



**Vancouver Board of  
Education**

# **OPTIONS 2013**

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*Information for Grade 7  
Students Entering  
Secondary School*



1580 West Broadway,  
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8  
[www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca)

## GRADES 8 - 12

### YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOL

Most grade 8 students will attend their neighbourhood Secondary school in September--and for good reasons, too! All 18 secondary schools in Vancouver offer challenging and comprehensive programs. Many schools have developed their own alternative programs for a wide range of student interests and abilities. Each school has a list and descriptions of these programs.

In addition to the neighbourhood school, the District offers a set of alternative programs to meet the needs of students. The following are **District Specified Alternative Programs**, to which students from across the District may apply.

These programs have been developed for students who have demonstrated significantly high potential, talent and need for a challenging program in preparation for their post-secondary education. Each program offers course content which emphasizes acceleration or enrichment, and is distinct from courses at the neighbourhood school.

Important information dates about the **District Specified Alternative Programs** are located at the end of this brochure.

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## Britannia Hockey Academy

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The Britannia Hockey Academy (BHA) is the Vancouver School Board's first sport specific academy. The BHA blends regular secondary school coursework and graduation programs with a licensed Hockey Canada Skills Academy (HCSA). BHA students will attend regular academic courses each morning and will be involved in hockey specific training every afternoon. Britannia Secondary School is the perfect location for a HCSA program. Britannia has an ice arena on site!



The Britannia Hockey Academy supports the holistic development of student athletes. Both boys and girls in grades 8 – 12 are welcome to participate.

Hockey Academy students will work alongside teachers, personal trainers and Hockey Canada certified instructors to develop and follow learning plans in the areas of academics, hockey skills, personal fitness, and athletic nutrition and health. The BHA attracts student athletes who are driven and self-motivated with a keen desire to improve their abilities in ice hockey and community hockey leadership. To be eligible for the Britannia Hockey academy, students must have two years of minor hockey experience (or the equivalent). Acceptance in to the BHA is partially based upon input from the athlete's coach/teacher.

Please visit the Britannia Hockey Academy website for more information: <http://britannia.vsb.bc.ca/hockey/index.htm>

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## Britannia Venture

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The Britannia Venture Program is an academically challenging program that provides a unique educational experience for motivated students in Grades 8, 9, and 10. The diverse student body at Britannia Secondary presents a microcosm of the world community. Through a flexible timetable that supports both independent and shared learning experiences, Venture students will engage in learning designed to develop critical problem-solving capabilities and the academic skills required for success in their post-secondary education. Cooperative and leadership opportunities within the junior secondary school setting will deepen their understanding of the intercultural connections that define the learners of Britannia. Venture 8-10 typically offers students thematic curriculum across subject areas, extended field studies, overnight outdoor experiences and community involvement with leadership and personal growth workshops. It is structured after the mini school concept, which allows students to be grouped together with their intellectual peers for support and encouragement. Venture attracts students whose achievement is above average and who are curious and self-motivated. Our program will serve as invaluable preparation for those wishing further enrichment in Britannia's world-recognized Grade 11 and 12 International Baccalaureate Program. For more information please visit <http://britannia.vsb.bc.ca>. Select "IB & Venture Programs" from the left menu.

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## Byng Arts

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The Byng Arts Academy is for students who wish to direct their energies and passions towards the fine arts, to work within a community of students who share their interest, and to maintain strong academic achievement. The Byng Arts program promotes academic and artistic excellence while fostering interdisciplinary awareness and individual creativity through curricular and extra-curricular activities in the fine arts, literary arts and applied fine arts.



In the Junior program (Grades 8 to 10) students are enrolled together for English, Socials Studies, Science, and Physical Education. Visual Arts and Drama students are enrolled in grade-based specialized classes while Music students are integrated with the intermediate and senior music classes. Students take mathematics, languages, and other electives with the main school. Depending on the student's post-secondary goals and abilities, opportunities are available for him or her to take more than one fine art and / or to accelerate in Mathematics or French.

At the Senior level, Byng Arts students have greater opportunity to focus on their specialty areas, and may choose to take either a major or minor in their area of interest. With the exception of Social Studies 11, English 11 and 12, students will be integrated into the main school population for senior level academic subjects. This allows greater opportunity to choose courses that match their career, lifestyle, and post-secondary goals. Senior may specialize in Visual Arts, Theatre, Media Arts, Band, Strings, Choir, Literary Arts, or a combination of these. For more information, please visit <http://byng.vsb.bc.ca/byngarts>

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## **David Thompson Odyssey**

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The David Thompson Odyssey Mini School offers a unique opportunity to the highly able (gifted) student. The program has a strong academic focus and includes an emphasis on creative and critical thinking. Students are encouraged to use higher level thinking processes, develop a positive self-concept, work both independently and cooperatively, and develop the confidence to thoughtfully respond, orally, visually and in writing with depth and creativity. Emphasis is also placed on developing skills in leadership and social responsibility and community service outside of the school is required.

