



January Family Bulletin

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Happy New Year!

Dear Van Tech Community,

Welcome to 2024! December was an incredibly busy month for Van Tech students and staff. Our Music Program hosted two Winter Concerts and the Athletics Department hosted the Talisman Invitational Winter Basketball Tournament. The Leadership class ran a Pep Rally, Grade 8s enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate with Santa, Student Council organized Spirit Week and a Holiday Maze, and the Grad Committee put on a fantastic Winter Formal for the seniors. On the last day of school before the Winter Break, the Summit Program held their annual Hot Chocolate Event where they handed out hot chocolate to transit drivers and students.



Van Tech students will complete Semester 1 at the end of this month. A new semester offers students a chance for self-reflection, goal setting, and embracing fresh challenges. It's an opportunity to reevaluate priorities, establish effective study habits, explore new interests, and approach their studies with renewed motivation and determination for personal and academic growth. Our dedicated staff will continue guiding students along this academic journey, ensuring a diverse array of enriching learning experiences. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to caregivers for entrusting us with their children and acknowledge the pivotal role they play in supporting the school community. Wishing you and your loved ones a healthy and joyful 2024.



Mr. Roberto Moro
Principal (Gr. 12)



Mr. Adam Tuerlings
Vice Principal (Gr. 9 & 11)



Ms. Janet Thompson
Vice Principal (Gr. 8 & 10)

Parent Advisory Council Information

We invite all parents/caregivers of Van Tech students to join us for Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings. The meetings are an opportunity for folks to hear from, and ask questions of, the school administration. We welcome suggestions for topics for future meetings. Our meetings follow a hybrid model of in-person and remote. Agendas, minutes and Zoom links can be found on the [PAC webpage](#). If you have questions, please contact the PAC chair: chairvt@gmail.com

Join us at the next meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd, at 7pm in the library or on Zoom. All are welcome!

You can register in advance for this meeting here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqfu6prDs9EtcPYvdDHZkvbGwLcXkxLiL>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Your 2023-2024 Pac Executive: Lindsie Tomlinson (Chair), Shawna Deagle (Treasurer), Shawn-Patrick Carnahan (Secretary)

A Special Thank You from the Holiday Hamper Team

The Holiday Hamper team has been absolutely touched by the depth of support within our school community. We raised more money, collected more cans, and created more hampers than we've done in any of the seven years before. If you're interested, hear it from Mr. Nick van Iersel, Gr. 10 counsellor, here: <https://youtu.be/iEuLsREu6Sk?si=G0QLXsbBBvoad6WY>

Reporting

What is the purpose of assessment?

The purpose of assessment is to facilitate learning and move it forward in an equitable and inclusive way. It helps students answer three questions about their learning:

- Where am I now?
- Where am I going?
- How do I get there?

Quality assessment is ongoing and responsive. It informs the instruction cycle and provides **teachers** with evidence to plan. It helps **families** understand and support their children's learning. Most importantly, it provides **students** with meaningful feedback to guide their learning and help them reflect on their growth.

How will my child be assessed?

All students will receive **Written Learning Updates** (Report Cards) and **Informal Learning Updates** such as telephone calls, e-mails, and conferences. Written Learning Updates will also include self-reflection and goal setting, as well as descriptive feedback. The new Provincial Reporting Policy requires that students in Grades 8 and 9 will receive grades on a four-point proficiency scale (*Emerging, Developing, Proficient, Extending*), while students in Grades 10 -12 will still receive a letter grade and percentage.

The grade **"IE" (Insufficient Evidence)** indicates that the student has not yet demonstrated minimally acceptable performance in relation to the learning standards. For students in Gr. 10-12, an "IE" may be converted to an F (Fail) at the end of the course. Should your child receive an "IE" for any of their classes, the teacher will identify what learning standards (competencies and content knowledge) they need to demonstrate and create a support plan for the student. This plan will outline the actions to be taken by the student and school to help the student provide sufficient evidence of learning. **Please reach out to your child's teacher(s) to discuss an Insufficient Evidence "IE" grade, or any other concerns you may have about your child's progress.** Click [HERE](#) for our staff directory.

When are Learning Updates published?

January 31st marks the middle of Linear (all year) Courses and the end of Semester 1. Please note that all student work must be submitted prior to the end of the semester to be assessed and evaluated for the Semester 1 Summary of Learning unless specified by the teacher. Semester 1 courses are designed to be completed by the end of Semester 1 and teachers may not be able to accept and assess work after the semester ends.

All students will receive a Final Semester 1 report on **Friday, February 9, 2024**. These reports will include a final mark for each Semester 1 class. Please note that your child's report card is **electronic** and will be published to their MyEducation BC account. Semester 1 final reports will not be available after March 7th, 2024. **It is recommended that you download and save a copy for future reference.**

Semester	Learning Update: <i>Interim Report</i>	Learning Update: <i>Mid-Semester Report</i>	Learning Update: <i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i>	Learning Update: <i>Summary of Learning</i>
1	Oct. 13, 2023	Nov. 24, 2023	Dec. 14, 2023	Feb. 9, 2024
2	March 8, 2024	April 26, 2024	May 9, 2024	June 26, 2024
Linear Course (all year)	Nov. 24, 2023	Feb. 9, 2024 April 26, 2024	Dec. 14, 2023 May 9, 2024	June 26, 2024

How to access Learning Updates (Report Cards) on MyEd

The Summary of Learning (Final Report Card) for Semester 1, and the Written Learning Update (Mid-Semester Report Card) for full year courses will be published on **February 9, 2024**.

