



# Community Newsletter

Phone: 604-713-8258 Website: [uhill-sec.vsb.bc.ca](http://uhill-sec.vsb.bc.ca)

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

## Principal's Message

Dear Students & Families,

As we have officially turned the calendar to Fall, I want to again recognize the tremendous school community that we have here at University Hill Secondary. It has been heartwarming to meet the kind and mature students, the thoughtful and professional educators, and the involved and committed families that make this a special place to be.

Aside from the work being done in the classroom, our athletics teams and clubs have also been getting up and running. As always, we encourage our students to take a chance and to try something new, particularly if they are new to our school. High school can be a rich and rewarding experience, even more so if we broaden our social circle to involve something that we are passionate about and interested in. Our full list of clubs and sports teams can be found on our website.

Get involved and make connections! Go Hawks!

Travis Bell  
Principal, University Hill Secondary

### Administrative Team

Travis Bell, Principal  
David Bach, Vice Principal (*on leave*)  
Andrew Humphries, Vice Principal  
Alfred Chien, School Trustee  
Rick Lopez, Director of Instruction

### Office Staff

Tina Matsalla, Office Admin Assistant  
Holly Low, Accountant  
Charlene Wang, Student Records  
Tammy Weinczok, Receptionist & First Aid Attendant (*Oct 1 to 31*)



## Mission Statement and Goal Summary

*We are on a mission to inspire an ethical and caring community of evolving global citizens who live meaningfully, creatively, and mindfully.*

University Hill Secondary, a multicultural school community, is committed to the pursuit of excellence through the provision of teaching and learning environments based on co-operation and social responsibility. University Hill staff, students, and parents/guardians are guided in their efforts to fulfil the school mission by the following goals and principles:

- Well-qualified and dedicated staff is crucial to the efficient delivery of outstanding educational programs.
- Quality learning is fostered in safe, respectful, encouraging, and creative settings.
- The school curriculum, programs, and activities are student centred for active learning.
- Teachers, parents/guardians, and students co-operate in important ways to ensure effective communication in the process of achieving academic and social goals.
- Recognition is given for the achievements of students and staff, and positive reinforcement for self-reliant and co-operative behaviour.
- The school community and culture are characterized by concern for equity, fairness, school spirit, environmental awareness, and global issues.

## Communicating Student Learning

The purpose of assessment is to move learning forward in an equitable and inclusive way. It helps us answer the following questions:

- Where am I now?
- Where am I going?
- How do I get there?

Each reporting period is an opportunity to celebrate learning and offer feedback for future learning. These reports will be available from the [MyEducation Family Portal](#) for four weeks. In addition to written reports, communication about student progress takes place by telephone and parent teacher interviews. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to contact individual subject Teachers or Counsellors for information on student progress.

### Reporting Timeline

#### Semester 1

- Informal Learning Update published **October 10, 2025**
- Written Learning Update published **November 21, 2025**
- Summary of Learning published **January 30, 2026**

#### Semester 2

- Informal Learning Update published **March 06, 2026**
- Written Learning Update published **May 01, 2026**
- Summary of Learning published **June 25, 2026**

#### Full Year Courses

- Informal Learning Update published **November 21, 2025**
- Written Learning Updates published **January 30 & May 01, 2026**
- Summary of Learning published **June 25, 2026**

### Parent Teacher Conferences

There will be two Parent Teacher Conference Evening, one for each Semester. Both will be from 4:00 – 6:30 pm and they have been scheduled on **Thursday, December 11, 2025** (for Semester 1) and **Wednesday, May 06, 2026** (for Semester 2).

## School Office Reminders

### Medical Alerts

If your child has important health alerts, please update the school office with written documentation.

### Daily Absences

Parents/guardians are to report all absences by email at [uhillswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:uhillswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca) - Emails should be sent using a parent/guardian email address and should provide the **student's name, date(s) of absence, grade, student number and reason for the absence.**

**\* For extended absences** parents/guardians must email the student's counsellor. A student should also be provided with a note for their teachers. Students must be reminded that falsifying attendance notes is unacceptable. It is the student's responsibility to make up any work that is missed, regardless of the reason for the absence. Exceptions to this may be granted due to unforeseen circumstances. If a student becomes ill while at school, or has an appointment during school time, students must sign out at the office. Students will only be released with parent permission. Students who are ill should not come to school and if they attend school and is deemed to be unwell, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up their child.

