



Community Newsletter

Phone: 604-713-8258 Website: 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) & salilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Dear Students & Families,

Happy New Year, and welcome to 2026! We hope that you all had an enjoyable Winter Break with family and friends.

At University Hill Secondary School, 2025 ended with a variety of festive activities. It was great to see so many staff and students participate in our spirit days, our music department performed at our Winterfest, our PE students showed off their dancing skills to their peers, and we held grade assemblies which were capped off by our staff dance performance! I also would like to thank our PAC who organized a Staff Appreciation lunch before the break. It was great to see so many members of our school community pitch in to make it special for our staff who do such great work each day with our students.

As we move into January, the end of Semester One is quickly approaching, with the last day being January 23rd. This is the final sprint for our students to do what they need to do to achieve the goals they set for themselves in September. The first day of Semester Two will be Wednesday, January 28th, with Monday, January 26th and Tuesday, January 27th being Turnaround Days (no classes for students).

Our counsellors will soon be busy with course planning for the 2026-27 School Year. There are important dates and information sessions that will be shared with our students when it comes to choosing courses for next year. We ask students to listen to announcements and to check Microsoft Teams regularly for these updates and to reach out to their counsellor if they have any specific questions.

Looking forward to a great 2026!

Travis Bell
Principal
University Hill Secondary School

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 (Interim)
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 at **3:00pm on October 10, 2025**
- Written Learning Update published at **3:00pm on November 21, 2025**
- Summary of Learning published at **3:00pm on January 30, 2026**

Semester 2

- Informal Learning Update published at **3:00pm on March 06, 2026**
- Written Learning Update published at **3:00pm on May 01, 2026**
- Summary of Learning published at **3:00pm on June 25, 2026**

Full Year Courses

- Informal Learning Update published at **3:00pm on November 21, 2025**
- Written Learning Updates published at **3:00pm on January 30 & May 01, 2026**
- Summary of Learning published at **3:00pm on June 25, 2026**

Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences

There will be two Virtual 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

Course Planning Timeline

A friendly reminder that students will receive course planning information during FIT times. **Attendance is required.** Please remind your students to attend.

Grade 8 - Tuesday, February 10th

Grade 9 - Thursday, February 5th

Grade 10 - Tuesday, February 3rd

Grade 11 - Tuesday, January 20th (Part 1) & Thursday, January 22nd (Part 2)

Grade 8 VWC – Monday, February 2nd (this session only is during P4)

Grade 9/10 VWC – Tuesday, February 3rd (this session only is in room 2F6)

Grade 11 VWC – Thursday, January 29th

Virtual Course Planning Information Sessions for Parents/Guardians will be on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5pm.** There will be three presentations: one for Grade 8s and 9s; one for Grade 10 and 11s; and one for Whitecaps Academy players. Links to the presentations will be posted on the school website. If you have questions after attending these sessions, please email your student's counsellor.

Students will be expected to enter course choices into MyEducation BC between February 10 to 22, 2026. We will also collect a paper course selection form from every student. The forms will be distributed at the grade assemblies and must be returned to the UHill office **by February 23, 2026.** It is important that the course selections are made carefully because those selections determine what courses will be on the timetable.

What Can Parents Do?

- Discuss the options with your student and encourage him/her/them to explore a full range of post-secondary options. Begin gathering information in grades 9 and 10.
- Attend course virtual planning presentations at the school.
- **Sign the student course selection form and remind your student to hand in the form to the office before the deadline.**

What Can Students Do?

- Develop good study habits; remember you are competing only with yourself to meet your goals.
- Research the career fields you are interested in by looking up the admission requirements of post-secondary institutions and attending post-secondary information sessions at the school and district career fairs.
- Talk with your counsellor about volunteer or work opportunities.
- Talk to your counsellor starting in grade 10 or 11 if you are considering applying to an American University.



Who Can I Talk To?

- Talk to Someone Now
- Chat and Texting Options
- Counselling Services
- Medical Services
- Substance Use Services
- Sexual Assault Supports
- Programs and Places



