

Impact. Inspire. Ignite.

A challenging and supportive learning community for curious, motivated students.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

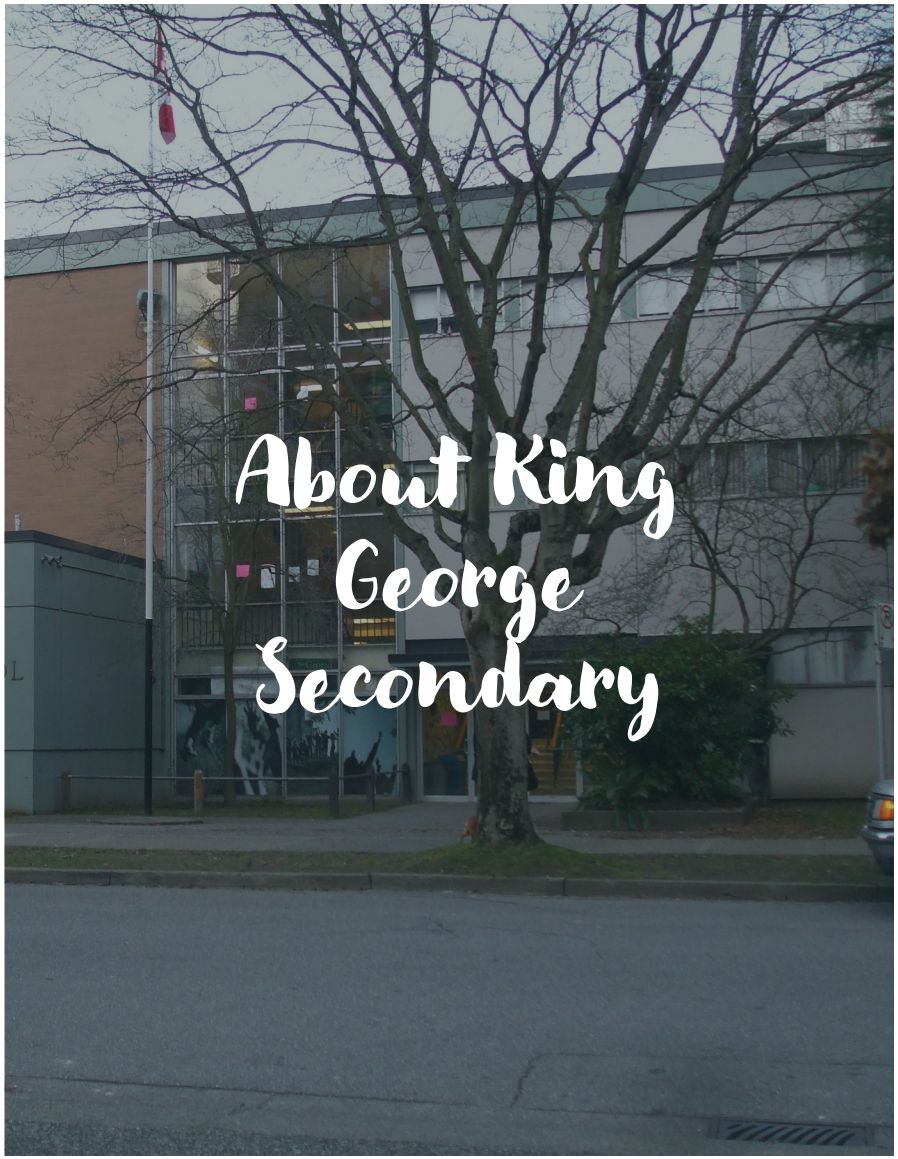
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm
(Musqueam)

Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw
(Squamish Nation)

səlilwətaɬ
(Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

Agenda

- Welcome and land acknowledgement
- About King George
- Introduction to our Mini Program!
- Selection Process
- Q&A



- Small school (approx. 600 students)
- Centrally located in West End
- Coordinate with multiple community groups: WECC, Gordon Neighbourhood House
- Diverse student population - 30+ home languages
- District leader in supporting students' learning needs

CATALYST

Impact, Inspire, Ignite

F.I.R.E

At King George, we encourage students to live our F.I.R.E. values:

Focus

Integrity in Action

Respect for All

Engagement in Learning and Community

Catalyst provides opportunities for students to put these values into practice every day.



Choosing a secondary program is about more than selecting courses.

It's about finding a community where students can:

- Challenge themselves academically
- Develop confidence and independence
- Build meaningful relationships
- Grow as leaders
- Discover their passions

Catalyst is designed to support students in becoming capable, engaged, and community-minded learners who are ready to make a positive impact.

Catalyst Combines...

📚 **Academic Enrichment**
Opportunities for deeper learning and intellectual challenge.

🤝 **Cohort Learning**
A supportive group of learners who grow together throughout Grades 8 and 9.