### School Forms

If you haven't already done so, please ensure that the following forms have been completed (on-line):

- VSB Internal Use Media Consent
- Student AUP - Acceptable Use Policy
- External Use Media Consent
- Adobe CC Consent (if applicable)
- CASL - Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation

Log on to <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> to provide consent electronically for the forms below. Sign in with the student's 9 digit Personal Education Number (PEN) and the D.O.B.

### MyEd Student Verification Sheet and Emergency Reunification Authorization Forms

Thank you to all families for completing and submitting their forms. Just to note that some forms are being returned to students if the pink verification form was not signed or if the yellow reunification sheet was not fully completed.

### UHall West Parking Lot

Staff Parking Lot – Reminder that during school hours, the parking lot to the west of our school is our staff parking lot. We have very limited space for UHall and our District Staff. Therefore, we kindly request that community and families please do not park in the staff parking lot during school hours (especially in the morning before school). Thank you!

### Yearbooks

Yearbooks are available to order for \$60 on School Cash Online <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>. The 2025-2026 Yearbook will be filled with pictures of students, staff, school events, holidays, and create memories for years to come. Purchase yours early as we have sold out in previous years. The Yearbook order deadline is **February 27, 2026.**

### School Fees/School Cash Online

If you haven't already done so, please check and register for "School Cash Online" and pay for school fees. The following link will take you to the website: <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>. This is the preferred method for paying for all items for school including: yearbooks, school fees, workbook fees, etc. This method is also a quicker way to receive a refund if one is required. Thank you for your attention and consideration in this method of payment.

### MyEducationBC Accounts

A reminder that MyEducationBC (MyEd) is the student information system for the Vancouver School Board. A Student/Family Portal Account has been created by the district for all students at University Hill Secondary School. This account is a shared account where students and parents can access student schedules, daily/class attendance, course grades and learning updates. 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. Please use the website to login: [MyEducationBC Account](#) and the instructions for setting up the account: [MyEd Student Family Portal](#). Click on the link to UHILL's [School Technology Guide](#) if you require assistance. Please do not use the BC Services Card option.

## Counselling Corner

### Upcoming Mandatory Information Session for Grade 12 students

- October 14th, 2025 - Grade 12 Information Assembly (during FIT) Grade 12 students are to report to the LLC for an information session about all things post-secondary from the counselling team.

### New Parents/Guardians Workshop – October 9, 2025, from 5pm to 6pm in the Lower Learning Commons (LLC).

This workshop is for grade 10 to 12 students and families at UHill that are new to British Columbia. The workshop will cover the BC Graduation Program and General Post-Secondary Information. A multicultural worker will be available for translation assistance and questions in Mandarin/Cantonese. For Spanish and Korean, multicultural workers' contact information will be provided in the presentation.

### 2025-2026 Post-Secondary Events

For students and families who are exploring post-secondary options, we highly recommend connecting with representatives from the institutions and sitting in on information sessions to get the most up-to-date information. For the 2025-2026 school year, we have several colleges/universities visiting in-person. Please go to the UHill Counselling website for the most up to date list of events both in school and in the community. This list will be updated throughout the school year, so it is recommended to check back for the most recent information: <https://uhillcounselling.weebly.com/>

**FamilySmart** - offers free support to parents and caregivers who have children/youth struggling with mental health and/or substance use. FamilySmart has free monthly events for Families and Caregivers on topics such as ADHD, OCD, and emotional regulation. Please see link for more information: <https://familysmart.ca/>

### School Communication

We encourage all parents/guardians to see their students' MS Grade Teams and School Team for specific information. Our aim is to provide guidance and information to students/parents/guardians in order to support our students. We also strongly encourage students/parents/guardians to visit our counselling website for upcoming events and resources for well-being. <https://uhillcounselling.weebly.com/>

<b>Emily Chen</b>	Grades 8 – 12, Last name A – Ki & Strategies	Email: ehchen@vsb.bc.ca
<b>Susan Hornby</b>	Grades 8 – 12, Last name Kj – T	Email: shornby@vsb.bc.ca
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## Graduation Assessments

### **Grade 12 Literacy Assessments - November 4 to 7, 2025**

The Assessments will be held in the LLC (Lower Learning Commons) and all Grade 12 students will be registered for this session. The schedule for **November 4 to 7** will be posted on the Grade 12 Teams Channel.