The David Thompson Odyssey Mini Program begins at the Grade 8 level for English, French, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics. The program offers acceleration in Mathematics and Science at the junior level providing the opportunity for advanced study in senior courses including honors level and Advanced Placement courses. David Thompson Secondary offers Advanced Placement courses in several subject areas. To apply to the Grade 9-12 Odyssey Program, contact the Odyssey program coordinator by February 28 for Fall entrance.

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## Gladstone Mini

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The Gladstone Mini School is a two-year program, for Grades 8 and 9, that provides an accelerated learning opportunity for talented learners at the junior high level. 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 cooperatively with others, and value thinking for its own sake. A variety of involvement is important in the Mini School experience. Students are encouraged to contribute voluntary service at either the school or community level.



Students are accepted to either the Humanities Stream, the Math-Science Stream, or both, and are timetabled into the regular school program for their remaining courses. Upon completing the Mini School program, students may enroll in enriched Grade 11 and 12 classes, Advanced Placement courses, and/ or regular program classes. Students who have completed both streams may also choose to complete graduation requirements in only four years. Acceptance is based on an application package that includes a portfolio of student work. There is no interview.

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## Hamber Challenge for Gifted Learners

The Hamber Challenge Program offers two options for students: The Accelerated/ Enriched Humanities Program and the new Challenge Academy. The Humanities Program presents highly-able students in the humanities (English and Social Sciences) with a challenging Grade 8-12 program that encompasses both acceleration and enrichment. Students in the program are voracious learners who will complete three years of study in Grades 8 and 9, often moving above and beyond the traditional curriculum.



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Learners in Grades 10-12 will continue to expand their learning through enriched and advanced placement courses as well as through guided independent or concurrent post-secondary studies. This program appeals to students of high ability who are extremely motivated to learn and respond well to a rapid pace of instruction. Generally, an “A” or “B” average in English and Social Studies is expected.

The Challenge Academy is for those students who sit in class dreaming of the fascinating opportunities to explore that they see passing them by. It is a unique opportunity for gifted learners who thrive on learning “outside the box” and who crave the ability to meaningfully influence the pace and content of their academic program. Students in this unique Grade 8-12 academy will have four challenge blocks dedicated to their core academic subjects. During these blocks they will have the opportunity to participate in research projects, experiments, problem-based learning simulations, multi-grade level seminars in a wide variety of topics, study groups, theme-based cross-curricular exploration, self-paced guided independent studies, concurrent studies at post-secondary institutions and other non-traditional approaches to the secondary school curriculum. Students will be free to move at a self-determined pace through a wide variety of available courses, including the opportunity to “challenge” courses for credit. Instruction in this academy will often step outside the traditional curriculum and will be driven by individual education plans for each student.

This program is suitable for gifted learners who are extremely motivated to learn and thrive outside the traditional classroom setting. Students with a desire to shape the curriculum to suit their interests and to accommodate their learning styles as well as their ability to learn material quickly will find this program a good fit. This program is especially suitable for students who have been identified as “gifted” through the psycho-educational testing process.

Please note that we welcome students of high ability in mathematics to continue to apply to Hamber regarding appropriate placement for acceleration.

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## Ideal Mini

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Ideal Mini School is a complete Grade 8-12 program for motivated, committed academically able students who feel they would profit from a small school setting. Ideal is a student-centred community dedicated to learning and to the development of social responsibility.



Students are encouraged to participate in an open democratic manner in all aspects of school life. A strong theatre and arts program allows students to explore their creativity while an academically rich interdisciplinary curriculum more than satisfies the needs of intelligent, young people. Emphasis is on discussion, critical thinking, and exploration of contemporary social and environmental issues. Throughout their five years, students of Ideal increasingly benefit from a sense of community and equality within a friendly tolerant atmosphere. Ideal usually accepts 30 students in Grade 8. Students in later years are also encouraged to apply. Although Ideal is affiliated with Churchill, it has its own separate campus and program. This program is not suitable for those students considering I.B.