⭐ **Leadership Development**
Opportunities to contribute to school and community initiatives.

🧠 **Executive Functioning Skills**
Development of organization, time management, goal setting, and independent learning habits.

🌎 **Community Engagement**
Learning that extends beyond the classroom and encourages students to make a difference.



Developing Learners Who...

- Take initiative and ownership of their learning
- Think critically and creatively
- Work effectively with others
- Demonstrate resilience when faced with challenges
- Lead with empathy and integrity
- Contribute positively to their school and community

Our goal is not simply to prepare students for high school.

Our goal is to help students develop the skills, habits, and confidence they need to thrive in school, post-secondary education, and life.

Developing F.I.R.E. Learners

F.I.R.E. Value	BC Core Competency	What It Looks Like in Catalyst
Focus	Thinking	Critical and creative thinking, inquiry, problem solving, academic challenge
Integrity in Action	Personal Awareness & Responsibility	Goal setting, organization, resilience, ownership of learning
Respect for All	Positive Personal & Cultural Identity & Social Responsibility	Collaboration, empathy, inclusion, ethical leadership
Engagement in Learning & Community	Communication	Teamwork, presentations, leadership, service, community involvement

Who Thrives in Catalyst?

✅ Enjoy learning and exploring new ideas

✅ Are motivated and willing to challenge themselves

✅ Demonstrate responsibility and organization

✅ Manage their time effectively or are actively developing these skills

✅ Work well with others and value community

✅ Show perseverance when faced with challenges

✅ Want to make a positive contribution to their school and community

Students do not need to be perfect students or have extensive leadership experience to be successful in Catalyst.

We value curiosity, growth, initiative, and potential.



In Catalyst, students benefit from:

- Strong peer relationships
- Consistent teacher connections
- A sense of belonging
- Collaborative learning opportunities
- Support during the transition to secondary school

A cohort model helps students develop confidence while challenging themselves academically.



Grade 8

Build Foundations

- Academic confidence
- Organization and study habits
- Collaborative learning
- Community building

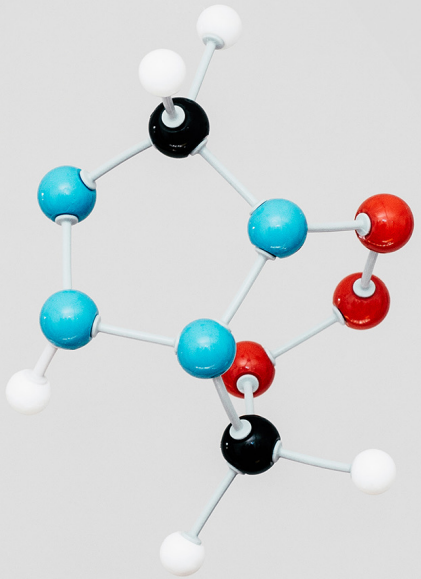
Grade 8

Catalyst Courses:

- English 8,
- Social Studies 8,
- Science 8, Math 8&9

Non-Catalyst courses:

- French 8,
- PHE 8,
- “Elective” Rotations







Grade 9

Develop Leadership

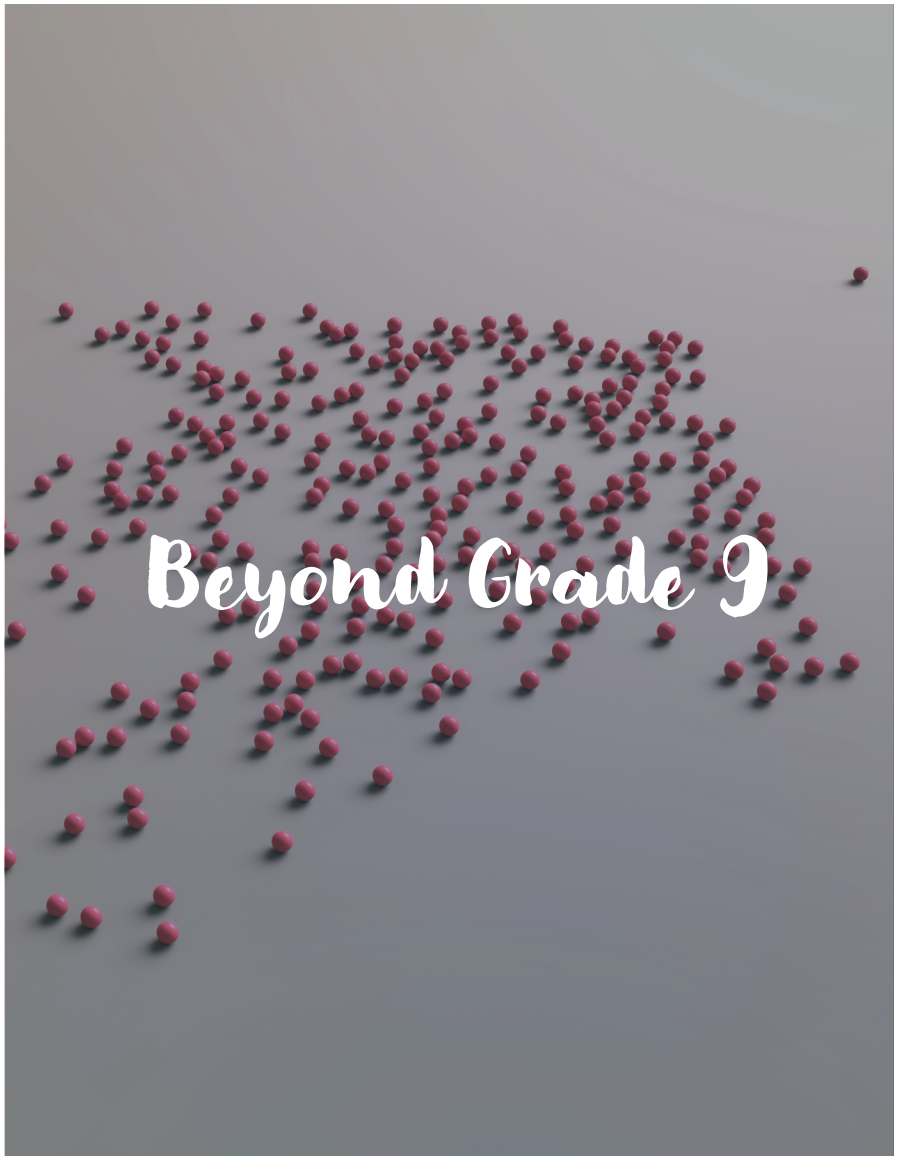
- Leadership 9
- Community engagement
- Increased independence
- Personal growth

Grade 9

- **Catalyst Courses:**
- **English 9,**
- **Social Studies 9,**
- **Science 9,**
- **PHE 9*** ***This course will teach leadership skills and team-building strategies through the lens of PHE.***

Non-Catalyst courses:

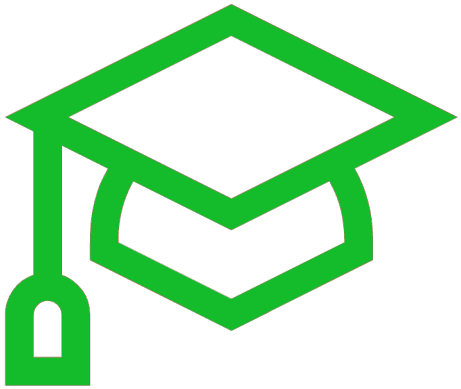
- **French 9,**
- **Math9 or 10,**
- **Elective courses****
- ** **Students choose two elective courses from a list that usually includes: Textiles, Foods, Art, Drama, Tech Studies, Music, Photography, Woodwork, Information Computer Technology.**



Create Impact

- School leadership opportunities
  - Senior Leadership 11/12
- Service learning
- Academic success
- Lifelong learning skills

Over five years at King George, students will engage in a wide range of academic enrichment opportunities, while benefiting from personalized coaching and mentorship that support leadership development within the school community. By graduation, students will have built a strong portfolio of experiences and achievements, preparing them for post-secondary pathways and future career opportunities.





Getting Involved

Catalyst students are encouraged to explore:

- Athletics
- Arts
- Leadership
- Service
- Clubs
- Community involvement

Students choose pathways that match their interests and passions.

Additional Opportunities*

Catalyst English 8 - Class trip to Bard on the Beach*

Catalyst English 9 – Media Studies unit – trip to VIFF*

Catalyst Social Studies 8 & 9 – Student government mini-unit and voting bloc

Science 8 & 9 – VSB Science Fair; Indigenous Sustainability field study; Playland science day*

PHE Leadership 9 – Students organize and run intramural sports leagues

Additional opportunities for class field trips (escape room, Science World, downtown walking tour, etc.)

**Depending on which semester the course is scheduled*

Selection Process

Students are a good fit for the Catalyst program when they:

- *Demonstrate leadership abilities in classroom and extracurricular situations.*
- *Are passionate about their hobbies and interests.*
- *Are committed to improving their skills in a wide range of subjects, regardless of their current ability.*
- *Completion of application form, written answers, and participation in a group interview process in the January (if short-listed).*

Key Dates

- ***Monday, November 9 – Info Session***
- ***** Correction -- November 16 – Applications open on District Website: https://www.vsb.bc.ca/mini-school-programs***
  - ***NOTE: You must apply to both the District website and through the KG Mini Program website: https://kgmini.wixsite.com/mysite***
- ***End of November – Elementary School Visits***
- ***Thursday, December 17 – Application deadline (Both Catalyst and District)***


Questions?
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