

August 2024 Newsletter

School Website: www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/point-grey
General Email: pointgrey@vsb.bc.ca
New Attendance Email: pointgreyattendance@vsb.bc.ca

August 26, 2024

Welcome back, Point Grey Secondary students and families, to the 2024 – 2025 school year. I hope you had a wonderful summer, filled with rest and preparation for the new academic year. We are excited to reconnect with you and to welcome our new students.

I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new principal of Point Grey Secondary school. My name is Paul Godfrey, and I bring over 25 years of experience in education, having previously served as Vice Principal at Kitsilano, King George and Van Tech. My passion for fostering a nurturing and inclusive school environment drives my commitment to ensuring every student thrives academically and personally.

As we embark on this new school year, my vision is to build on our school's strengths and work collaboratively with you to create an engaging and supportive community. I am dedicated to maintaining open lines of communication. I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the year ahead and working together to make this a fantastic year for our students.

To all the new families joining the Point Grey community, a warm welcome! This year promises to be filled with numerous events, activities, and opportunities to enrich each student's school experience. I encourage all students to start the year with clear goals, a growth mindset, and an action plan that will lead to success while contributing to our safe and caring community.

Our dedicated Point Grey staff is committed to supporting students, and we value collaboration and strong partnerships with parents and families. We ask parents and guardians to stay connected by keeping up-to-date with school news and events, and to participate in meetings and activities whenever possible.

This newsletter provides essential start-up information to help ensure a positive and successful school year. Please review the details about our school opening procedures. Ms. Tsui, the Point Grey staff, and I are excited to collaborate with you, and we wish you and your child every success in the upcoming school year. Enjoy the rest of your summer break, and we look forward to seeing students on September 3rd!

New Staff to Point Grey:

As the new school year approaches, we would like to welcome new staff members:

- Ms. G. Tsui (Vice Principal and contact for Grades 8, 9, 10)
- Ms. M. Mayhew (Counsellor Grade 10 and Grade 8's last names M – R)
- Ms. L. Shepelev (Math and Science teacher)
- Mr. S. Whiteside (PE and French teacher)
- Mr. G. Lee (Student Support Worker - Mainstream)
- Ms. A. McDaniel (Student Support Worker – Lifeskills program)
- Ms. P. Morrison (Student Support Worker – LALS program)

School Start Up Information:

Please check our [school website](#) for class schedules, monthly calendar, Student Agenda, and other information as the school year progresses.

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 3rd** (except for students in Lifeskills and LALS).

- **Grades 9 – 12** will attend from 9:30 – 10:00 am and go directly to their homeroom class.
- **Grade 8's** attend from 12:30 – 2:15 pm in the Auditorium for an assembly followed by a school tour lead by our Grade 12 Hounds Leaders then to homeroom class.

Homeroom lists will be posted outside the school office for all grades. Students should arrive a few minutes early to check the Homeroom lists.

The first full day of classes for all students will be **Wednesday, September 4th starting at 8:40 am.**

Our school will be operating on a semester schedule that includes Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) and staff Collaborative Time. Students are enrolled in eight courses for the school year where they will take four courses from September to January and another four courses from February to June. Classes will rotate halfway through each semester (November/April) – morning classes will only rotate with each other and only afternoon classes will rotate with each other. Please see the [weekly schedule](#) and [alternate schedule](#) here.

Flexible Instructional Time

Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) is instructional time designed to support students' personalized learning. During this time, all staff are onsite and students have flexibility and choice to determine how, when and where their learning takes place. Students may choose to access extra help from teachers, collaborate with peers and/or pursue other learning activities. Each FIT period is 40 minutes long and takes place every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

We will gradually implement FIT in September where the first few weeks of FIT are orientation days. Students will review key skills and how to sign up for their FIT activity.

There are eight days of Collaborative Time in the year where the school day will either start later at 10:05 AM or end earlier at 1:45 PM. During collaborative time, all staff are engaged in a variety of activities to plan and enhance the learning experiences for our students. Students are not in the school during this time. Please click on [Alternate Schedule](#) to see the dates.

Late Return to School Procedure

If your child(ren) will be returning late to school, complete this [Notice of Late Return 2024](#) form and email it to pointgrey@vsb.bc.ca

If we cannot verify your child's attendance at school by noon, Friday, September 6, 2024 your child's space will be given to another student on the school's waitlist.

School Fees

Standardized General school fees can be paid online through our website by clicking **Pay Fees** at the top of the website [Point Grey Pay Fees](#) or using the direct link [SchoolCash Online](#).