For more information see [www.idealmini.ca](http://www.idealmini.ca)

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## John Oliver Digital Immersion

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John Oliver Technology Immersion Mini School is seeking students who are entering Grade 8 and have a keen interest in computer technology, highly motivated, creative, able to think critically, and have a strong desire to become well-rounded global digital citizens. The Mini School offers accelerated academic learning for academically gifted students and endeavours to provide students with a technology supported and enhanced learning environment with the aim of nurturing students in their goal of becoming global digital citizens equipped to learn, adapt, and thrive in our new technology rich world.

Each incoming student will work with a laptop to learn, build, and improve upon his/her skills and knowledge by learning through rich media and web-based delivered content in a wireless classroom. Computer technology will be integrated into the core academic areas and grade 8 students will also receive a block of Information Technology to support their learning. In the third year of the Technology Immersion Mini School, students will have the option to pursue an area of interest or passion in a year long course of their own design – an opportunity to explore an area of technological interest or produce an original work in their field of choice.

Field trips, outdoor education and leadership are also integral components of this program. In grade 9 students are registered in a leadership course in which service to the school and community are required. As well as enriching and enhancing student learning, the outdoor education and leadership components are part of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Program in which every Technology Immersion Mini School student is registered.

For detailed information about the John Oliver Technology Immersion Mini School, please refer to our website at <http://johnoliverschool.ca/mini/>

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## Killarney Mini

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Killarney Mini School offers an enriched academic program for students in grades 8-10. The program covers the same curriculum as regular courses with additional enrichment activities throughout the year to broaden the topics covered in each class. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning through integrated co-operative projects. The teaching styles employed throughout the program will appeal to motivated, independent, critical thinkers. A strong emphasis is placed on outdoor education, leadership and character development.

At the grade 11 level students will be able to choose from a variety of regular and honours level courses.

Students are integrated in the regular school for all of their elective courses, providing students with opportunities to benefit from the excellent music, technology and athletics programs at Killarney. In addition, Killarney offers many opportunities for extra-curricular participation in clubs and sports teams.



## King George Tech Immersion

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For motivated and creative students entering Grade 8, this challenging program is unique in that it offers both academic and computer enrichment in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Students entering this program should enjoy academic challenges with opportunities for creative problem solving, critical thinking and teamwork. Throughout the program, there are opportunities for leadership and service to both the school and the community.

Advanced software is used to support student activities. The multitude of resources available on-line will assist students in developing their research skills and exploring the issues related to their core subject areas. Students will have an opportunity to produce technologically enhanced projects (presentations, videos, publications, animations, etc.) as part of their learning experience. They will be able to discuss their ideas through forums, conferencing, blogging and other online venues.

Successful completion of this two-year program will include credit for Information Technology 10 and will allow students advanced placement in the senior Information Technology courses offered at King George Secondary. Students in the Technology Immersion Program are automatically enrolled in the IB Middle Years Program as well.

Enrolment is limited. Admission requirements include a registration form, satisfactory results on the District test, a copy of the student's most recent report card, and an interview. An electronic portfolio exhibiting examples of the student's work would also be helpful. Registration forms are available from the school office or online at [www.kgdragons.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.kgdragons.vsb.bc.ca).



## Guide to Programs

PROGRAM	Focus	Extended Field Studies	Outdoor Recreation	Community Activities Service	Acceleration
Britannia Hockey	Sports				
Britannia Venture	Arts, Math & Science				
Byng Arts	Fine Arts				
DT Odyssey	Arts, Math, Science				
Gladstone Mini	Arts, Math, Science				
Hamber Challenge	Gifted				
Hamber Challenge	Humanities				
Ideal Mini	Arts				
John Oliver Mini	Technology				
Killarney Mini					
King George Tech Immersion	Technology				
Point Grey Mini					
Prince of Wales Mini					
Synergy	English, Socials, Science				
Templeton Mini	English, Science Math & Socials				
Tupper Mini					
Van Tech Flex Humanities	Humanities				
Van Tech Summit	Science & Math				
Windermere Leadership	Citizens & leaders through action				
Windermere Athena Arts	Learning through the arts				
University Transition					

Enrichment	Concurrent enrolment in Post Secondary courses	Parental Program Involvement Required	Grade 8-10	Grade 8-12	District Test on Dec. 12 2011 required
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## Magee SPARTS

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Magee Secondary School offers an educational program to students competing in high performance athletics at the provincial, national, or international level and those performing in the Arts at an extremely high level of excellence. This program offers students from Grades 8 to 12 the opportunity to attend Magee during a portion of the school day to complete their academic requirements leading to secondary school graduation and post secondary entrance, while at the same time allowing students to participate in a rigorous training schedule and competition. In order to accomplish this, Magee's timetable does not rotate allowing, for example, a child to attend school in the morning and practice their other discipline in the afternoon.