### **Grade 10 Numeracy Assessments - January 13 to 16, 2026**

### **Grade 10 Literacy Assessments - April 21 to 24, 2026**

## Athletics

Athletics are back! We are so excited to offer a full slate of sport offerings. Fall sports are in full swing, with Volleyball for Grades 8-12 for the girls and a junior boys team this year. We have a senior boys and a juvenile boys soccer team in competition as well as a cross-country team running a meet already! We have a swim team as well, which will compete in the district meet at Watermania in late October (24th).

The next sport leagues will be in the winter season, which begins in November. We are in the process of taking signups for the sports that can potentially run (on the tackboard outside the PE Office/Gym).

Here is the list of winter sports: **Basketball** (boys and girls all grades), and **Table Tennis** (boys and girls all grades).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Mr. J. Hodgson, Athletic Director at [jhodgson@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:jhodgson@vsb.bc.ca)

Click the link to the Vancouver Secondary Schools Athletic Association Website for more information.

[https://admin.esportsdesk.com/leagues/custom\\_page.cfm?leagueID=0&clientID=223&pageID=21514&link=Pro&xx=4](https://admin.esportsdesk.com/leagues/custom_page.cfm?leagueID=0&clientID=223&pageID=21514&link=Pro&xx=4)

*GO HAWKS GO!* Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

### Whitecaps FC Academy

Congratulations to Rayan Elloumi on signing his first team contract and getting a lot of minutes playing with the Whitecaps first team. Watch here for news of players being called up to play on national teams in the coming weeks!

**Whitecaps FC Information Session– October 9, 2025**, from 5pm to 6pm in the Upper Learning Commons (LLC).

**This workshop is for the Players and their families.** The workshop will cover how the program works to meet the BC Graduation requirements as well as NCC Eligibility and general post-secondary information.

*GO WHITECAPS GO!*

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## School Clubs

We were excited to offer a Clubs Day on **Wednesday, October 1** after school in the cafeteria. It was an opportunity for students to obtain information about all the clubs to help them decide whether they want to sign up. Please encourage your student to join a club to meet others and have fun. Click to view the [2025 2026 UHill Club List](#)

## School and Graduation Photos

The photographers from Artona Studios were at UHill on **September 5 and October 2, 2025** to take school photos. All photos are now available on-line from their website. Click the link to view and order photos: <https://artona.com/>

### What if students missed the original photo day and retake day?

If students wish to have an Artona school photo taken, they can attend Artona's [in-studio retake day](#) at the Vancouver studio, which is scheduled for **Saturday, November 15, 2025**.

### Graduation Photo Session Dates are February 1 to 4, 2026

Grade 12 students can now book their 30-minute appointment at <https://artona.com/bookings>. If you have any questions in regards to school or graduation photos please contact Artona Studio directly - click on "contact us" on their website or call 604-872-7272.

**Group Photo Sessions:** are **Friday, September 19, 2025 - Sunday, March 29, 2026** at Artona Studios

Artona Studios  
353 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

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## Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parents can find information about the University Hill Secondary PAC at the [UHILL PAC Website](#).

