



VANCOUVER TECHNICAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

2600 East Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5M 1Y5 Tel: 604-713-8215 • Fax: 604-713-8214

vantech.vsb.bc.ca

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh Nation).

October 2023 Family Bulletin

Dear Van Tech Community...

September has flown by! Thank you to the entire school community - students, caregivers, and staff - for the smooth transition to another year of learning.



This fall, Van Tech students and staff continue to build a strong sense of belonging, by collaborating and learning together in a myriad of ways. On September 27, we held a ceremony to unveil artwork installed at the front entrance of the school created by artist Xwalacktun (Rick Harry), of the Squamish and Kwakwak'wakw nations. As a host family, Van Tech followed the local nations' protocols of witnessing and oral traditions of sharing with others what is being witnessed. Representatives from the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh nations and dignitaries from the school district were in attendance. Students and staff gathered in front of the school or watched a live

stream of the event from their learning space.

Grade assemblies were held to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 29. Students and staff honored Indigenous voices and reflected on our nation's history. Thank you to Gr. 12 MCs Nola, Sicily, and Vienna, Van Tech music students for their rendition of the Coast Salish Anthem, Van Tech Indigenous Support teacher Robin Roberts for sharing his family history and cultural teachings, and the amazing staff who planned the event. Van Tech's equity work is grounded in the [First People's Principles of Learning](#), the [94 Calls to Action of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#), and the [Vancouver School Board's Education Plan](#). Our school community continues to engage in conversations about how we as individuals and a collective can take part in Reconciliation.

Students have been keen to connect with their friends and make new ones as they engage in the many learning opportunities provided at school. As always, Van Tech offers extracurricular activities in athletics and student clubs.

Athletics Check out the Student Hub > Athletics Channel for team rosters and schedules. Our Fall teams include:

- Senior (grades 11-12) Girls Volleyball
- Junior (grade 10) Girls Volleyball
- Juvenile (grade 9) Girls Volleyball
- Bantam (grade 8) Girls Volleyball
- Senior (Grade 11-12) Boys Volleyball
- Junior (Grade 10) Boys Volleyball
- Grade 8-9 Boys Soccer
- Aquatics
- Gr. 8-9 Boys Rugby
- Cross Country
- Field Hockey

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE TRANSLATE

Informations importantes - Veuillez traduire • 这是一份重要信息 — 请找人为您翻译

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika • Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ • महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी - कृपया अनुवाद करें

Información importante - Por favor traducir • 重要な情報-翻訳してください

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다 • معلومات مهمة - الرجاء الترجمة

لطفا ترجمه کنید • Важная информация - переведите, пожалуйста

Student Council Student Council will host Clubs Day on October 17! See the Student Hub > Clubs and Student Groups Channel for details. Current clubs at Van Tech include:

- Creative Writing Club
 - Key Club
 - UNICEF Club
 - The Agency
 - Vancouver Technical Esports Association
 - FrancoFUN Club
- Better Together Vancouver
 - Garden Club
 - World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
 - Chess Club
 - Crochet Club
 - Magic Connections group
 - Book Club
- Finance and Investing Club
 - Art Club
 - Business Club
 - Van Tech Thirst Project
 - Gender and Sexuality Alliance
 - Van Tech STEM Club
 - Games Club
- Van Tech Athletic Council
 - Van Tech Femmination
 - Badminton Club
 - Reach for the Top Club (AKA Trivia Club)
 - Coding Club

We encourage students to get involved in the school community. Van Tech is a great place to learn!

Vancouver Technical Administration



Mr. Roberto Moro, **Principal (Gr. 12)**



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



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

DIGITAL FORMS

To update your child's VSB consent forms, please visit <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca> **with your child, so you can each fill out the appropriate forms.**

- Enter student PEN and birthdate.
- Accept the consent for each of the forms. Not accepting or completing implies decline.
- Once consent is given, a REVOKE button is exposed.

SEMESTER 1 SCHEDULE & COURSE ROTATION

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Semester 1 Courses | Sept. 6, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024 | | |
| Quarter Courses (Gr. 8 Fine Arts Rotation, Gr. 9 Electives) | Q1: Sept. 6 - Nov. 14 | Q2: Nov. 15-Jan. 31 | |
| Term Courses (Gr. 8 Applied Skills Rotation) | T1: Sept. 6 - Oct. 19 | T2: Oct. 23 - Dec. 5 | T3: Dec.6 - Jan.31 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| September 6- October 11 | Rotation 1: Course A- Course B - Course C- Course D |
| October 12- November 15 | Rotation 2: Course B - Course A - Course D - Course C |
| November 16- December 15 | Rotation 1: Course A- Course B - Course C - Course D |
| December 18- January 31 | Rotation 2: Course B - Course A - Course D - Course C |

REPORTING & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT INFORMATION

Students will receive an **electronic** *Interim Learning Update* published to their MyEducation BC account on October 13 and will be available online until November 23. *Mid-Semester Learning Updates* will be published on November 24. **It is recommended that you download and save a copy for future reference.** Detailed information on how to access this report will be sent to families later this week.