SCAN ME

For more information, please visit:
<https://bit.ly/vancouverlat>

Emily Chen
Susan Hornby
Elizabeth Watanabe

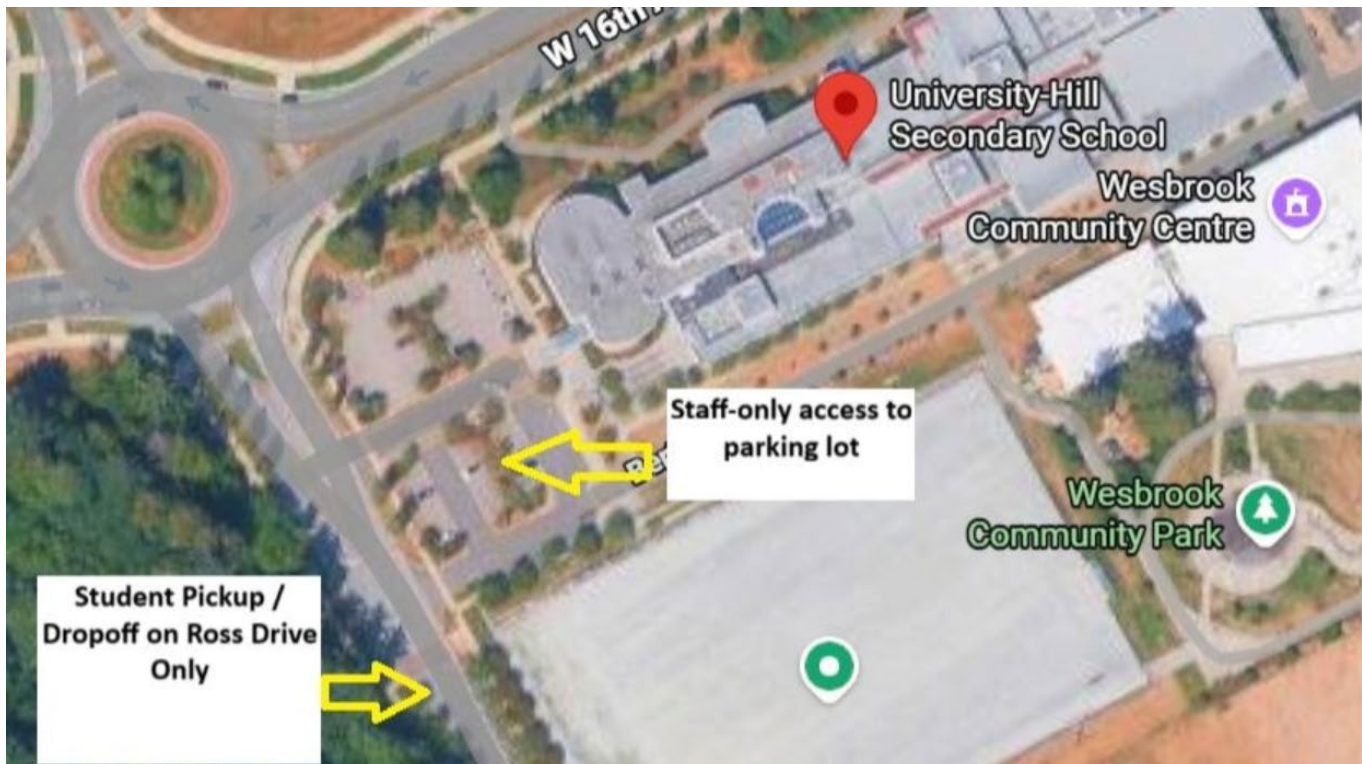
Grades 8 – 12, Last name A – K & Strategies
Grades 8 – 12, Last name K – T
Grades 8 – 12, Last name U – Z & Whitecaps FC

Email: ehchen@vsb.bc.ca
Email: shornby@vsb.bc.ca
Email: ewatanabe@vsb.bc.ca

Student Drop-off and Pick-up Reminder

Recently, particularly with the colder weather and extended darkness in the mornings and early evening, we have had some close calls in our parking lot and on our neighbouring streets. Please drive with caution in the roundabouts and when approaching crosswalks.

Also, a reminder that entrance to the parking lot off of Ross Drive is for University Hill Staff only.



Semester Turn-Around Days

Please see below for information about the end of Semester 1 and the start of Semester 2:

- The last day of Semester 1 is **Friday, January 23, 2026.**
- Semester Turn-Around Days are **Monday, January 26 and Tuesday, January 27, 2026.**
- On these days:
 - Regular classes are NOT in session.
 - If there is a need, teachers can ask students to attend to make up any work necessary for Semester 1. Teachers will contact students individually with a meeting time.
 - District special education programs are in session.
- The start of Semester 2 is **Wednesday, January 28, 2026.**
- Semester 2 schedules can be accessed on the MyEd Family Portal – it's important that students check their schedules prior to arriving on January 28.
- Learning Updates will be posted on the MyEd Family Portal at 3:00pm on **Friday, January 30, 2026.**

Mandatory Grade 10 and Grade 12 Graduation Assessments

Due to the BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU) strike action in the BC Public Service last fall, both mandatory Grade 10 and Grade 12 Graduation Assessments have been rescheduled as follows:

- Grade 12 Literacy Assessments will be between **January 13 and 16, 2026**.
- Grade 10 Numeracy Assessments will be between **April 21 and 24, 2026**.
- Grade 10 Literacy Assessments will be between **June 16 and 19, 2026**.