In order to be eligible for this program, students must be training under the supervision of a qualified provincial or national coach or teacher. The student's training schedule must exceed 25 hours per week from Monday to Friday. Students must have and maintain a minimum "B" average with no failing grades or unsatisfactory behaviour or work habits. The SPARTS coordinator, with input from the coach/teacher and the provincial or national governing body, will adjudicate a student's application for entry into this program.

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## Point Grey Mini

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Point Grey Mini School provides an enriched program for academically able, well-rounded students. A high degree of self-discipline and motivation are required of students in the program, due to the in-depth handling of the curriculum and the off campus enrichment activities.

A high level of parental involvement is encouraged. Leadership, cooperation, responsibility, and service to the community are promoted and encouraged. English and Social Studies are taught together as Humanities. Grade 9 & 10 Science and Grade 9 & 10 Humanities are both taught to blended classes, thus curriculum for these courses is spread over two years. It is our expectation that all students accepted to Point Grey Mini will commit to the 5-year program. This program is limited to 30 grade 8 students.

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## Prince of Wales Mini

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Prince of Wales Mini School was established in 1973 in order to meet the intellectual and social needs of highly motivated students. Prince of Wales Mini School consists of 150 students from Grade 8 to 12 (30 students in each grade). We occupy a self-contained building on the grounds adjacent to Prince of Wales Secondary School.

**Vision:** Our graduates will be recognized for their character, intellect, and action.

**Purpose:** To create a safe and caring learning environment where students are challenged to excel in a broad range of subjects. We offer an intellectually rigorous academic curriculum, as well as exposure to a wide variety of enrichment activities. Course work at Prince of Wales Mini School often goes beyond the provincially prescribed curriculum by examining topics in greater detail. In some subjects the prescribed material may be covered more quickly in order to allow time to explore other areas of interest. Enrichment may occur in the classroom or through field trips in the community and beyond.

Our enrichment program emphasizes three intertwined themes:

1) **Develop Strength of Character:** The underlying purpose of our enrichment program is to provide experiences that help students learn about themselves. We create a physical and social environment that supports the development of positive character traits. We encourage students to develop as well-rounded individuals – to find an appropriate balance of academic, athletic, artistic and social pursuits.

2) **Build and Sustain Community:** Everyone involved in Prince of Wales Mini School continuously works on developing and maintaining a strong sense of community. All students are encouraged to take an active role in all school activities, as we believe these events are an important part of our program. We promote cooperation between students, teachers and parents as we work together to build a supportive community. All students at Prince of Wales Mini School are required to be involved in school and community service throughout the school year.

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3) Create a Better World: “Meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland). Sustainability is a model for thinking about a future in which environmental, societal, and economic considerations are balanced. Our enrichment program enables students to understand the issues of sustainability, and their impacts; examine solutions; and develop self-directed action projects that truly make a difference in the world.

The program has typically included an outdoor education component as well as numerous field trips. Full access to all facilities, clubs and teams of the Main School is provided. Limited to 30 Grade 8 students.

For further information [www.pwmini.com](http://www.pwmini.com)

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## For Parents

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The Test on **December 11th**, 2012 consists of a Cognitive Skills Test for about one hour and an English component for another hour.

There is no studying required as the test assesses reasoning abilities, English fluency and creative and critical thinking skills.



Because most of the Mini School programs are designed for students who are high academic achievers, it is not appropriate for students to apply because their friends are applying or because of parental pressure. Many programs include some courses with the rest of the school and are located within the main school.

Students taking regular courses in Secondary schools are eligible and receive Provincial Scholarship Awards and entrance to universities.

Each year roughly 1400 students apply for the Grade 8 programs listed in this brochure but only about 600 or so are accepted due to limited space. There is no stigma attached to students who apply but are not offered space. Unfortunately, many high academic achievers may not be selected for a variety of reasons. The program selection process includes an application and interview as well as test results.

We strongly urge parents not to put additional stress on their students in the testing process. Test marks are **never given out** to students or parents since they are only used for the selection process. The deadline to register online to take the test is **Dec. 2nd**. We cannot take any registrations for the test after that date and there are no exceptions.

Students not accepted for Grade 8 entrance can always apply for entrance in Grade 9 where no test is required.

The following programs do not use the test results: Britannia Hockey Academy, Windermere Athena Arts and Windermere Leadership.

