

September  
2026

# Grade 8

# PROGRAMS

All 18 secondary schools in Vancouver offer challenging and comprehensive programs. Many schools have developed their own school-based enrichment programs for a wide range of student interests and abilities. In addition to the neighbourhood school, District programs also offer a set of enrichment programs to meet the needs of students.

All information nights will be held in person and through online platforms. **There is no District Wide Assessment required for application.**

## IMPORTANT DATES AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

### GENERAL REGISTRY:

All applicants complete the District Mini School General Registry between **9:00 a.m., Nov. 10, 2025. – Dec. 15, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**  
<https://govsb.ca/secondary-programs>

### PROGRAM APPLICATION:

To complete the application process, students connect directly to each Mini School program they wish to apply to and submit the required information and documentation.

**Deadline: December 15, 2025, by 3:00 p.m.**

**Schools are dynamic, and changes may occur; check our website for the most up-to-date information.**

<https://govsb.ca/secondary-programs>

### BRITANNIA HOCKEY ACADEMY

blends regular secondary school coursework, graduation programs and field studies with a licensed Hockey Canada Skills Academy (HCSA). Students receive on-ice training three times per week from September to June.

The BHA instructors are professional Vancouver School Board (VSB) physical education teachers who are trained and certified by Hockey Canada. In addition, a number of specialized certified guest instructors and instructor's assistants will be directly involved in the development of BHA participants.

**Info Night: November 5, 2025, 6 p.m.**

[www.vsb.bc.ca/britannia-secondary/page/577/hockey-academy](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/britannia-secondary/page/577/hockey-academy)

### BRITANNIA VENTURE PROGRAM

is an academically focused program in grades 8 to 10 that seeks to build excellence in critical thinking, communication and presentation, along with a strong sense of responsibility to self and community. The program is designed primarily to prepare students for future study in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program offered at Britannia in grades 11 and 12.

**Info Night: November 5, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[www.vsb.bc.ca/britannia-secondary/page/575/venture](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/britannia-secondary/page/575/venture)

### BYNG ARTS MINI SCHOOL

is designed for students who wish to direct their energy and passion towards the fine arts, work within a community of students who share their interests, and maintain strong academic achievement. As a comprehensive Grade 8 to 12 program, we promote academic and artistic excellence through curricular and extra-curricular activities in visual arts, literary arts, orchestral strings, concert band, choir, media arts and drama.

**Info Night: October 21, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[byng2.vsb.bc.ca/byngarts](http://byng2.vsb.bc.ca/byngarts)



### DAVID THOMPSON ODYSSEY PROGRAM

is a unique combination of accelerated Math and Science subjects with enriched Social Studies and English courses that are taught in a cohort model. Our goals are academic excellence, leadership, and social responsibility through service to others. Odyssey students are curious and enthusiastic learners. We offer interdisciplinary thematic studies, field studies, and science and math competitions to extend learning beyond the classroom.

**Info Night: October 23, 2025, 6 p.m.**

[blogs.vsb.bc.ca/thompson-odyssey](https://blogs.vsb.bc.ca/thompson-odyssey)

**GLADSTONE MINI** is an accelerated program, in which learners earn credit for grades 8, 9 and 10 in two school years. The program emphasizes high academic achievement, creative and original thinking, independence, initiative, responsibility and leadership. Successful applicants are self-motivated, able to work co-operatively and value thinking for its own sake.

**Info Night: October 22, 2025, 6 p.m.**

[www.vsb.bc.ca/gladstone/page/1843/mini-school-enrichment-program](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/gladstone/page/1843/mini-school-enrichment-program)

### HAMBER CHALLENGE STUDIO PROGRAM

is a 5-year program featuring a more Humanities-based focus. It offers both acceleration and enrichment for highly-motivated and academically-capable students who have a desire to shape the direction of their own studies and a wish to pursue areas of passion. Creative and critical thinking, project-based learning, and student ownership are key. At the grade 8 level, the program consists of English, Social Studies, Science, and Critical Thinking/Fine Arts. Students also may be considered for advanced placement in Math and French depending on their ability. Field studies, speakers, and social events provide a well-rounded experience in an active community.

**Info Night: October 16, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[www.vsb.bc.ca/eric-hamber/page/1621/challenge-studio-program](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/eric-hamber/page/1621/challenge-studio-program)

**IDEAL MINI SCHOOL** features a safe environment for academically motivated and creative students who feel they would flourish in a smaller setting with a close network of peers.