If your child receives an IE (Insufficient Evidence) for any of their classes, it is crucial that they connect with their teacher(s) to develop a plan to demonstrate their learning of the course material. Please note that all 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. The end of the semester is the end of the course and teachers are unable to accept and assess work after the semester ends. If you have any questions about your child's progress, you are welcome to email the teacher or grade counsellor directly. Click [HERE](#) for our staff directory.

| 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> |
|--|---|--|---|
| Oct. 13, 2023 | Nov. 24, 2023 | Dec. 14, 2023 | Feb. 9, 2024 |

GRADE 8 & 9 INFORMATION

Career Education 8 and 9 are mandatory courses as prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The courses will be delivered over MS TEAMS. Students will be given more information about their course and added to their grade Team soon, where they will be able to view course instructions and assignments. Most assignments focus on career exploration and being an educated citizen. There will be ample opportunities for students to work on these courses, including during FIT. We encourage families to remind their children about checking this TEAM.

GRADUATION ASSESSMENTS

Graduation assessments are used to assess students' proficiency in numeracy and literacy. They are not associated with any course mark, but **their completion is part of the BC Graduation Requirements.**

Gr. 12 students will write the Graduation Literacy Assessment on Wednesday, November 1. Details of times and room numbers will be provided soon.

Students and families can familiarize themselves with assessment information, preassessment activities, and assessment exemplars [HERE](#).

*Upcoming assessment dates:

- Gr. 10 Numeracy AND Gr. 12 French as a Second Language (Immersion): January
- Gr. 10 Literacy: April
- Gr. 10 & 12 missed assessments & retakes: June

FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL TIME (FIT)

What is FIT? FIT happens four days a week, for 40 minutes: Monday and Friday, **8:40 - 9:20 am**, and Tuesday and Thursday, **1:20 - 2:00 pm**.

- FIT is a period of instructional time built into the weekly schedule that gives our students more agency in their **learning, goal setting, and time management**, empowering student to develop their **thinking, communication, personal, and social core competencies**.
- Ultimately, the purpose of FIT is to support the **learning** and **well-being** of students by enabling them to have choice in how, when, and where their learning takes place. For example, students may collaborate with peers, see individual teachers, or pursue learning activities that fall outside of their scheduled classes.
- Staff will help students consider how to best utilize FIT throughout the school year.

Students 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.

For **Monday and Friday FIT**, students in the building are expected to be engaged in a learning activity of their choice. Students do not need to sign up for these FIT days, but if they're in a teacher's learning space, they must sign-in to the Green Book for attendance in the case of an emergency.

FIT Questions & Answers

Q1: Will my teachers be available during FIT?

A: Yes. Since FIT is instructional time, teachers are available to support you in your learning by offering extra help, engaging with you in an educational program, or by providing a place to study and collaborate.

Q2: Can a teacher assign me to a specific class/task during FIT?

A: Yes. Since FIT is instructional time, a teacher may specify that you spend your FIT with them, especially if you are behind in your learning in that subject. If more than one teacher requires you to spend FIT with them, it is your responsibility to arrange a schedule and communicate with your teachers. Teachers can also, on occasion, have an entire class come in for flex to complete a lab, assignment, tutorial, exam, etc.

Q3: Can I go to the classes of teachers who I do not currently have?

A: Maybe. It is expected that you will be seeking help from your current teachers. Teachers may wish to help students that are not currently enrolled in their classes.

Q4: What if a class I want to go to is full?

A: Classroom spaces may be capped at 30 students (or less depending on the learning space). If your FIT choice is full, make sure you have a second choice ready.

Q5: What if there is an assembly or core competency activity scheduled during FIT?

A: If there is an assembly or core competency activity scheduled during FIT, you are expected to attend and participate in the assembly or core competency activity.

Q6: What if there is a fire alarm or a need for an evacuation?

A: All students and staff respond as they would during regular class time: evacuate the building via the designated exit, and then **marshal on the grass field**.