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## Templeton Mini

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Templeton Mini School attracts students from grades 8 to 12 who have demonstrated above average academic achievement and whose curiosity, motivation and talent lead them to seek a challenging, enriching and supportive school setting. As part of the strong academic focus, the Mini School promotes organizational skills, leadership, cooperative learning, problem solving, mentorship and social responsibility. In addition to having a B or better average, applicants write English, Math and cognitive skills tests, and are selected for interviews.

Outdoor education and enrichment excursions have typically been offered to promote opportunities for students to challenge themselves academically, physically and personally. Active student involvement in the school and community, combined with teacher and parental involvement, creates a distinctive educational experience. Students have full access to facilities, elective courses, clubs and teams in Templeton Secondary School. Limited to 30 Grade 8 students.

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## Tupper Mini

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Academically motivated students will enjoy opportunities for both enrichment and acceleration provided by the five year program at Tupper Mini. Mini students remain together for English, Social Studies, Science, and Math and integrate with other students for the remaining subjects. In Science and Math, the students plan to accelerate so as to complete the regular Grade 8, 9 and 10 curriculum at the end of Grade 9; thus, they can access senior science and math courses in grade 10. Students who have different interests may use their time to branch out into other areas. In English and Social Studies, the students enjoy many opportunities to do extra creative writing, research, and oral presentations; academically, they will also receive a wide exposure to literature, history and current events. Students will do formal debating in class and will be encouraged to take part in competitions. In addition, many will participate in the Future Problem Solving Program, which promotes critical and creative thinking by encouraging students to be aware of current social issues in democratic nations. Successful FPS groups have the option of advancing to regional and international conference competitions. Mini students will stay together for English, Social Studies and Math in Grade 11 and for English in Grade 12. This five year program provides the students with a long term learning community to support their education.

Our goal is to graduate well-rounded good citizens. Field trips and camping are part of our program, and in addition, the students take advantage of many opportunities within the school community. Tupper is currently developing new initiatives in the areas of student leadership and technology.



## Vancouver Technical Flex Humanities

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Flex Humanities District Program is an enriched intellectual, aesthetic, and linguistic program enabling students to study a unique blend of Philosophy, Classical Literature, Social Justice, History, Geography, Political Science, Media Fine Arts, Film Studies, and French from grade 8 to 10. The traditionally inspired scholastic curricula is blended with contemporary pedagogic techniques that emphasize developmental learning, aesthetic lateral thinking, and holistic assessment.

As all the four subjects (Classics 8 - 10, History 8 -10, French 8 - 10, and Fine Arts 8 & 9/Film Studies 10) are interconnected and sequential, students are expected to commit to a three year course of study.

The Flex Humanities classroom is dynamic , providing a supportive, stimulating, and challenging environment for students who are motivated to excel. It has been designed to meet the needs of talented individuals who are self-starters, enjoy working in groups, and demonstrate an interest in Philosophy. Peer mentoring and Public Speaking are important program components and historical and contemporary social justice issues are extensively studied. Students develop their intellectual and aesthetic skills through a curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, debating, and writing skills and integrates many themes across the four component courses. As one of the primary program goals, social responsibility is fostered within a very supportive environment that promotes the self-confidence necessary for leadership and community engagement. Field studies are a significant element of Flex Humanities. As well as many day trips over the three years, there is an annual outdoor camp experience designed to build community relationships and initiate social justice themes for the year. In grade 8, students select and plan a culminative and curricula-based extensive trip for their grade 10 year that also involved intensive fund raising. Past trips have been designed around the historical, literary, artistic, and linguistic aspects of Montreal & Quebec City and New York and Washington, DC. Choices will in the coming years also include opportunities to explore social justice issues in developing countries. Flex Humanities is a vibrant, continually evolving, and challenging "school within a school" .

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## Vancouver Technical Summit

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Summit is a program for academically gifted and motivated students in grades 8 through 10. Students are given a number of academic and non-academic challenges to encourage the development of their innermost talents. In addition to an enriched English and Social Studies program, they have opportunities to participate in extra curricular sports, English competitions, field trips and service projects. They will work through an accelerated Science program which includes a science fair project in all three years of the program and will take the Science 10 provincial exam at the end of grade 9 then study Chemistry 11 in grade 10. It is also possible for them to accelerate their Math if they have an appropriate skill level. We are currently exploring the use of digital collaborative tools in English and Science including an internet forum to prepare our students for the 21st century.



Summit is a three year program with the goals of high academic achievement, community service and a demonstrable involvement in the wider school community. All students are expected to attain the bronze level of the Duke of Edinburgh award by grade 10.