The Ideal program emphasizes COMMUNITY, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, COLLABORATION, MENTORSHIP and LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. These values are achieved through cross grade interaction, school-wide initiatives, community-based partnerships, and a cohort-based learning environment under the leadership of a core group of Ideal teachers. Students who thrive at Ideal are self-motivated, academically capable, appreciate their individuality and that of others, and are creative and collaborative thinkers.

**Info Night: November 4, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[www.idealminischool.ca](https://www.idealminischool.ca)

### JOHN OLIVER DIGITAL IMMERSION MINI SCHOOL

is a program that promotes strong, self-directed and motivated lifelong learners who are able to maximize a technology enhanced learning environment. There will be experiential and practical hands on learning through extended field studies related to core subjects, leadership and outdoor education as well as math enrichment in core subjects.

**Info Night: October 27, 2025, 6 p.m.**

[blogs.vsb.bc.ca/jo-minischool](https://blogs.vsb.bc.ca/jo-minischool)

### KILLARNEY COMPUTER SCIENCE MINI SCHOOL

is a 5 year Computer Science focused experience for highly motivated students. Students will experience an enriched math, science and information technology curriculum (Grade 8-10 levels) for the junior high school years, and then be able to focus on a specialty area for grades 10 – 12. The specialty areas include:

- Programming (Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence)
- System Administrator
- Network Administrator
- Cyber Security
- Robotics

**Info Night: November 18, 2025, 6 p.m.**

[www.vsb.bc.ca/killarney/page/2483/mini-school](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/killarney/page/2483/mini-school)

### KING GEORGE CATALYST MINI SCHOOL

is designed to give students the leadership skills they need to thrive in the modern world. Over three years, students will explore a range of leadership and communication styles in a cohort environment covering English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and PE. The program culminates with a self-directed study project in a personal area of interest.

**Info Night: October 15, 2025, 6 p.m.**

[kgmini.wixsite.com/mysite](https://kgmini.wixsite.com/mysite)



**For more information: <http://govsb.ca/secondary-programs>**

**MAGEE SPARTS** SPARTS offers a part-time educational program to Gr. 8-12 students participating in high-level athletics and performing arts. Due to the rigours of competition, training, and learning, SPARTS students are enrolled in morning or afternoon classes only. SPARTS students take the same core academic courses as regular students, while being eligible for adjudicated credit for their training outside of school and any external transfer credit certification to meet graduation requirements. Successful applicants are independent, communicative, and cooperative learners.

**Info Night: October 8, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[vsb.bc.ca/magee/page/3205/sparts](http://vsb.bc.ca/magee/page/3205/sparts)

**POINT GREY MINI SCHOOL** is a comprehensive, 8-12, academic, enriched program which values community, leadership, and service. Successful students are self-motivated, academically able, and have a high degree of self-discipline. Program components include cross-grade courses and activities, cultural outreach, and outdoor education.

**Info Night: October 28, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[pgmini.org](http://pgmini.org)

**PRINCE OF WALES MINI SCHOOL** is a 5-year district enrichment program established to meet the needs of highly capable and motivated students. Our school seeks students who are enthusiastic, self-motivated, love a challenge, and pursue leadership in their community. We encourage students to develop as well-rounded individuals to find an appropriate balance of academic, athletic, artistic, and social pursuits.

**Info Night: November 13, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[www.pwminischool.com](http://www.pwminischool.com)

**TEMPLETON MINI** is a grade 8 to 12 enrichment program for students who have demonstrated above average academic achievement and whose curiosity and motivation lead them to seek a challenging and enriching school setting.

At Templeton Mini we strive to create a program that promotes critical thinking through problem solving, project-based learning, and cross-curricular activities. Participation in community service and outdoor education leads students in the Mini School to graduate as engaged, thoughtful, and productive members of society.

**Info Night: November 3, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[templetonminischool.wixsite.com/templeton/home](http://templetonminischool.wixsite.com/templeton/home)

**TUPPER MINI** is a place where academically motivated students can thrive and challenge themselves! Our five-year district program is designed for those eager to become lifelong learners, offering a well-rounded education that provides an enriched program in English, Social Studies, and Science. We also provide an accelerated Math program in grades 8 and 9, ensuring students are well-prepared for advanced coursework in the senior years. Students are encouraged to meet the expectations of attendance, attitude, work habits, and achievement while also engaging in extracurricular activities and leadership roles.

