



April Family Bulletin

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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) & səilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

April at Van Tech

Dear Van Tech Community,

April promises to be a busy month at our school, brimming with opportunities for students to shine, reflect, and engage in community building.

Here's a glimpse of what's in store:

- **Music Performances:** On April 10, our music students will take the stage for both afternoon and evening concerts. Later in the month, junior music students will travel to Whistler to take part in the Con Brio music festival, while senior music students will embark on a music tour to Nelson and Osoyoos.
- **Theatre:** Van Tech's Theatre Company is proud to present *The Marxist in Heaven* from April 23 to 25.
- **Science and Math Enthusiasts:** Some of our students will participate in the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair and the Euclid Math Contest.
- **Celebration of Champions:** Our counselling department will recognize outstanding students, acknowledging their valuable contributions to our school community, encompassing qualities such as inclusion, leadership, and grit.
- **Student Forum:** Approximately 75 randomly selected students have been invited to participate in a Student Forum, offering a platform to express their values, opinions, beliefs, and perspectives on teaching, learning, and the sense of community at our school. These insights will inform discussions on school issues and policies, shaping our forthcoming 2024-2025 school plan.
- **Important Dates Ahead:**
 - Semester 2 Learning Updates will be published on April 26.
 - Caregiver-Teacher Conferences take place on May 9.
 - **Grads of 2024! Your Dinner Dance has been moved to June 14th! See key Grad dates at the end of this newsletter.**

We value your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts on your child's experience at Van Tech. Please feel free to connect with us for any inquiries, feedback or concerns you may have.

Warm regards, *the Vancouver Technical School Administration*



Roberto Moro
Principal
Gr. 12



Adam Tuerlings
Vice Principal
Gr. 9 & 11



Janet Thompson
Vice Principal
Gr. 8 & 10

Parent Advisory Council Information

We invite all parents/caregivers of Van Tech students to join us for Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings.

PAC meetings are an opportunity for folks to hear from, and ask questions of, the school administration. We welcome suggestions for topics for future meetings. Our meetings follow a hybrid model of in-person and remote. Agendas, minutes and Zoom links can be found on the [PAC webpage](#). If you have questions, please contact the PAC chair: chairvt@gmail.com

Join us at the next meeting on Tuesday, April 23rd, at 7pm in the library or on Zoom. All are welcome!

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrcOyurj4jGdOCF5HV75iZRNitzABaR89I>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Your 2023-2024 Pac Executive: Lindsie Tomlinson (Chair), Shawna Deagle (Treasurer), Shawn-Patrick Carnahan (Secretary)

Student Learning Survey

The Student Learning Survey provides feedback on the implementation of the curriculum changes, learning environment, student wellness and satisfaction, student belonging and engagement, and career preparation. It is the only source of province-wide information about students' learning experiences through the perspectives of students, parents, caregivers, and school staff. Schools and school districts use the SLS to make informed decisions around long-term planning and goal setting and in providing student supports. The SLS for caregivers is available online at [Student Learning Survey - Province of British Columbia \(awinfosys.com\)](https://awinfosys.com) in 18 different languages. **The survey will be available until May 3rd. Please take 30 minutes to complete this anonymous survey.**

Caregiver-Teacher Conferences

Caregiver-Teacher Conferences happen on Thursday, May 9th. Detailed "how to book" instructions are posted on the school website HERE: [Parent & Guardian Teacher Conferences \(vsb.bc.ca\)](https://vsb.bc.ca) The online booking system, vantech.schoolappointments.com, can be accessed HERE: [School Appointments - Vancouver Technical Secondary](https://vsb.bc.ca), from 9 a.m. on Monday, April 29 to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8th.

How to access Learning Updates (Report Cards) on MyEd

Follow these steps for access:

1. Go to <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do>
2. The MyEducation BC Login ID is your child's student number.
3. If you haven't logged in before, the default MyEducation BC Password is set by the district to: Dist\$2024
4. If you've forgotten your Password, or if it has expired (passwords must be reset every 90 days), see the reset instructions here: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5038/account-management>

VSb MyEd HELP PAGE: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5038/account-management>

Having difficulty accessing MyEd?