## Windermere Leadership

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The Windermere Leadership Program offers active, involved, community-minded students in Grades 8 through 12 a unique opportunity to combine academic, outdoor, service and leadership learning. At all grade levels the Windermere Leadership Program promotes social responsibility and youth volunteer involvement. Leadership builds self worth, as do the opportunities provided to practice critical thinking in the real world, to take responsive, responsible action and to develop the positive relationships that come from working with and on behalf of children, peers and adults in the community.

Leadership 8 and 9 engage students in enriched, cross-curricular learning opportunities in Social Studies and Physical Education. Grade 10 goes further in depth, including English and Leadership 10 as well as Social Studies and Physical Education. Outdoor and wilderness learning is also a focus of the Grade 10 program. At the Grade 11 level students continue with Social Studies and Physical Education, leaving plenty of room for other electives and interests. Leadership 11 students are involved in ongoing volunteer work at neighbourhood elementary schools and have the option of training as First Responders. Leadership 12 students develop and implement individual leadership initiatives in the school and community.

Intake into this program is limited to 30 Grade 8 students and is based on an assessment held at Windermere.

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## Windermere Athena Arts

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Have you ever wanted to experience the Renaissance by picking up a paint brush? Have you ever wanted to understand geometry by creating a mosaic? Windermere Athena Arts is a unique academic program (8-12) designed for students keen to learn through the arts.

We define the Athena model as a cross-curricular learning opportunity which uses a variety of art forms while supporting high academic standards. Our model also involves students in arts-based community activities and fosters leadership strengths.

Research informs us that through the arts learners make cognitive, emotional and social connections essential to active learning. The Athena Arts program integrates collaborative, communicative and creative skills. Through multi-sensory art experiences Athena students remember what they learn and are able to embody, integrate and apply that learning to life.

We are seeking students who have a passion for the arts. Intake is limited to 30 students at grade 8. Acceptance is based on an application package and an interview.

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## University Transition

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### “Preparing Gifted Adolescents to Achieve Their Goals of Early Entrance to University”

The University Transition Program is designed to support academic excellence while promoting social and emotional development of academically gifted adolescents who are committed to the goal of early entrance to university. Graduates of the two-year program achieve early entrance to UBC by writing the four provincial examinations required by the faculty of their choice. A maximum of twenty students in each of Year One and Year Two develop academic knowledge, skills, and confidence within a context of rigorous curriculum, career exploration, and academic and social relationships supported by a diverse learning community and a culture of scholarship excellence. Students are required to link social responsibility to strategic learning skills related to topics such as goal-setting, self-discipline, a strong work ethic, creative problem solving and effective organization and time management. Students engage in career exploration through visits to university classes, opportunities to interact with program graduates, mentorship and seminars with university professors. Typical applicants are within the ages of 13 and 15, currently completing Grades 7, 8, or 9, and achieving beyond the 99th percentile in standardized tests in mathematics, reading, writing, and reasoning/problem solving. Successful applicants are committed to a goal of early entrance to university and typically pursue academic interests independently, apply theoretical knowledge and abstract concepts easily, prefer advanced level work, enjoy an accelerated learning pace within an intensive learning environment, and are prepared to work diligently and contribute to the Transition Program learning community.

The program is located on the UBC campus and accepts 50% of enrolled students from outside of Vancouver School District. Unique in Canada and British Columbia, the program offers students a stimulating intellectual peer group, qualitatively differentiated curriculum, university location with its resources and facilities, and learning experiences led by senior secondary Vancouver School Board teachers and UBC professors. The intense program attends to individual student needs and encourages both peer and graduate student support.

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## **City School King George**

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### **Starts at Grade 10**

#### **WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**

With a population of only 40, you'll find students and teachers get to know one another more than they can in a large school setting.

Our main room is a multi-level space with a quiet study area, computer room and kitchen as well as classrooms. We have a seminar room and a fenced patio and garden.

At community meetings, we discuss concerns, plan field trips, decide what activities and projects the school will do and what courses will be offered. Your input on one or more of the committees (school decor, grad, finance, garden, kitchen, fund raising, special events, etc.) is key to the operation of the school.

Our students and staff commute from all over Vancouver. We are diverse in our interests, opinions, backgrounds, eccentricities and talents, but the common thread is that we've chosen an alternative setting to learn and work in. We value and promote an atmosphere of respect and acceptance.

