys.

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 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 our staff in educational and, if necessary, enforcement roles.

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

TBA - PAC Chair

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 to helping the school provide the best education possible for its students as it works 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
- communication 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 (exact dates to be determined) and the Principal or a Vice-Principal attends. This is a time for all parents to hear the latest on happenings at John Oliver and to discuss parents' ideas and ask questions. 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.

W E L C O M E !!!
Tuesday, September 5th, 2017



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 fill day of activities. Grade 8s will also have a homeroom at 10:00 am where they will be given their timetable, 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 timetables, 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 timetables, lockers, and important school forms. Grade 12s' dismissal will be approximately at 2pm.

WHAT TO BRING

DAY ONE: Please bring your school fees - cheques or cash only, please - cheques payable to John Oliver Secondary School.

DAY TWO: During the first week of school you will be starting each day with a Homeroom class.

Day Two is when classes begin, so please bring binders, paper, pens, pencils, erasers, white-out and lunch (full cafeteria service is scheduled to start on Wednesday, September 6th).

SEPTEMBER TIMETABLES

Counsellors will be in the school on August 29, August 30 and August 31 to correct timetables for the 2017-2018 school year.

Students will be contacted by telephone by their counsellor during these three days for timetable corrections involving conflicts, incomplete timetables and changes based on Summer School completion. **No requested timetable changes can be considered at this time. Students will receive their timetable during Homeroom on Tuesday, September 5th.** Enjoy the rest of your holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all back in September.

Counsellor assignments for the 2017/2018 school year are as follows:

Grade 12	Mr. A. Steinruck
Grade 11	Ms. S. Birkenhead
Grade 10	Ms. A. Alvares
Grade 9	Mr. R. Edge
Grade 8	Ms. A. Alvares (all students with last names ending D-J) Ms. S. Birkenhead (all students with last names ending K-P)) Mr. A. Steinruck (all students with last names ending Q-Z) Mr. R. Edge (all students with last names ending A-C)

TIMETABLE SCHEDULE FOR 2017-2018

	TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	Collaborative Planning Day 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 Owning**) 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>	\$10.00	\$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

Payment options: 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.

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)	\$ 5.00
Art 9/10 (supplementary supplies)	\$10.00
Art 11/12 (supplementary supplies)	\$20.00
Art 3D	\$20.00
Art Careers	\$30.00
Drama 10	\$10.00
Theatre Company	\$15.00
Photography 11/12	\$20.00

Home Economics:

Foods & Nutrition 10	\$40.00
Foods & Nutrition 11/12	\$40.00
Textiles Studies 10 (project based est.)	\$40.00
Textiles Studies 11/12 (project based est.)	\$40.00

Technical Studies:

Tech Ed. 8	\$5.00
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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

**John Oliver Secondary School Calendar
2017 - 2018**

Important Dates

School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 5, 2017
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9, 2017
Remembrance Day Holiday	Monday, November 13, 2017 (in lieu of Saturday, November 11)
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 22, 2017
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 25, 2017 – Friday, January 5, 2018
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 8, 2018
Family Day	Monday, February 12, 2018
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 16, 2018
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 19 – Thursday, March 29, 2017
Good Friday	Friday, March 30, 2018
Easter Monday	Monday, April 2, 2018
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Tuesday, April 3, 2018
School not in session	Friday, May 18, 2018
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21, 2018
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 28, 2018
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 29, 2018
Non Instructional Days (school not in session)	Professional Development Focus
Friday, September 22, 2017*	Building Collaborative Capacity & Core Competencies
Friday, October 20, 2017	District wide non-instructional day
Friday, November 10, 2017	Curriculum Implementation Day
Friday, December 1, 2017	Technology & Assessment
Monday, January 29, 2018	Curriculum Implementation Day
Monday, February 19, 2018	Student Engagement
Friday, April 27, 2018*	Teaching Strategies/Techniques
*placeholder dates – schools may apply to alter these dates	
Parent Teacher Conference Dates:	
November 30, 2017	
Mid-Year Experience Week Dates:	
January 30 – Feb. 2, 2018	