The **MyEd Parent Module** offers caregivers the ability to gain access to their child's MyEd account with their own login rather than using student login credentials. If you would like to use the Parent Module please contact your child's grade administrator: Roberto Moro (Gr. 12), Adam Tuerlings (Gr. 9 & 11), or Janet Thompson (Gr. 8 & 10).

It is recommended that you download and save a copy of this Learning Update for future reference. Learning Updates are NOT saved on MyEd. Only the most recent Learning Updates are posted on student accounts.

Reporting

What is the purpose of assessment?

The purpose of assessment is to facilitate learning and move it forward in an equitable and inclusive way. It helps students answer three questions about their learning:

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

Quality assessment is ongoing and responsive. It informs the instruction cycle and provides **teachers** with evidence to plan. It helps **families** understand and support their children's learning. Most importantly, it provides **students** with meaningful feedback to guide their learning and help them reflect on their growth.

How will my child be assessed?

All students will receive **Written Learning Updates** (Report Cards) and **Informal Learning Updates** such as telephone calls, e-mails, and conferences. Written Learning Updates will include self-reflection and goal setting, as well as descriptive feedback. The new Provincial Reporting Policy requires that students in Grades 10 -12 receive a **letter grade and percentage**, while students in Grades 8 and 9 receive grades on a **four-point proficiency scale** (Emerging, Developing, Proficient, Extending).

EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

"IE" - Insufficient Evidence

"IE" is a mark that indicates that a student has not yet demonstrated minimally acceptable performance in relation to the learning standards. Should your child receive an "IE" for any of their classes before the Summary of Learning, the teacher will identify what

learning standards (competencies and content knowledge) they need to demonstrate and create a support plan for the student. This plan will outline the actions to be taken by the student and school to help the student provide sufficient evidence of learning.

Core Competencies

Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to engage in deep, lifelong learning. Along with literacy and numeracy foundations, they are central to BC’s K-12 curriculum and assessment system and directly support students in their growth as educated citizens.

Vancouver students are required to reflect on Core Competencies and set goals of their choice three times each school year. **Van Tech students participate in these activities in November, April, and June and their work will be uploaded to their Grade Core Competency TEAM.** Student development in Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social Core Competencies at school often looks different than it does at home, so we encourage parents/caregivers to have conversations with their children about how Core Competencies can be developed in all aspects of their lives.

2023-2024 Learning Updates publication

Semester	Learning Update: <i>Interim Report</i>	Learning Update: <i>Mid-Semester Report</i>	Learning Update: <i>Caregiver-Teacher Conferences</i>	Learning Update: <i>Summary of Learning</i>
1	Oct. 13, 2023	Nov. 24, 2023	Dec. 14, 2023	Feb. 9, 2024
2	March 8, 2024	April 26, 2024	May 9, 2024	June 26, 2024
Linear Course (all year)	Nov. 24, 2023	Feb. 9, 2024	Dec. 14, 2023	June 26, 2024
		April 26, 2024	May 9, 2024	

Summer School

Should your child be assessed as **Emerging (Gr. 8 or 9) or Fail (Gr. 10 and 11)** at the end of a course in the **Summary of Learning**, a teacher *may* advise them to complete a **Review (Gr. 8 and 9) or Remedial (Gr. 10 and 11) course in Summer School**. Alternatively, a teacher *may* suggest your child register in a **Preview course** designed to provide a preview of a course they plan to take in the upcoming school year. Contact your child’s grade counsellor for more information. Click [HERE](#) for our staff directory.

Other Summer School courses include ELL courses that give newcomer students the opportunity to improve their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a welcoming and supportive environment, and Completion courses for Gr. 10-12 students who wish to repeat a course to improve their mark up to a maximum of 65%.