**Info Night: October 29, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[www.tupperminischool.ca](http://www.tupperminischool.ca)

**VANCOUVER TECHNICAL FLEX HUMANITIES PROGRAM** is a vibrant, continually evolving, enriched liberal arts program, structured on the basis of student self-directed learning. Critical thinkers, who thrive in active, autonomous, cooperative groups, have a passion for philosophical and historical thinking, and who are comfortable in a relatively unstructured learning environment, will excel in Flex Humanities.

Students explore a unique, sequential blend of Philosophy, Literature, Social Justice, History, Geography, Political Science, Fine Arts, Film Studies, and Spanish.

**Info Night: October 30, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[www.vsb.bc.ca/vancouver-technical/page/4626/flex-humanities](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/vancouver-technical/page/4626/flex-humanities)

**VANCOUVER TECHNICAL SUMMIT PROGRAM** is an enriched science & math program with an additional emphasis on social justice, community involvement and leadership. Successful students will have a strong background in science and math, good organizational capabilities, be task oriented, and be willing to take on leadership both inside and outside the school community.

**Info Night: October 22, 2025, 7 p.m.**

[vtsummit.wixsite.com/summit](http://vtsummit.wixsite.com/summit)

**WINDERMERE LEADERSHIP** is a Grade 8–12, cohort-based mini-school that focuses on environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Rooted in academic learning, community involvement, and outdoor education, this program challenges students to become thoughtful, empathetic, and engaged leaders. The cohort model emphasizes relationship building, supporting meaningful connections with teachers and lasting friendships with peers. Leadership students are provided with a diverse range of experiences as they explore social and environmental topics. Whether it is through camping in natural environments, collaborating on an inquiry project, or working with community partners, students develop a deep, personal connection to the program's core values.

**Info Night: November 6, 2025, 6 p.m.**

[windermereleadership.org](http://windermereleadership.org)





# FRENCH IMMERSION AND MANDARIN

## FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMS

(Grade 8-12) are at Kitsilano, Churchill and Van Tech.

The secondary component of the French Immersion program provides students with the opportunity to continue their studies and the development of higher level thinking and verbal skills in their second language.

Students must have completed the elementary French Immersion program (or its equivalent if transferring from another district, province or country).

[www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5297/french-immersion](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5297/french-immersion)

## EARLY MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM

is at Windemere Secondary. Students take two Mandarin courses in grade 8, and one Mandarin course in grade 9 as a co-hort. In grades 10-12 students complete coursework in the mainstream program.

Priority is given to students who complete the Early Mandarin Bilingual program at Norquay. Other students with program level of Mandarin are welcome to apply.

## MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM

is at Eric Hamber Secondary. Students take two Mandarin courses in grade 8, and one Mandarin course in grade 9 as a co-hort. In grades 10-12 students complete coursework in the mainstream program.

Priority is given to students who complete the Mandarin Bilingual program at Trudeau. Other students with program level of Mandarin are welcome to apply.



## SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

Priority for enrolment is given to students who live in the school catchment. If space is available after catchment students have been accommodated, out-of-catchment students may be considered. Out-of-catchment students will be considered through the cross-boundary application process.

**Check with your local secondary school for up-to-date information on school-based programs.**

## STEM PROGRAM AT TEMPLETON

combines science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into a multi-course cohort that engages students in project based learning. Exemplifying BC's new inquiry-based curriculum, students work in collaborative teams to activate core and curricular competencies through authentic, multi-week design challenges based in real-world problems.

Students have full access to facilities, elective courses, clubs and teams at Templeton Secondary School.

**Note: This is not a District Program.**

[templetonstem.org](http://templetonstem.org)

## SYNERGY AT CHURCHILL

is for students who are talented and capable of going beyond the standard curriculum in scope and depth. Synergy students stay together for English, Socials, Applied Skills, and Science. Bright curious creative thinkers who have leadership potential are candidates for Synergy.

**Note: This is not a District Program.**

[www.vsb.bc.ca/sir-winston-churchill/page/3873](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/sir-winston-churchill/page/3873)

