



# BRITANNIA SECONDARY SCHOOL



## September Newsletter 2024-2025



### PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

August 28, 2024

**Dear Britannia Secondary School Families,**

Welcome back everyone and we hope everyone had a wonderful summer break, filled with rest and quality time with loved ones.

My name is Sonia Blair, and I am delighted to join you this school year as the new Principal of Britannia Secondary School. With 25 years of experience in education, I have served as a teacher, counsellor, and school-based administrator. Most recently, I was the Principal at Point Grey Secondary for the past two years. I am excited to work alongside Vice Principals, Dale Ambrose and Kelly Egilsson, as we strive to make this a fantastic year for everyone.

As we embark on this new school year together, I am committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where all students, staff, and families feel connected and engaged. My door is always open, and I encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas, and feedback with me as we work collaboratively to create a positive and enriching educational experience for all.

Attached to this newsletter is essential information for students returning to school. The first day of school will be on Tuesday, September 3rd, with grade 8 students reporting to the gym at 10:00 am and grades 9-12 reporting to their homeroom teachers at 12:30pm.

On behalf of the Britannia staff, we look forward to seeing all of you on September 3rd. I am excited about the great school year ahead!

Sincerely,

Sonia Blair – Principal

### BRITANNIA SECONDARY SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Britannia Community Secondary School is part of an 18-acre complex - (Britannia Community Services Centre) which includes educational, health, social, and recreational facilities, and services. The complex was established through the cooperation of the Vancouver City Council, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and Vancouver Public Library Board. It operates, wherever possible, through integration of the staff and participants representing these groups.

Britannia serves a community of diverse cultures, interests, and needs. Britannia students, for example, speak English as a second (or third) language, and 38 languages are represented. The school's situation as part of the Community Services Centre allows it to respond to these needs with an educational program as well as with a range of alternate curricula, activities, and special services.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### LATE RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

Any students not returning to school on Sept 3, 2024, must notify the office of the date they expect to return in order to hold their place. Please complete a late return form available in the office and on the website under school opening. If we have not received information about a late return by Fri, Sept 6, 2024, students may be withdrawn from their classes.

### ATTENDANCE REPORTING

A reminder to all parents and guardians to call the school at 604-713-8266 or email [britabsences@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:britabsences@vsb.bc.ca) to report student absences. Absences must be reported by a parent or guardian. Written notes for absences must be signed by a parent/guardian and include the student's full name, student number, dates for the absence and a reason for the absence. An absence message report will be sent home via phone/email at the end of the day to report unexcused absences, so please inform the school in a timely manner if your child needs to be absent to ensure accurate attendance reporting.

### IMMUNIZATIONS

There will be Immunization Clinics at Britannia Secondary School on the following dates:

Clinic 1 November 28, 2024

Clinic 2 May 29, 2025

For more information, please call the Robert and Lily Lee Community Health Unit at 604-675-3980

## MYFORMS – PARENT/GUARDIAN USER GUIDE

MyForms is a new application from the Vancouver School District intended to replace paper-based consent and acknowledgement of risk forms typically sent home with students.

The application allows parents/guardians to confirm and revoke their approval of topics and activities related to a student's studies.

Please take a moment to review the attached: <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/>

## PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is looking forward to our first meeting on Thursday, September 5, 2024. PAC meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month and run from 6pm to 7:30pm. PAC meetings are a time to get together with other parents, school principal and staff. Parents learn about the happenings at the school and come up with ways to support the school and the school community.

All guardians/families are automatically members of the PAC and are encouraged and welcome to come to PAC meetings. Our first PAC meeting is Thursday, September 5 in the All Nations Room.

## FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTION TIME (FIT)

The purpose of the FIT block is to provide students with time and flexibility to address the new Career Education competencies and content; meet with teachers for support, guidance or inspiration regarding specific curriculum, or other passions and interests; collaborate with students, teachers, or community members; and explore, work on, or complete assignments and projects.

- FIT time is a period of Instructional Time built into the daily schedule that allows students to have some measure of choice and control over their own learning.
- During FIT, students are expected to be in a classroom or learning space, completing schoolwork, either individually or in groups, meeting with teachers for support on classwork, working on projects under teacher supervision or getting caught up on missed work.

