



DAVID THOMPSON SECONDARY SCHOOL

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August 2025

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello DT students and families! Whether you're returning or joining us for the first time, we're thrilled to open our doors and fill our halls with the energy, curiosity, and spirit that makes DT such a vibrant place to learn and grow. This school year holds exciting possibilities of new friendships, fresh challenges, and countless moments to celebrate. Let's start the school year ready to support one another and make this year an unforgettable one.

The David Thompson administration team consists of myself, Nick Akrap (Principal), Catherine McLean (Vice Principal), and Jolene Mergens (Vice Principal). We welcome Ms. Mergens to the DT family and know that she will absolutely love working with the students and parents in our DT community. Sadly, we had to say farewell to Vice Principal, Albert Mann, who was an integral member of our administration team and school community. We wish Mr. Mann all the best in his new position as Vice Principal of Lord Byng Secondary.

We hope your summer break provided time to unwind, recharge, and set your sights on the year ahead. Now that we're kicking off a fresh school year, the DT staff is ready to support you. Whether you're diving into your classes, joining a sports team, performing on stage, or starting a new club, the DT staff have your back and will be cheering you on along the way.

Please find a number of important informational items below that will help us set the stage for an exciting and successful start to the 2025-2026 school year.

OPENING SCHEDULE

A mandatory Homeroom Period will take place on **Tuesday, September 2nd** as indicated below:

- Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 students, 10:00 am – 11:00 am, in Homeroom classrooms
- Grade 8 students, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm
 - Grade 8s should report to the main gym at 10:30 for a morning of introductions and icebreakers with our New Faces Leaders
 - Grade 8s will be served a light pizza lunch, followed by homeroom from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

On the second, third and fourth day of school (Wed to Fri), each day will start with a short homeroom period at 8:40 am for all grades. Following homeroom, students will move to their regularly scheduled classes. Please refer to the first week schedule below. Please note there is no FIT time for the opening week.

David Thompson CARES

Connections

Accountability

Respect

Encouragement

Safety

Opening Week Schedule (no FIT classes)

Tuesday, Sep 2	Wednesday, Sep 3	Thursday, Sep 4	Friday, Sep 5
Grade 9 – 12 Homeroom 10am – 11am	Homeroom 8:40 - 9	Homeroom 8:40 - 9	Homeroom 8:40 - 9
Gr 8 Orientation in Gym 10:30am – 1pm	Period 1 9:05am – 10:15am	Period 1 9:05am – 10:15am	Period 1 9:05am – 10:15am
Grade 8 Homeroom 1pm – 2:30pm	Break 10:15am – 10:25am	Break 10:15am – 10:25am	Break 10:15am – 10:25am
	Period 2 10:25am – 11:35am	Period 2 10:25am – 11:35am	Period 2 10:25am – 11:35am
	Lunch 11:35am – 12:20pm	Lunch 11:35am – 12:20pm	Lunch 11:35am – 12:20pm
	Period 3 12:20pm – 1:40pm	Period 3 12:20pm – 1:40pm	Period 3 12:20pm – 1:40pm
	Break 1:40pm – 1:45pm	Break 1:40pm – 1:45pm	Break 1:40pm – 1:45pm
	Period 4 1:50pm – 3:10pm	Period 4 1:50pm – 3:10pm	Period 4 1:50pm – 3:10pm

Homeroom lists will be posted in the foyer just inside our main entrance off of 55th Avenue or students (grades 9-12) can check their MyEd accounts for this information.

During these mandatory homeroom periods, teachers will take attendance and distribute student timetables (grade 8s), locker assignments/procedures, and student verification information forms. In addition, teachers will be reviewing the cellphone policy as well as the FIT time expectations.

FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES

During the first week of school, students will meet their teachers and new classmates for the semester. Student learning goals and student code of conduct norms will be established along with homework expectations for all grades. Teachers will provide course outlines with important information, such as materials needed. Please take the time to review the course outlines with your child.

Should you have any questions for a specific teacher or grade counselor, please contact them directly. Teacher contact information is available on the course outline and our school website. We encourage families to take time during the first few weeks of school to help their student establish positive habits and routines that will set them up to achieve their personal best this year.