Enrichment, not acceleration: You can expect some of what you're used to in regular school, but we use resources beyond the usual. An advantage of our diminutive size is that we can be flexible about when and where we learn. Some typical or recent excursions include Vancouver Playhouse, Museum of Anthropology, BC Civil Liberties Union conference, Grouse Mountain snow shoeing, Vancouver International Film Festival, cycling Stanley Park sea wall, Vancouver Art Gallery, Law Courts, dragon boating, Roedde House museum, Vancouver Archives, Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, English Bay beach volleyball. Some of these activities require time commitments outside of regular school hours (evenings and over-nights).

Highlights of our school year are our Autumn Potluck Dinner & Social, Santa's visit, winter field trip week, the Arts Fair, spring camping trip and June grad dinner. Spontaneous potluck lunches happen about once a month.

We encourage and appreciate parents' involvement in our school community.

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We take advantage of their experience and talents whenever possible.

#### WHAT COURSES ARE OFFERED?

Along with graduation-required courses, we offer electives in the arts, humanities and sciences. Some of the courses you can expect to find: Art, Drama, History, Law, Literature, Biology, Earth Science, Comparative Civilizations, Philosophy, Spanish, Independent Directed Studies (Music, Film, etc.)

#### HOW DO I JOIN?

You may want to visit for a day. We encourage you to do so, and welcome inquiries from students, parents, guardians and school counsellors. It's best to apply before March, for the following September. We sometimes accept students during the school year if space permits.

For more detailed application information, visit our web site (<http://kgdragons.vsb.bc.ca>), click on "City School") or phone 604-713-5816.

### **International Baccalaureate – Britannia & Churchill**

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This is a two-year program (**Grades 11 - 12**) with the highly recommended option of a pre-I.B. year in grade 10. The program is open to students with good academic standing and good reading and verbal skills. This program focuses on the enrichment and learning skills necessary for post-secondary success.

There is a global outlook to the coursework and an emphasis on a comprehensive program including Languages, Humanities, Experimental Sciences, and Math. In recognition of their enhanced content and nature, extra graduation credits are granted for most I.B. courses. Candidates for the I.B. diploma are required to become involved in extra-curricular activities and community service. This program is limited to students meeting selection criteria.

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## **TREK Grade 10**

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Education about the natural environment and sustainability are fundamental components of the TREK Program. We believe that students should understand how the natural world has an impact on their daily lives, and in turn, what kind of impact their daily lives have on the environment. We provide students with opportunities to learn about the functioning of natural systems, consider a range of views, identify their beliefs and opinions, and ultimately make informed and responsible decisions.

The purpose of the TREK Program is to provide experiences that help students learn about themselves. We create a physical and social environment that supports the development of positive character traits such as respect, responsibility, compassion, independence, self-confidence, openness to new experiences, helpfulness, self-discipline, enthusiasm, courage, leadership, critical thinking, interpersonal skills, creativity, and concern for health and fitness. Our aim is to enable students to choose wisely from among their choices, initiate action, turn dreams into reality and take personal responsibility for who they become.

To assist students to make connections to the natural environment and learn about themselves the TREK Program introduces each student to a variety of outdoor activities including hiking and backpacking; ocean kayaking; canoeing; rock climbing; cycle touring; back-country (telemark) skiing; cross-country (Nordic) skiing; essential outdoor skills (minimum impact camping, outdoor cooking, first aid, map & compass, weather interpretation, snow shelter construction, avalanche assessment and risk reduction). We provide instruction in the safe means of participating in each of these activities, and give students the basis for a lifetime of outdoor adventure. In addition, our trips (1 – 7 days in duration) enable us to examine a variety of ecosystems (e.g. alpine, intertidal, freshwater, bog, and temperate rainforest).

Each year 112 students are admitted to this enriched alternate education program based at Prince of Wales Secondary School. Students must transfer to P.W. for the year. During their TREK year, students will spend 5 months on-TREK where they will be involved in a combination of outdoor activities, field studies, and classroom-based academics and 5 months off-TREK where they will complete an intensified academic curriculum.

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At the end of the year, all TREK students will have met the requirements for completion of Grade 10 (credit in English, Social Studies, Math, Science, P.E., Planning, a second language and Outdoor Education).

Potential applicants, and their parents, are encouraged to attend one of two information meetings:

Monday, Nov. 5, 2012, at Gladstone Secondary, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012, at Prince of Wales Secondary, 7:00 p.m.

During December 2012 students must sign up for an interview by contacting the main office at Prince of Wales. Interviews will take place during the month of January.