All courses are in-person. Review, Remedial, Preview, and ELL courses run from July 3 to July 26, 2024. Completion courses run from July 3 - August 2, 2024. [For details about all Summer School courses click HERE for Program Information \(vsb.bc.ca\)](#)

Registration for Summer School courses opens on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at noon (12:00 pm) and closes on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 11:59 pm. [Click HERE for the summer registration website.](#)

Graduation Assessment Schedule & Results

As part of the graduation requirements, students are required to write three Graduation Assessments: Numeracy 10, Literacy 10, and Literacy 12. French Immersion students who wish to obtain a Diplôme de fin d’études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique must also write the French Immersion Literacy Assessment.

Note that these are NOT Provincial Exams. The result a student achieves on the Assessment(s) will not impact their academic standing, BUT students are required to write the assessment to meet Graduation Requirements.

The FINAL OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADS OF 2024 to complete Graduation Assessments are:

- Numeracy 10, Literacy 10, and Literacy 12 - *Monday, June 10*
- French Immersion Literacy 12 Oral - *Wednesday, June 5*
- French Immersion Literacy 12 Written - *Tuesday, June 11*

Any Gr. 12 student who has not completed a required assessment should contact Mr. Waisberg ASAP.

The Literacy 10 Assessment will be held on Thursday, April 18th. Students should make note of their assigned assessment time and room location posted in their Grade Channel in the Van Tech Student Hub TEAM. It is strongly recommended that students try the sample assessment to become familiar with the assessment format, instructions, and navigation [HERE: Gr. 10 Literacy Assessment.](#)

Results

To view and download a copy of your child’s results for any Graduation Assessment, go to [Student Transcripts Services](#), click on Current Student, and register for a BCeID (or login if you already have one). You will need your child's information as noted on the page. You will receive an email via the email you entered. Click the link in the email to confirm. Once you have created an account to access the site, click on “Graduation Assessment/Provincial Exam Results” to view results. This site is where you are also able to "View Your Transcript," "Send/Order Your Transcript," as well as other options. The Ministry transcript contains only your completed courses, not in-progress courses.

Athletics

The spring season is in full swing. Van Tech has several teams, including:

- Badminton - Co-Ed
- Golf - Co-Ed
- Mountain Biking - Co-Ed
- Rugby – Boys (Grade 9-12)
- Soccer - Girls
- Tennis - Co-Ed
- Track and Field - Co-Ed
- Ultimate - Co-Ed
- Volleyball - Boys (Grade 8 and 9)

Fine Arts

Music

The Music Program will host two music concerts in the Auditorium on **April 10th**:

- **Junior Matinee @ 2pm** featuring the *Concert Choir, Beginner Band, Intermediate Band* and *Junior Strings*.
- **Senior Showcase @ 7pm** featuring the *Chamber Choir, VT One Vocal Jazz, VT After Dark Jazz Band, Senior String Orchestra, Senior Concert Band, VT Chamber Winds* and *VT Chamber Strings*. This event will host a **Costume Contest for the audience and performers!** Wear your favourite costume and have your photo taken at intermission to enter the contest! Admission will be by donation and no livestream will be available.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: VanTech One, the premier choral ensemble at Van Tech, is looking for a vocal percussionist or beat boxer. Students could receive course credit or volunteer hours. Please see Ms. Riegert ASAP if you are interested.

Drama

Van Tech's Theatre Company class presents: *The Marxist in Heaven* written by Hattie Naylor.

Synopsis: A Marxist gets into Heaven, accuses the angels of being a fascist hierarchy, starts a revolution and tries to overthrow God. God got sick in the 70's and the world almost stopped spinning! It was decided that everyone in Heaven had to dance to disco music every few minutes to keep the world spinning. The script is a dark comedy. In the production we are trying to create a strong fun 70's vibe on stage. There are some fun and challenging characters for all the students to play.

Show dates: April 23, 24, 25 at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium (enter through the main entrance doors).

Resources for families and caregivers

SACY (Supporting And Connecting Youth) workers, employees of Vancouver Coastal Health who work in Vancouver schools, are invaluable supports for school communities. Subscribe to their website <https://linktr.ee/sacyresources> to get updates on facilitated workshops and **informative caregiver events** such as [Youth and Vaping: Information, considerations and impacts](#).

General Reminders

Forms

Starting in September, several VSB consent forms were moved to a digital format. Please visit <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> and enter your child's PEN and birthdate to give consent (or decline) for each form. Parents/caregivers can revoke their consent at any time.

