



KITSILANO SECONDARY SCHOOL

2706 Trafalgar Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6K 2J6

Telephone: 604 713-8961 • Fax: 604 713-8960

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/kitsilano>

May 1, 2020

Dear Kitsilano Families,

Though our focus in the last couple of weeks has shifted to the Continuity of Learning, we must not forget that the well-being of our community members is most important. We have been hearing from students, families, and staff who are feeling stressed and anxious about remote learning. We must remember that this shared experience is uncharted territory and new to all of us. Let us provide the space and permission for ourselves and each another to learn, grow, and make mistakes. Let us take care of ourselves and each other, stay connected, get fresh air, and be as safe and healthy as we possible can. Remember, we are KITS: Kind, Inclusive, Thoughtful, Successful. We will get through this together and be stronger for it! We are grateful for the strength and resiliency our school community has shown over the last month. Our staff, students, and families continue to amaze with their kindness, compassion, and concern for others-even when experiencing their own hardships. Please continue to take care of yourselves.

Well-Being of Our School Community

We would like to share the following note about teaching, learning, and well-being (which has been widely circulated online):

Dear Parents,

Don't stress about schoolwork. In September, I will get your child back on track. I am a teacher and that's my superpower. What I can't fix is social-emotional trauma that prevents the brain from learning. So right now, I just need you to share your calm, share your strength, and share your laughter with your children. No kids are ahead. No kids are behind. Your children are exactly where they need to be.

With love,

All the teachers on the planet Earth

Along the same theme and articulating the shared experience of many parents right now, the following note from an adolescent psychologist was shared with us by a Kitsilano parent:

Parenting On Your Own Path with Dr. Emily W. King

Parents: What we are being asked to do is not humanly possible. There is a reason we are either a working parent, a stay-at-home parent, or a part-time working parent. Working, parenting, and teaching are three different jobs that cannot be done at the same time. It's not hard because you are doing it wrong. It's hard because it's too much. Do the best you can.

When you have to pick, because at some point you will, choose connection. Pick playing a game over arguing about an academic assignment. Pick teaching your child to do laundry rather than



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feeling frustrated that they aren't helping. Pick laughing, and snuggling, and reminding them that they are safe. If you are stressed, lower your expectations where you can and virtually reach out for social connection. We are in this together to stay well. That means mentally well, too.

Please know that we are here to help in any way that we can. If your child or family has any questions or needs support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Continuity of Learning

We are all learning during this pandemic. Learning how to both receive and deliver education. We have heard feedback from our students and families about what is working well and areas for consideration. Please know that teachers and support staff will continue to develop and evolve their approach to the continuity of learning in support of the well-being and success of our students.

Obtaining Materials from School Lockers

Please refer to the schedule and procedures outlined in the communication sent on April 28th. Procedures for obtaining possessions from other parts of the building will be communicated in the future.

Summer School

The VSB will be implementing Summer School courses under the following parameters:

- Completion courses in Grade 10, 11, & 12 for local VSB students only
- Offered via remote learning through Vancouver Learning Network
- Registration opens on May 11th at <http://vlins.ca/>



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Who do I contact with questions/concerns about....?

| | |
|---|---|
| ...content, progress, learning in a course | Classroom Teachers |
| ...registration for next year's courses | Grade Counsellor |
| ...graduation requirements | Grade Counsellor |
| ...support for my child with learning needs | Program Case Manager/School Based Resource Teacher (SBRT) |
| ...support for my child with social emotional needs | Grade Counsellor |
| ...support for Indigenous learners | Indigenous Engagement & Enhancement Worker (IEEW) |
| ...support for substance use/misuse | Supporting and Connecting Youth (SACY) Engagement & Prevention Worker |
| ...support for language interpretation | Grade Counsellor |
| ...support for English Language Learners (ELL) | Classroom Teacher or ELL Department Head |
| ...support for International Program students | International Student Advisor |
| ...student transcripts | Student Records Clerk |
| ...student password assistance | Teacher Librarians |
| ...general inquiries about school procedures | Administrative Assistant |



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Contact Information

| Role | Name | E-mail |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Grade Counsellors | | |
| Grade 8: Last name A to Dt | Ms. Barb Mingo | bmingo@vsb.bc.ca |
| Grade 8: Last name Du to J | Ms. Cari McDonald | cmcdonald@vsb.bc.ca |
| Grade 8: Last name K to Rt | Ms. Carrie Pitman | cpitman@vsb.bc.ca |
| Grade 8: Last name Ru to Z | Mr. Chris Tse | ctse@vsb.bc.ca |
| Grade 9 | Mr. Chris Tse | ctse@vsb.bc.ca |
| Grade 10 | Ms. Carrie Pitman | cpitman@vsb.bc.ca |
| Grade 11 | Ms. Cari McDonald | cmcdonald@vsb.bc.ca |
| Grade 12 | Ms. Barb Mingo | bmingo@vsb.bc.ca |
| Program Case Managers/Resource Teacher | | |
| School Based Resource Teacher | Ms. Christie Breakingbury | cbreakingbury@vsb.bc.ca |
| PrEP Grade 12 Case Manager | Ms. Maggie Knight | mknight@vsb.bc.ca |
| PrEP Grade 11 Case Manager | Ms. Melissa Killion | mkillion@vsb.bc.ca |
| PrEP Grade 10 Case Manager | Mr. Glen Marshall | gmarshall@vsb.bc.ca |
| Vinery Program Case Manager | Mr. Cameron McCabe | jmccabe@vsb.bc.ca |
| ELL Department Head & International Student Advisor | Ms. Zoe Higgs | zhiggs@vsb.bc.ca |
| Support Workers | | |
| Indigenous Engagement & Enhancement Worker | Mr. Trent Gauthier | tgauthier@vsb.bc.ca |
| Supporting and Connecting Youth Engagement & Prevention Worker | Ms. Jaclyn Chang | jaclyn.chang@vch.ca |
| Teacher Librarians | | |
| Student Password Assistance | Ms. Sarah Paulsen Ms. Anna McCrae | spaulsen@vsb.bc.ca amcrae@vsb.bc.ca |
| Administration | | |
| Administrative Assistant | Ms. Francia Devilla | fdevilla@vsb.bc.ca |
| Student Records Clerk | Ms. Susan Nakashima | snakashima@vsb.bc.ca |
| Vice-Principal (Grade 8, 10, & International) | Ms. Jill Sehmbi | jsehmbi@vsb.bc.ca |
| Vice-Principal (Grade 9,11, & International) | Mr. Darren Gock | dgock@vsb.bc.ca |
| Principal (Grade 12) | Ms. Ranjit Bains | rbains@vsb.bc.ca |



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Resources, Links, and Information

[Ministry of Education](#): Continuity of Learning

[VSB Website](#)

[Vancouver School Board](#): Continuity of Learning

[Kitsilano Website](#)

[VSB Acceptable Use of Technology Policy](#)

[Adobe CC](#): Adobe access for all VSB Staff and Students

[SACY](#): Supporting and Connecting Youth