## DAILY SCHEDULE

**STUDENT TIMETABLE:** Morning periods will rotate on the Day1/Day 2 schedule. Day 1: 1 2 3 4 Day 2: 2 1 3 4

Monday (NO FIT)	Tuesday (PM FIT)	Wednesday (AM FIT)	Thursday (PM FIT)	Friday (AM FIT)
PERIOD 1 8:40-10:00	PERIOD 1 8:40-10:00	FIT 8:40-9:20	PERIOD 1 8:40-10:00	FIT 8:40-9:20
		PERIOD 1 9:20-10:20		PERIOD 1 9:20-10:20
BREAK 10:00-10:10	BREAK 10:00-10:10		BREAK 10:00-10:10	
PERIOD 2 10:10-11:30	PERIOD 2 10:10-11:30	BREAK 10:20-10:30	PERIOD 2 10:10-11:30	BREAK 10:20-10:30
		PERIOD 2 10:30-11:30		PERIOD 2 10:30-11:30
LUNCH (11:30-12:15)				
PERIOD 3 12:15-1:35	PERIOD 3 12:15-1:15	PERIOD 3 12:15-1:35	PERIOD 3 12:15-1:15	PERIOD 3 12:15-1:35
BREAK 1:35-1:45	PERIOD 4 1:25-2:25	BREAK 1:35-1:45	FIT 1:25-2:05	BREAK 1:35-1:45
PERIOD 4 1:45-3:05		PERIOD 4 1:45-3:05	PERIOD 4 2:05-3:05	PERIOD 4 1:45-3:05
	FIT 2:25-3:05			

## FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL 2024-2025

Tuesday, September 3 – School Opening – Homeroom Only

Grade 8

10:00-10:30 to meet in Gym A/B (Community Education & Link Crew Leaders will be there)

10:30-11:15 – Homeroom (Link crew leaders deliver students to HR classroom)

11:15-11:45 Tour/Scavenger Hunt

11:45–12:30 BBQ/Dismissed at Teen Center

Grades 9-12

Report to homerooms at 12:30pm - listed in the Skywalk and Outside the Main Office

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Wednesday, September 4 – First Day of Classes – No FIT

8:40-9:20 Grades 8-12 Student Homeroom

9:20- 10:20 Block 1 1-1

10:20-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Block 2 1-2

11:30–12:15 Lunch

12:15 -1:35 Block 3 1-3

1:35–1:45 Break

1:45–3:05 Block 4 1-4

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Thursday, September 5 – Classes in Session – No FIT

8:40-9:20 Grades 8-12 Student Homeroom

9:20- 10:20 Block 1 1-2

10:20-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Block 2 1-1

11:30–12:15 Lunch

12:15 -1:35 Block 3 1-3

1:35–1:45 Break

1:45–3:05 Block 4 1-4

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Friday, September 6 – Classes in Session – No FIT

8:40-9:20 Grades 8-12 Student Homeroom

9:20- 10:20 Block 1 1-1

10:20-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Block 2 1-2

11:30–12:15 Lunch

12:15 -1:35 Block 3 1-3

1:35–1:45 Break

1:45–3:05 Block 4 1-4



## SCHOOL FEES

Please find the [2024-25 Britannia School Fees](#) in the link. The list details standardized school fees for the 2024-2025 school year. Some of these fees are program specific and others apply to all students attending Britannia Secondary School.

To pay school fees, please refer to this document: [Parent Step by Step Guide](#)

Link to School Cash Online: <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

\*Please note that supplemental course fees for workbooks and class materials will not appear on accounts until September 19 when student schedules will be settled.

## COLLABORATIVE PLANNING TIME SCHEDULE

Eight Mondays have been designated to include collaborative planning time. Teachers use this time to meet and plan teaching strategies and goals.