Follow these steps for access:

1. Go to <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do>
2. The MyEducation BC Login ID is your child's student number.
3. If you haven't logged in before, the default MyEducation BC Password is set by the district to: Dist\$2024
4. If you've forgotten your Password, or if it has expired (passwords must be reset every 90 days), see the reset instructions here: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5038/account-management>

VSB MyEd HELP PAGE: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5038/account-management>

It is recommended that you download and save a copy of this Learning Update for future reference. Learning Updates are NOT saved on MyEd. Only the most recent Learning Updates are posted on student accounts.

Core Competencies 8-12

Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need in order to engage in deep, lifelong learning. Along with literacy and numeracy foundations, they are central to BC's K-12 curriculum and assessment system and directly support students in their growth as educated citizens. Vancouver students are required to reflect on Core Competencies and set goals of their choice three times every school year. Van Tech students' first self-assessment has been uploaded to their Grade Core Competency TEAM. We invite students to share their work with their parents/caregivers. Student development in Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social Core Competencies at school often looks different than it does at home, so we encourage parents/caregivers to have conversations with their children about how Core Competencies can be developed in all aspects of their lives.



Family Course Planning Information Night

In supplementing what they will do with their students, the Vancouver Technical Counselling Department will be hosting virtual one-hour sessions for caregivers and families to learn more about the course offerings for the 2023-24 school year and the course selection process on **Tuesday, January 16th, 2024**.

This is a great opportunity to learn about available classes, grade requirements, and post-secondary information (particularly for current grade 10 and 11 students), as well as an opportunity to ask questions through the chat feature.

Please note course planning information as well as recordings and slide decks from course planning information night will be posted [HERE](#) within one week of the event.

No registration is required to attend the event. Simply click the Teams link before or as the meeting begins.

Grade	Meeting Time	Contact	Meeting Link (Ctrl + Click)
Grade 8 into 9 (Grad 2028)	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Ms. Adele aaesnault@vsb.bc.ca	Meeting Link
Grade 9 into 10 (Grad 2027)	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Mr. Johnston djohnston@vsb.bc.ca	Meeting Link
Grade 10 into 11 (Grad 2026)	7:00 – 8:00 PM	Mr. Van nvaniersel@vsb.bc.ca	Meeting Link
Grade 11 into 12 (Grad 2025)	7:00 – 8:00 PM	Ms. Leanne lhagglund@vsb.bc.ca	Meeting Link

Graduation Assessment Schedule & Results

As part of the graduation requirements, students are required to write three Graduation Assessments: Numeracy 10 (NME10), Literacy 10 (LTE10), and Literacy 12 (LTE12). *French Immersion students who wish to obtain a Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique must also write the French Immersion Literacy Assessment (LTF12).*

Upcoming Assessment Dates

- Numeracy 10 Assessment: Tuesday, January 23, 2024, AM
- French Immersion 12 Literacy Written Assessment: Tuesday, January 16 AM or PM, or Wednesday, January 17, 2024, AM
- French Immersion 12 Literacy Oral Assessment: Thursday, January 18, 2024, AM

Students will be excused from classes to write the assessment and are expected to return to class if they complete the assessment before the end of the morning/afternoon. Students are expected to attend regular classes for the other half of the day.

Note that these are NOT Provincial Exams. The result a student achieves on the Assessment(s) will not impact their academic standing, BUT students are required to write the assessment to meet Graduation Requirements.

Student Action Items

- **Make note of your assigned assessment time(s) and room location(s)** posted in your Grade Channel in the Van Tech Student Hub TEAM. This information will also be posted in the school's main foyer closer to assessment date.
- Refer to the supporting Ministry of Education webpages to prepare for the assessment. It is strongly recommended that students try the sample assessment to become familiar with the assessment format, instructions, and navigation.

BC Ministry of Education links for Graduation Assessments:

- [Graduation Assessments](#)
- [À propos de l'évaluation](#) (French Immersion Literacy 12 Assessment)
- [Structure de l'évaluation](#)
- [Activités de préparation à l'évaluation](#)
- [Informations supplémentaires](#)
- [About the Numeracy Assessment](#)

- [What Grade 10 Numeracy Looks Like](#)
- [Pre-assessment Activities \(Numeracy 10 Assessment\)](#)

Please see your counsellor should you have questions regarding your graduation requirements. Please contact Ms. Thompson should you have questions regarding writing your Graduation Assessment(s).

Results

To view and download a copy of your child's results for any Graduation Assessment, go to [Student Transcripts Services](#), click on Current Student, and register for a BCeID (or login if you already have one). You will need your child's information as noted on the page. You will receive an email via the email you entered. Click the link in the email to confirm. Once you have created an account to access the site, click on "Graduation Assessment/Provincial Exam Results" to view results.