PAC Meetings for the 2025 – 2026 school year will be on the following **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Library (ULC)**

- October 15, 2025
- November 19, 2025
- January 14, 2026
- February 18, 2026
- April 15, 2026
- May 13, 2026
- June 17, 2026

## 2025 – 2026 Calendar Dates to Note

### October 2025

09 Orientation for New Gr 10 – 12 Families 5 pm in the LLC  
 09 Whitecaps FC Info Session for Players & Families 5:00 pm in the ULC  
 10 S1 Informal Learning Update Published  
 13 STAT - Thanksgiving Day  
 14 Gr 12 Assembly During FIT  
 15 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm in ULC  
 16 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm  
 20 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Rotation S1 #2 (Oct 20 to Dec 2)  
 21 Gr 10 Career Education Assembly during FIT  
 24 Non-Instructional Day (Province Wide)

### November 2025

04 to 07 Grad Assessments (Literacy 12)  
 04 Homeroom Class during FIT  
 10 Remembrance Day Assemblies, Periods 1, 2 & 3 in the Gym  
 11 STAT – Remembrance Day  
 12 Immunization Day #1  
 18 Homeroom Class during FIT  
 19 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC  
 21 S1 Written Learning Update & FY Informal Learning Update Published  
 21 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)  
 25 Gr 12 Assembly during FIT in the LLC

### December 2025

03 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Rotation S1#3 (Dec 3 to Jan 23)  
 04 Gr 12 Assembly during FIT (Re: Capstone)  
 11 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal at 2:05 pm)  
 12 CPT – Classes begin at 10:00 am  
 19 Last Day before Winter Break  
 19 Winter Assemblies – Periods 1, 2 & 3 in the Gym  
 22 to Jan 2 Winter Break

### January 2026

01 & 02 Winter Break Continues  
 05 School Reopens after Winter Break  
 13 to 16 Grad Assessments (Numeracy 10) in the LLC  
 14 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC  
 15 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm  
 20 Gr 11 Course Planning Session during FIT (Part1) in the LLC  
 22 Gr 11 Course Planning Session during FIT (Part 2) in the LLC  
 23 Last Day of Semester 1  
 26 & 27 Semester Turnaround Days  
 28 First Day of Semester 2  
 28 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Rotation S2 #1 (Jan 28 to Mar 12)  
 30 S1 Summary of Learning & FY Witten Learning Update Published

### February 2026

01 to 04 Grad Photo Sessions at Artona Studios – by appointment  
 02 Semester 2 Grade Assemblies – Periods 1, 2 & 3 in the Gym  
 03 Gr 10 Course Planning Session during FIT in the LLC

04 Parent Course Info Night 5:00 pm – Virtual  
 05 Gr 9 Course Planning Session during FIT in the LLC  
 05 Gr 7 Parent Info & Course Planning Night 5 pm in the LLC  
 10 Gr 8 Course Planning Session during FIT  
 13 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)  
 16 STAT - Family Day  
 18 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC  
 20 CPT – Classes start at 10:00 am  
 22 Last Day to enter 2026-2027 Course Selections  
 27 Last Day to for 2025/2026 Yearbook Sales

### March 2026

06 S2 Informal Learning Update published  
 10 Gr 12 Assembly during FIT (re Capstone)  
 12 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Rotation S2 #2 (Mar 12 to May 8)  
 13 Last Day before Spring Break  
 16 to 27 Spring Break  
 30 School Reopens after Spring Break

### April 2026

03 STAT – Good Friday  
 06 STAT – Easter Monday  
 09 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm  
 14 Homeroom Class during FIT  
 15 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC  
 20 Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)  
 21 to 24 Grad Assessments (Literacy 10) in the LLC

### May 2026

01 S2 & FY Written Learning Update Published  
 01 Grad on-line Ticket Sales Begin – more details to follow  
 06 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal at 2:05 pm)  
 07 CPT – Classes begin at 10:00 am  
 11 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Rotation S2 #3 (May 11 to June 23)  
 13 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC  
 15 Non-Instructional Day (School Based)  
 18 STAT - Victoria Day  
 20 Immunization Day #2 (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)  
 21 Capstone Presentation during FIT and Period 4  
 28 Gr 12 Assembly/Grad Rehearsal during period 3 in the LLC

### June 2026

02 Homeroom Class during FIT  
 03 Graduation Ceremony at Chan Centre (UBC)  
 09 CPT – Classes end at 1:45 pm  
 10 Graduation Assessments – Make-up session in the LLC  
 12 Grad Dinner/Dance – more details for follow  
 17 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC  
 23 Year End Assemblies Periods 2, 3 & 4  
 23 Last Day of Classes  
 24 & 25 IE Days  
 25 S2 & FY Summary of Learning Published