Standardized General school fees and Supplemental Course fees can be found [here](#). If paying by cash or cheque (payable to Point Grey Secondary) come to the school office.

Please note that Supplemental Course fees are not paid until the subject teacher asks for them.

Student Forms are now ONLINE

The VSB has launched an online system for all student forms that need to be completed. Once this is done you will not need to do this again every school year unless you want to change your consent for any of the forms. Please visit: <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca>

To log in you will need the student nine digit PEN# (Personal Education Number). This is different from the Student #. The PEN # can be found:

- On any previous report card;
- Logging into MyEd, under top tab My Info; or
- Clicking Request Student PEN on the sign-in page at <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca>

The only information that will be handed out in homeroom class to students is the:

- Personalized Student Verification form printed from MyEd. Please review the information and make any changes neatly on the form (ex. emergency contacts, medical, address). Address changes must be returned with one proof of address (ex. Hydro, Fortis, home insurance, BC Property Assessment, rental agreement).

If the information is correct you do not need to return the form to the school office.

- Emergency Student(s) Reunification Authorization form
- Letter from our PAC
- Grade 8's will also receive the Camp Elphinstone package. Camp leaves Wednesday, September 11th. Due to this tight timeline forms must be returned by Thursday, September 5th. Your cooperation is appreciated.
- Student class schedules will only be handed out to our new students in grades 8 to 12.

All returning students will need to get their schedules from MyEd. Please read the information below.

MyEd Student Class Schedule – MyEd Opens on Tuesday, September 3rd

New students will receive their schedule in homeroom class.

Returning students will need to sign onto MyEd to see their schedule for the year.

- If the MyEd password has been forgotten try to reset this on your own by clicking: "I forgot my password" on the MyEd sign on screen - [My Ed Help & Login Page](#).
- If you are unsuccessful in getting a temporary password to sign-in you will have to get the account reset after homeroom class on Tuesday, September 3rd outside the office.

We will not be able to reset passwords over the phone or through email requests as the office will be busy with preparing for school opening.

MyEd Family Portal

This is where students, parents/guardians can check for attendance and where the current Interim, Mid Semester, and Final Semester reports are posted. Make sure to always save or print a copy as the reports do not stay in the portal once the next semester starts.

MyEd is a shared portal so it's best if one person is in charge of the password and share it with everyone or you will get locked out. Please bookmark this site for [My Ed Help & Login Page](#).

Before the end of September new students will receive an email sent to parents/guardians with the temporary password and instructions on how to set up their MyEd Family account.

Request for Course Change(s)

Changes will only be permitted until Thursday, September 19, 2024, 3:00 pm. Read the information on making course changes [Course Change Request 2024](#)

Students should only make requests for changes when necessary. Requests for specific teachers, for courses at specific times, or for specific semesters cannot be considered.

After the on-line request is submitted, please continue to attend your classes (even if this course may be impacted by a change).

Artona Photo Day for Student IDs

Photo day is on Friday, September 6 in the cafeteria. A PA message will be announced when students should go down to the cafeteria. Artona will hand out a card with a QR code to be able to login and view the photo and purchase a package if you wish.



Attendance Procedures

Starting this school year we will no longer be accepting notes for absences.



Parents/Guardians must email pointgreyattendance@vsbb.c.ca if reporting absences. Subject teachers may also be included in the email. Staff email addresses can be found on our school website under About Us > Our Staff or use this link [Staff Emails](#)

Make sure to include in the email the following information:

1. Called first and last name of student
2. Date(s) and if not absent for the full day which periods missed or the class(es) missed
3. Grade
4. Student #

Upcoming Dates in September

Remember to check our [school website](#) main page under Announcements for class schedules, monthly calendar, Student Agenda, and other information as the school year progresses.

- Friday, September 6: Artona Photo Day, Cafeteria
- Wednesday, September 11 – 13:.....Grade 8 Camp Elphinstone
- Tuesday, September 17:..... Mini Parents' Association Meeting (Virtual or In Person TBD), 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 18: Collaborative Planning Day, Late Start for Students, 10:10 am
- Monday, September 23:..... Music Supporters' Society Meeting, 7:00 pm, Zoom
- Friday, September 27: Pro D, School not in Session for Students
- Monday, September 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation, Orange Shirt Day
- New date to be determined..... PAC Meeting (was Thursday, September 12, 7:00 pm, Staffroom)