Note: this site is where you are also able to "View Your Transcript," "Send/Order Your Transcript," as well as other options. The Ministry transcript contains only your completed courses, not in-progress courses.

Semester Turn Around Days

Thursday, February 1 and Friday, February 2, 2024, are "Semester Turn Around Days." Although these are days of instruction, no new material will be taught by your child's Semester 1 teachers. Students are welcome to attend classes (during their regular Semester 1 schedule class times).

Teachers may request specific students to attend their class for academic recovery.

Note: Last day for course changes for Semester 2 is Thursday February 15th, 2024 @ 3 pm

Career Education 8/9

Career Education 8 and Career Education 9 courses have begun. They are delivered over TEAMS off-timetable, meaning students complete assignments on their own time. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT STUDENTS USE FIT TIME TO WORK ON THESE COURSES. Career Education courses are part of the grade level package of courses and are Ministry requirements. Most assignments are based on career exploration and being an educated citizen of the world.

Athletics

The winter season is in full swing with practices, games, and tournaments. The winter sports season includes basketball, table tennis, girls ice hockey, wrestling, and curling.

Spring sports registration for teams and tryouts will begin in mid-February, so look for this information on Microsoft Teams, in the Student Hub's Athletics Channel, and on our social media account Instagram @vantechathletics! Spring season sports include badminton, golf, girls soccer, tennis, track and field, ultimate, grade 9-10 boys rugby, and grade 8-9 boys volleyball.



Shout Out to the Athletic Council for putting on an amazing pep rally before the Senior Boys basketball game!



Fine Arts

On the evening of January 24th, the Van Tech Strings Program will host the VSB District Stings Festival. Van Tech Jr and Sr Strings will perform alongside students from around the district in an evening showcase with an adjudication panel.

Clubs

Van Tech is home to a number of amazing student-led clubs. This month, one of our clubs is working with other BC schools to raise awareness and funds for food insecurity in our community. The UNESCO club is raffling off gift-bowls in order to raise funds for the DTES Women's Shelter as part of the Hunger Bowl campaign organized through the UNESCO School Network. This is an entirely student-run club and student-run initiative that focuses on thinking globally and acting locally. The UNESCO club will be selling raffle tickets in the foyer during lunch. If you would like to donate directly to this initiative, you can do so by clicking [HERE](#) and including UNESCO in the Message at the bottom of the page.

General Reminders

Forms

Starting in September, several VSB consent forms were moved to a digital format. Please visit <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> and enter your child's PEN and birthdate to give consent (or decline) for each form. Parents/caregivers can revoke their consent at any time.

Student Absences & Attendance

To report your child's absence, please contact the school at 604-713-8215 (then select option #1) and leave a message. Please include the date of absence, student number, student name, and reason for absence (i.e., sick, appointment). Note: Students cannot report their own absence.

Extended Absences

Any students who will be away for an extended period (travel, medical etc.) should see their grade counsellor to complete an extended absence form.

Student Fees

School Cash Online is the preferred method of payment for all school fees. Please double check if your child owes any outstanding fees. You can register by following the steps on: <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

Student Pick-up/Drop-off and Parking

Traffic signs are in place along Penticton Street to allow space for school buses to drop-off and pick-up students. Thank you for being compliant with city bylaws. Please note that several drivers have been ticketed in the past by the City of Vancouver. You can drop-off and pick-up students past the traffic signs further south along Penticton Street. Students may park on Penticton Street in designated parking areas.

Flexible Instructional Time

A reminder that FIT happens every day except Wednesday, for 40 minutes. During FIT students are expected to be engaged in a learning activity of their choice. Monday and Friday FIT runs 8:40 - 9:20 am, and students do not need to sign up in advance, but when they are in the building, they must be in a learning space, and they must sign-in to the Green Book for attendance in the case of an emergency.

Tuesday and Thursday FIT runs 1:20 - 2:00 pm. Students must sign up for Tuesday and Thursday FIT sessions using <http://vantech.myweeklyplanner.net> They are expected to be in the building in an area supervised by a staff member.

Important Upcoming Dates

Mon, Jan 15	Collaboration Day: classes start @ 10:10 AM – no Period 1
Mon, Jan 15	Black Excellence Day & Martin Luther King Day
Tues, Jan 16	Indoor Track Meet for Gr. 8 & 9 Semester 1 PE students, AM
Tues, Jan 16 & Wed, Jan 17	French Immersion Literacy 12 Written Assessment
Tues, Jan 16	Course Planning Night (online)
Thurs, Jan 18	French Immersion Literacy 12 Oral Assessment
Tues, Jan 23	Numeracy 10 Assessment
Tues, Jan 23	PAC meeting, 7 PM, library
Wed, Jan 31	Last day of Semester 1
Thurs, Feb 1 & Fri, Feb 2	Semester Transition Days
Mon, Feb 5	Semester 2 begins
Thurs, Feb 15	Last day for Semester 2 course changes
Fri, Feb 16	District Wide Professional Development Day



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