For further information:

[www.trekoutdoorprogram.ca](http://www.trekoutdoorprogram.ca)

phone 604-713-8974 (ext. TREK office)



## IMPORTANT DATES

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**FACT SHEETS** PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES FOR EACH OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE VSB WEBSITE at [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca)

<b><u>Online Registration for Test opens:</u></b>	Nov. 4, 2012
<b><u>Test Registration Deadline:</u></b>	December 2, 2012 NO EXCEPTIONS
<b><u>Cognitive and Writing Test:</u></b>	December 11, 2012
<b><u>Application Deadline:</u></b>	December 14, 2012
<b><u>1<sup>st</sup> Offers of Acceptance:</u></b>	Feb. 15, 2013
<b><u>Acceptance Reply:</u></b>	Feb. 20, 2013 by Noon
<b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Offers of Acceptance:</u></b>	Feb. 25, 2013
<b><u>Acceptance Reply:</u></b>	Feb. 27, 2013 by Noon

Students will be notified directly from the programs with regard to the status of applications.

Register online at [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca) for the test held on **December 11<sup>h</sup> 2012**.

Please check website for additional information. <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/programs/mini-school-registration>



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PROGRAM	Parent Info Night	Application Deadline
BRITANNIA VENTURE	Nov. 27	Dec. 14
BRITANNIA HOCKEY ACADEMY	Nov. 26	Dec. 14
BYNG ARTS ACADEMY	Nov. 7	Dec. 14
DAVID THOMPSON ODYSSEY	Nov. 5	Dec. 14
GLADSTONE MINI	Nov. 1	Dec. 14
HAMBER CHALLENGE	Nov. 8	Dec. 14
IDEAL MINI – CHURCHILL	Nov. 15	Dec. 14
JOHN OLIVER DIGITAL	Nov. 28	Dec. 14
KILLARNEY MINI	Oct. 24	Dec. 14
KING GEORGE TECH	Nov. 19	Dec. 14
KING GEORGE CITY SCHOOL	Nov. 19	Feb. 24
POINT GREY MINI	Nov. 13	Dec. 14
PRINCE OF WALES MINI	Nov. 6	Dec. 14
MAGEE SPARTS & Leadership	Nov. 27	Dec. 14
TEMPLETON MINI	Nov. 21	Dec. 14
TUPPER MINI	Nov. 22	Dec. 14
UNIVERSITY TRANSITION	Oct. 2 and Nov. 29	Dec. 14
VANTECH FLEX HUMANITIES	Nov. 14	Dec. 14
VAN TECH SUMMIT PROGRAM	Nov. 7	Dec. 14
WINDERMERE LEADERSHIP MINI	Nov. 26	Dec. 14
WINDERMERE Athena FINE ARTS	Nov. 8	Dec. 14
TREK	Nov.5 at Gladstone Nov. 7 at PW	
INT'L BACCAULAUREATE	Jan. 10 – Churchill Jan. 22–Britannia	

Note: **District-wide test of Cognitive and Writing Skills:**

**December 11, 2012.**

**Deadline to Register Online for the Test is Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012.**

**Byng Arts Auditions January 29-30, 2013.**

All Information Nights will start at 7:00 p.m.

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## APPLICATION PROCESS

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Each program offers an application package with more detailed information regarding timelines. By attending the parent information meetings (listed at the end of this brochure) or by contacting the affiliated Secondary School, or the program directly, additional information can be accessed.

Parents and students are strongly advised to attend Information Nights so they can choose the program(s) they want to apply to. Once your choice is made in the online test registration it **cannot** be changed. Specifically, the timeline regarding the application process for all District Specified Alternative Programs is as follows:

### Information Nights

October 2nd – Nov. 29th, 2012

Online Registration for Test                      Nov. 4th – Dec.2nd, 2012

Online Registration Deadline for Test    **Dec. 2nd 2012**  
**NO EXCEPTIONS**

Cognitive and Writing Test	<b>Dec. 11th 2012</b>
Application to programs Deadline	Dec. 14th 2012
1st Offers of Acceptance:	Feb. 15th 2013
Acceptance Reply:	Feb. 20th 2013 by noon
2nd Offers of Acceptance:	Feb. 25th 2013
Acceptance Reply:	Feb. 27th 2013 by noon

Students will be notified directly from the programs with regard to the status of applications. Once a student accepts an offer from a program their name is removed from all other program wait lists.

Where programs charge fees no student will be denied an opportunity to participate in a course or activity because of an inability to pay these fees, and school administrators shall be alerted to such cases. Please check our website for additional information.

<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/programs/mini-school-registration>





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*Vancouver Board of Education*

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