Our school's overall growth plan continues to place a strong emphasis on improving student achievement in literacy and numeracy, physical and mental well-being, and belonging. We will also continue to improve equity and continue on our journey of reconciliation with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit. Regular student attendance and a strong work ethic will enable all students to realize their creative, intellectual, and physical potential and develop the personal and social skills necessary for responsible citizenship in a diverse society.

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STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The framework that guides the decision-making for all David Thompson students, staff, and our greater community is our school's code of conduct: CARES.



C	Connections I build positive relationships with students and staff to contribute to a safe and welcoming environment.
A	Accountability I accept responsibility for my learning and my behavior.
R	Respect I consider the impact my actions have on others and am mindful of the feelings and rights of others.
E	Encouragement I support the growth of myself and others by recognizing and celebrating effort and persistence.
S	Safety I will do my best to ensure my actions contribute to the health and well-being of all students, staff and our community.

Grade assemblies will be held early in the school year to review our students' awareness and practice of C.A.R.E.S. and the Vancouver Board of Education's policies, rules and regulations for students in the Vancouver School District.

SCHOOL FEES and GRAD FEES

A list of school and supplemental fees is attached to our website [here](#). The general school fee is \$30. Parents, please note that we strongly encourage that all school fees are paid online using the SchoolCash online payment system.

- school fees can be paid directly by clicking on the "Pay Fees" link on our website at the top of the page <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

Should students need to pay by cash or cheque they can see our accounting clerk, Ms. Scott, in the main office, during breaks, or before and after school.

If paying by cheque, please print the following information on the back of your cheque:

- ✓ your child's name,
- ✓ student number (if known), and
- ✓ homeroom (if known)

Please make a note of the school district's Financial Hardship Policy which recognizes that some families may not be able to afford school fees at this time. Board policy is that no student of school age will be denied an opportunity to participate in a required course, class or program because of financial hardship. Families unable to pay some or all of a school fee are invited to speak to their child's school counselor, and/or administrator.

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All financial hardship applications and discussions are confidential. Partial payment, waiving of the fee, or payment by installment are some strategies that we can explore.

MY ED STUDENT FAMILY PORTAL

Grade 8 Students: Since all Grade 8 students take a standard set of courses, Grade 8s will not need to access their schedule prior to the first day on September 2nd. They will receive a hard copy of their schedule in their homeroom class that day. We will send home information and instructions on how to set up your MyEd family portal account later in September.

For all other grades, students and parents will be able to log into the MyEducation BC portal to view students' schedules on Friday, August 22nd. You will be able to log in using your previous user ID and password. If you have forgotten your password, ***please try using the "I forgot my password" function on the login page first.*** If you have tried and are unable to reset your own password, send an email to Mr. McLean, ccmclean@vsb.bc.ca with your name and student number for a password reset. Keep an eye on your email for a message with a new temporary password. Please click [here](#) for more information and instructions on how to reset or change your password.

SCHEDULE CHANGES AND A MESSAGE FROM COUNSELLORS

We hope you had an enjoyable, fun, and restful summer holiday. We are excited to see you and look forward to supporting you during the 2025-2026 school year. We want to give an extra warm welcome to those of you who are new to the DT family.

Our department members and their grade assignments are:

- Ms. Dhaliwal (Grade 9 and Grade 8 with last names starting M to Q)
- Ms. Lopetrone (Grade 12 and Grade 8 with last names starting A to F)
- Mr. Moy (Grade 11 and Grade 8 with last names starting G to L)
- Ms. Tsui (Grade 10 and Grade 8 with last names starting R to Z)

Our email addresses are found on the school's website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/david-thompson>

At this time, you should be able to log into your MyEducation BC account to view your schedule. The department can help with issues starting next week (Aug 25 to Aug 28). We will see students for the following reasons only:

- Incomplete timetables or obvious mistakes (e.g. a grade 12 student in French 8)
- Summer school or online school results for courses completed over the summer
- Missing graduation or post-secondary requirements
- Having a teacher with whom you failed with last year (you can request to have a different learning experience)

Please come on your assigned day according to this schedule:

- Mon Aug 25: Grade 12s
- Tues Aug 26: Grade 11s
- Wed Aug 27: Grade 10s
- Thurs Aug 28: Grade 9s and students who could not come earlier in the week

There is no appointment system. We will serve students on a first come first served basis from 9:00 am to 2:00

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pm daily. After being helped, please vacate the building so that all students have access to a counsellor. Please note: the building is on shortened summer hours. If the maintenance staff requires everyone to leave before you are helped, we will arrange an alternate time to assist you. The earlier you come, the more likely we can help you on the same day. Grade 12 students have priority to courses.