CPT Dates		CPT in the AM		CPT in the PM	
AM	PM				
Sept 16 Nov 4 Feb 24 May 12	Oct 7 Jan 13 Apr 7 Jun 2	CPT TIME	8:40-10:00	PERIOD 1	8:40-10:00
		PERIOD 1	10:00-10:40	BREAK	10:00-10:10
		BREAK	10:40-10:50	PERIOD 2	10:10-11:30
		PERIOD 2	10:50-11:30	LUNCH	11:30-12:15
		LUNCH	11:30-12:15	PERIOD 3	12:15-12:55
		PERIOD 3	12:15-1:35	BREAK	12:55-1:05
		BREAK	1:35-1:45	PERIOD 4	1:05-1:45
		PERIOD 4	1:45-3:05	CPT TIME	1:45-3:05

## MYEDUCATION ACCOUNTS

MyEducationBC (MyEd) accounts will be available Friday, August 30, 2024. MyEd is the student information system for the Vancouver School Board. An account known as a Student Family Portal Account has been created by the district for all students at Britannia Secondary School. This account is a shared account where students and parents can access student schedules, daily/class attendance, course grades and report cards. It is imperative that you share the account information (password) as a family (with your child). Your login for this account is your child's student number (7 DIGITS). For returning students, carry on with your existing Student Number, Login ID, and password. For new students to Britannia, your first password is **Dist\$2025**. Once you have entered MyEd for the first time, follow the prompts to create a new password. Contact the school office if you have problems accessing the account (604-713-8266).

Website link: [MyEducationBC](#).

## IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

September 2	Labour Day
September 3	First Day for Students – Homeroom Only
September 13	School Photo Day
September 20	Professional Development Day
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – School Closed
October 3/4	Grade 8 Camp
October 14	Thanksgiving – School Closed
October 24	Photo Retake Day
October 25	Professional Development Day
November 11	Remembrance Day – School Closed
November 21	Report Cards published
November 22	Professional Development Day
December 5	Family Teacher Conference – Early Dismissal 2:05pm
December 10-11	Artona Grad Sessions
December 20	Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation
Dec 23-Jan 3	Winter Break
January 6	School Re-opens after Winter Break
January 27/28	Semester Turn-Around Days
January 29	Semester 2 Begins
January 30	Semester 1 Final Marks Published
February 14	Professional Development Day
February 17	Family Day Holiday
February 26	Pink Shirt Day
March 14	Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Break
March 17-21	Spring Break
March 24-28	District Closure Week
March 31	School Re-opens after Spring Break/District Closure
April 18	Good Friday - School Closed
April 21	Easter Monday - School Closed
April 24	Semester 2 Mid-Term Reports Published
April 28	Professional Development Day
May 8	Family Teacher Conference – Early Dismissal 2:05pm
May 19	Victoria Day
May 26	Professional Development Day
June 10	Graduation Ceremony – Early Dismissal 2:05pm
June 26	Semester 2 Final Marks Published
June 27	Administration Day

**BRIT SECONDARY**

## OUR MISSION/OUR BELIEFS

The mission of Britannia Community Secondary School is to graduate responsible citizens with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to fulfill their potential for lifelong success.

The staff at Britannia:

- Believes in and provides a safe, positive, and purposeful environment which stimulates learning;
- Believes in and provides caring relationships and a positive climate that supports learning;
- Believes in and provides a broad range of curricular and cocurricular activities that challenge the abilities of all students while addressing their diverse needs;
- Believes in the importance of involving families as partners in education;
- Believes in and implements a school code of conduct based upon respect and responsibility.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Administrative Team:

Sonia Blair– Principal

Dale Ambrose – Vice Principal

Kelly Egilsson – Vice Principal

### Office Staff:

Janet Griffiths – Secretary

Jenefer Cousineau - Records Clerk

Paula Ferraz – Accounting

Jennifer Franzen – Reception

### Counselling Team:

Joann Liu – Grade 11 & 8 (A-G)

Kaera Ross – Grade 9 & 8 (N-Z)

Kaitlee Simonson – Grade 12 & 8 (H-M)

Mike Wiskar – Grade 10 & International, OUTR, STFT

### Indigenous Education:

Eric Dann - Teaching

Tori Ayi-Bonte – Youth & Family Worker

### School Trustee:

Janet Fraser

## SCHOOL ADDRESS

### BRITANNIA COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL

1001 Cotton Drive

Vancouver, B.C V5L 3T4

Tel: (604)713-8266

Vancouver School Board: (604)713-5000

Website:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/britannia-secondary/Pages/default.aspx>

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

# BRITANNIA BRUINS