- **Morning FIT: marshal with your Period 1 teacher after evacuation.**
- **Afternoon FIT: marshal with your Period 3 teacher after evacuation.**
- Before school: marshal with your Period 1 teacher after evacuation.
- Break, lunch, or afterschool: marshal with the teacher from your previous Period after evacuation

Photo retakes will be held after lunch on October 4. **Any student who has not had their photo taken must do so on this day.** Students who would like a retake must bring their Artona photo access card &/or original GoCard to show the QR code to the photographer.

Photos from the first photo day are on the Artona website for viewing [HERE](#). Use the QR code or the 16-digit code on the photo access card to access the photo. If you have lost your photo access card, click the "I lost my photo access card button." If anyone has any questions or needs assistance, the Artona online support team is available to live chat seven days a week.

Artona is now booking Van Tech students for individual and/or group Graduation photos. The Van Tech photo sessions run Nov 26 - Dec 1. To book a session click [HERE](#).

ABSENCES & ATTENDANCE

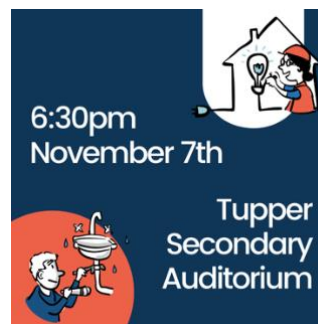
To report your child's absence, please contact the school at 604-713-8215 (then select option #1) and leave a message. Information required:

- Date of absence
- Student number
- Student name
- Reason for absence (ie, sick, appointment) Note: Students cannot report their own absence.

CAREER PROGRAMS

Mark Reid, District Resource Teacher at VSB Career Programs, is coming to deliver a presentation for all Gr. 10s and 11s on October 24 at Van Tech during FIT. Career Programs supports students with transitions to various careers in Skilled Trades or training to become a Healthcare Assistant or Early Childhood Educator. Students in grade 12 can also benefit from partnerships that allow students to start paid skilled trades apprenticeships during grade 12.

Additionally, VSB Career Programs is hosting a family info night on November 7, focused on apprenticeship opportunities in the construction trades. This event is at Tupper at 6:30pm. Various employers and industry representatives will be there and will take your questions about apprenticeship, training, Women in Trades, and supports for youth pursuing a skilled trade.



UPCOMING DATES

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Wed, Oct 4 | Photo Retakes |
| Mon, Oct 9 | Thanksgiving Day – school closed |
| Thurs, Oct 13 | Interims Published |
| Fri, Oct 20 | Professional Development Day - classes not in session |
| Tues, Oct 24 | Career Programs Assembly – FIT Flex Humanities Parent Info Night PAC Meeting – 7 pm Library |
| Wed, Oct 25 | Summit Parent Info Night |

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

We invite all parents / caregivers of Van Tech students to join us for PAC meetings! October's meeting will focus on our first 2023/24 distribution of PAC funds. PAC 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 will follow a hybrid model of in person and on zoom. In person meetings take place in the library. Agendas, with Zoom links, can be found on the [PAC webpage](#) along with notes from previous meetings. We are looking for a DPAC (District Parent Advisory Council) Rep. If you're interested, please reach out to an executive member for more information.

Join us at the next meeting on October 24 at 7pm – in the library all are welcome!

Zoom Link: Please register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuf-ugrTgsHtd0x8mppM4LY1pC2f6c8JcB>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Your PAC executive, Lindsie Tomlinson (Chair), Michelle Brassens (Vice Chair), Shawn Deagle (Treasurer), Shawn Carnahan (Secretary)

PAC Email: chairvt@gmail.com

INSURANCE

The VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses and critical illness. The two companies that are offering this product are the IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured.

Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>
www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com

FRESH ROOTS

The [Fresh Roots](#) schoolyard farm will host its **Fall Season Blowout Market** Wednesday, Oct 4, 3:00 - 7:00pm at the Italian Cultural Centre (in the piazza). They'll have additional food producers, artisans, and other amazing vendors joining them.

Stock up on farm-grown veggies and other goodies (art, flowers, maple candy, eggs, Tall Shadow Bakery bread, homemade pies) to make your fall gatherings extra special.

What Veggies can you

expect? *broccoli, baby carrots, beets, kale, chard, winter squash, scallions, leafy celery, lettuce, Daikon, gailan, Sugarloaf chicory, frisée, Napa cabbages, Kohlrabi, and Tomatillos.*



Sign up as a vendor here 

Fresh Roots & Friends

ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

FRESH ROOTS

ICC Pop-Up Market

OCT 4TH 3PM - 7PM

3075 Slocan St, Vancouver, BC V5M 3E4



STAY CONNECTED



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