Student Absences & Attendance

To report your child's absence, please contact the school at 604-713-8215 (then select option #1) and leave a message. Please include the date of absence, student number, student name, and reason for absence (i.e., sick, appointment). Note: Students cannot report their own absence.

Extended Absences

Any students who will be away for an extended period (travel, medical etc.) should see their grade counsellor to complete an extended absence form.

Student Fees

School Cash Online is the preferred method of payment for all school fees. Please double check if your child owes any outstanding fees. You can register by following the steps on: <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

Student Pick-up/Drop-off and Parking

Traffic signs are in place along Penticton Street to allow space for school buses to drop-off and pick-up students. Thank you for being compliant with city bylaws. Please note that several drivers have been ticketed in the past by the City of Vancouver. You can drop-off and pick-up students past the traffic signs further south along Penticton Street. Students may park on Penticton Street in designated parking areas.

Flexible Instructional Time

A reminder that FIT happens every day *except* Wednesday, for 40 minutes. During FIT students are expected to be engaged in a learning activity of their choice. Monday and Friday FIT runs 8:40 - 9:20 am, and students do not need to sign up in advance, but when they are in the building, they must be in a learning space, and they must sign-in to the Green Book for attendance in the case

of an emergency. Tuesday and Thursday FIT runs 1:20 - 2:00 pm. Students must sign up for Tuesday and Thursday FIT sessions using <http://vantech.myweeklyplanner.net> They are expected to be in the building in an area supervised by a staff member.

Grads of 2024 - Important Upcoming Dates

April 12	Grad Dinner Dance deposit due
April 17	Graduation Assessments – LTE 12 make-up date
April 19	Valedictorian Nominations Submitted
April 19	Scholarship Applications are due
April 23	Valedictorian Preview Speeches and Votes
April 25	Valedictorian Interviews
April 26	Valedictorian Announced
May 10	Grad Ceremony Message Due
May 16	Grad Dinner Dance Ticket Payment Due (less \$30 Deposit) Table Seating Arrangements Due (to Ms. Bighorn) for students that have paid in full
May 27	Grad Ceremony Tickets- Extra Tickets go on sale until June 10 (school cash online)
May 31	French Immersion Graduation Celebration (Library)
June 4	Dinner/Dance Ticket Distribution (FIT Assembly)
June 5	Graduation Assessments: Évaluation de littératie de la 12e année – Français langue seconde-immersion (LTF12) Final make-up date - Oral
June 6	Grad Gown Distribution & Grad Rehearsal #1 (FIT Assembly)
June 6	Grad Fees (\$85) Due
June 10	Graduation Assessments – (NME 10, LTE 10, LTE 12), Final make-up date
June 11	Grad Rehearsal #2 (FIT Assembly)
June 11	Graduation Assessments: Évaluation de littératie de la 12e année – Français langue seconde-immersion (LTF12) Final make-up date - Written
June 12	Graduation Ceremony (Orpheum Theatre, 7:00 pm)
June 14	Graduation Dinner & Dance (Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, 6:15 pm)
June 19	Grade 8 Letter Opening Evening Event
June 24	Grad Cap Toss and Final Countdown (Front steps, 2:55pm)

Important Upcoming Dates

April 10	Fine Arts Week concerts
April 11	Core Competency Self-Assessment & Goal Setting
April 16	Collaborative Day
April 18	Gr. 10 Literacy Assessment
April 22	Professional Development Day
April 23	Block rotation: ABCD
April 23	Q4 begins
April 23	PAC meeting
April 23, 24, 25	Drama Production, <i>The Marxist in Heaven</i> , Auditorium
April 25	Celebration of Champions
April 26	Mid-Semester Learning Updates published
April 30	Celebration of Champions
May 2	Earthquake Drill, 2 pm
May 6 – May 21	AP Exams in the Small Gym
May 9	Caregiver – Teacher Conferences
May 10	Gr. 7 Tour & Mixer
May 13	Collaborative Day
May 14	APSK T3 rotation
May 17	Professional Development Day