Grade 8 students can come during the first week of school to request changes to their schedules during the period with the problem. Hard copies of your schedule will be given on the first day of school. During the month of September, everyone should log into MyEducation BC daily and follow your schedule. Necessary changes might be made behind the scenes. Attend all your classes so that you get the opportunity to meet your teachers and find out what you will be doing and learning.

If you want to request a change after the first week, we will be having two course change sessions. These will take place after school on Mon Sept 8 (Grade 11 and 12 students) and Tue Sept 9 (Grade 9 and 10 students). Listen for and check Teams for announcements about these two sessions at the end of week one. Enjoy the last week of the summer break. We hope everyone will have a fantastic upcoming school year.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

As you know, prompt and regular attendance to class is an essential ingredient for your child's ongoing success at school. We encourage families to continue making medical appointments, etc., outside of class time. Together we can support students in building successful, life-long habits.

FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL TIME (FIT)

All students must be in an instructional space supervised by a teacher during Flexible Instructional Time (FIT). The Vancouver School District has created an online app for students to use to set their intentions for their FIT sessions each week. Teachers will also use the website to record attendance. The benefits of FIT are as follows:

- Provides students with choice, voice, and flexibility with their learning in order to independently complete assignments, study, collaborate with peers, complete homework, or engage in a personal area of interest
- Provides the opportunity for students to receive support and guidance from teachers
- Provides flexible learning environments for all, acknowledging that learning can take place in a variety of places and in a variety of ways
- Supports student time management and organization, by providing an opportunity for students to practice these skills with the guidance of teachers

Please make a habit of asking your child where and how they are effectively utilizing their FIT time.

COLLABORATIVE PLANNING TIME and STUDENT ATTENDANCE

David Thompson teachers will once again have eight collaborative planning sessions (these are once a month and fall on a Wednesday). Families are reminded that on collaborative planning days students may have a later start to their school day with classes beginning at 10:10am (for Collaborative AM) or an early dismissal with school ending at 1:45pm (for Collaborative PM). This collaborative time allows important planning to take place on a regular basis for teams of teachers. You'll find this year's collaborative planning session dates posted under the [calendar link](#) on our school website.

STUDENT INFORMATION VERIFICATION FORM

Students will receive a Student Information Verification form in homeroom class on Tuesday, September 2nd. Please review the information and make any changes directly on the form. Forms need to be returned to homeroom class by Friday, September 5th. In addition, please ensure that the student's personal email address is correct.

LOCKERS

Students will receive a lock and a locker for their use for the duration of their years at David Thompson. Returning students (grades 9-12) will use the same locker and lock that they were assigned last year. Returning students who do not claim their locker by end of day Friday, September 5, 2025, will have their locker closed and re-assigned.

Grade 8 students will be assigned their lockers and school-provided lock with combination on the first day of school, in their homeroom.

New students in Grades 9-12 will be assigned a locker and school-provided lock with combination starting Monday, September 8, 2025.

All locks and lockers are the property of David Thompson School and are on loan to the students while they are students of DT. Students must not change the lock or the locker without approval by the administration. Any students doing so will risk losing their locker privileges.

PHOTO DAY

All students will be photographed on **Thursday, September 4th** by Artona Photographers for their student ID ("Go" card) to be used on public transit and to borrow materials from our school library. Parents wishing to purchase photo packages may do so online at www.artona.com.

KEEPING CONNECTED

Please visit David Thompson's website <https://thompson.vsb.bc.ca> throughout the year as we update our school calendar of events, share important information, and celebrate our students' successes with you. In addition, a week at a glance (WAAG) newsletter is emailed every Friday with a snapshot of upcoming events.

Jolene, Catherine, and I look forward to meeting parents at PAC meetings and other school events throughout the year. Best wishes to all our David Thompson students in their 2025 - 2026 school year.

See you soon!

Sincerely,



Nick Akrap

Principal, David Thompson Secondary School

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