



# 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) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).*

## Principal's Message

Dear Students & Families,

As we move into November, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and engagement in our school community. I continue to be impressed by the vibrant culture of University Hill Secondary School. From high academic standards and programming to extracurricular opportunities, there really is something for everyone, and it is great to see so many students involved in activities that they are passionate about outside of the classroom.

As always, we value the role that parents and guardians play in their child's journey with us. Whether it's through conversations at home, participation in school events, or simply encouraging your child each day, your involvement makes a meaningful difference.

Sincerely,

Travis Bell  
Principal,  
University Hill Secondary

### Administrative Team

Travis Bell, Principal  
David Bach, Vice Principal  
Alfred Chien, School Trustee  
Rick Lopez, Director of Instruction

### Office Staff

Tammy Weinczok, Office Admin Assistant (Temporary F/T)  
Holly Low, Accountant  
Charlene Wang, Student Records  
Sanket Kale, Receptionist & First Aid Attendant

## 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).

## Counselling Corner

### Parent Supports and Mental Health Resources

- ◇ **EducationPlannerBC** - EducationPlannerBC is a website where students and families may learn about post-secondary education and career opportunities, and resources to support your student in planning for their future. The information will be especially helpful for families with students in grades 10-12. Search thousands of programs, get to know trades, and discover career paths. Find helpful resources, including financial aid options, admission requirements, FAQs, and the Glossary. Learn how to create an account, save programs, paths, and careers to My List, and apply to post-secondary in B.C. **Parent & supporters resources** are available as well as **Parents as Education and Career Coaches (PECC) virtual presentations**. See links for more information:

<https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/>

<https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/go/plan/parents>

- ◇ **Parent Support Groups** - There are resources and groups available for parents and families who have a child/youth struggling with mental health. Please see links for more information and resources:

<https://keltymentalhealth.ca/how-can-i-find-support-group>

<https://keltymentalhealth.ca/info/peer-support-families>

**Emily Chen**

**Susan Hornby**

**Elizabeth Watanabe**

Grades 8 – 12, Last name A – Ki & Strategies

Grades 8 – 12, Last name Kj – T

Grades 8 – 12, Last name U – Z & Whitecaps FC

Email: ehchen@vsb.bc.ca

Email: shornby@vsb.bc.ca

Email: ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca

## November Literacy 12 Assessments – Cancelled

Due to the BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU) strike action in the BC Public Service, the Graduation Assessment Session for November 2025 have been cancelled by the Ministry of Education. This assessment will be rescheduled between **January 12 and 30, 2026**. Further details to follow.

The Ministry of Education has confirmed that early admission to post-secondary institutions in B.C. will not be impacted by the cancellation, as students will be able to write the Literacy 12 Assessments in January and submit their results when completed.

## Immunization Clinic @ UHill November 12

Reminder of the upcoming Immunization Clinic on Tuesday, November 12th at UHill. This is mainly for the grade 9 students. However, there were also a few students from other grades that have been given consent forms. Signed consent forms were due to the office on **October 31<sup>st</sup>**. If you have any questions regarding this clinic, please contact Katie Wanamaker-Briggs, VCH Public Health Nurse, at 604-261-6366 extension 3333 or by email at katie.wanamakerbriggs@vch.ca.

## Athletics

Our Fall sports are coming to an end; our girls' volleyball teams have done well this year and are looking forward to the young crop of players working on their games and improving for next year. Special shout out to our graduating volleyball players on the senior girls' team! The junior boys' volleyball team is primed to see some playoff action starting in early November, good luck to them! We have a senior boys soccer team that had a good experience in tier 1 and should be proud of their competitive spirit in a very tough league. Our juvenile boys' soccer team is primed to go far in playoffs as they are the #1 rank in the city! Our cross-country team competed in the zone championship with a few runners in contention for a provincial entrance, good luck to those runners! We have a swimming team as well, which competed in the district meet at Watermania in late October (24th) and poised to have a few provincial level swimmers!

The next sport leagues will be in the winter season, which begins in November. We are in the process of taking signups for 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 Johnny Selemani, Sahil Deo and Yuma Tsuji-Yoshimoto on their call up to the U17 Canadian National Team and to Akiz Azuka to the U17 Uganda National Team.

*GO WHITECAPS GO!*

---

## 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?**

Reminder that if students missed the original and retake photo days 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

## 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.

### UHill 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 UHill 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.

## 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)**:

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



## 2025 – 2026 Calendar Dates to Note

### November 2025

04 to 07 Grad Assessments (Literacy 12) - CANCELLED  
 04 Homeroom Class during FIT  
 10 Remembrance Day Assemblies, Periods 1, 2 & 3 in the Gym  
 11 STAT – Remembrance Day  
 12 Immunization Day #1  
 19 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC  
 20 Homeroom Class during FIT  
 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