Schedule details regarding the Grade 10 Assessments will be provided for students closer to the dates.

Grade 12 Literacy Assessments will take place between January 13 and 16 from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. All Grade 12 students have been registered for this exam and are **required** to arrive 10 minutes before their start time. Please find the schedule below:

Literacy 12 Grad Assessment			
Date	Time	Room	Last Names
Jan 13, 2026	8:30 am - 11:30 am	LLC	A - Di
	12:30 - 3:30	LLC	Do - Han Gr 12 WC Academy Players
Date	Time	Room	Last Names
Jan 14, 2026	8:30 am - 11:30 am	LLC	Has - Lee, G
	12:30 - 3:30	LLC	Lee, J - Mc
Date	Time	Room	Last Names
Jan 15, 2026	8:30 am - 11:30 am	LLC	Me - Sinc
	12:30 - 3:30	LLC	Sing - Wa
Date	Time	Room	Last Names
Jan 16, 2026	8:30 am - 11:30 am	LLC	Wo - Yu
	12:30 - 3:30	LLC	Za - Zu

2025 – 2026 YEARBOOK OPT-OUT

If you would like to request your student, be excluded from the 2025 - 2026 school yearbook, please complete the attached form and have your student return it to the school office by **January 23, 2026**. You can access the form by clicking on this link: [2025 - 2026 Yearbook Opt-Out Form](#).

Theatre Company and Theatre Production Performance

This year, Theatre on the Hill is excited to present Ken Ludwig's "Midsummer/Jersey." Come join us in this hilarious, high-octane retelling of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," set in modernish New Jersey. This comedy centers around the impending marriage of the Governor of New Jersey, the love affairs of four beach-bound high school crushes, a lively crew of screwball fairies, and the colorful staff of the local beauty salon. What can go wrong?? Everything, when Robin Goodfellow is around. Come join us for some fun and awesome talent.

Showtimes: January 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 22nd @ 7:00 PM

Box Office Ticket Prices: Students \$10; Adults \$12

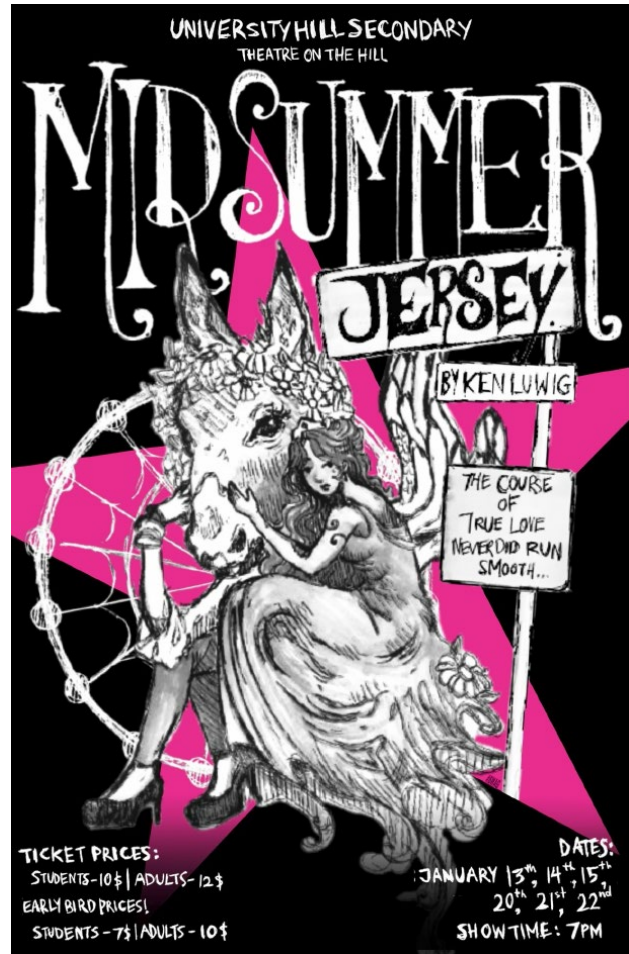
Early Bird (except for opening night): Students \$7; Adults \$10

Opening night Early Bird Only: Students: 1 for \$7 or 2 for \$10

Adults: 1 for \$10 or 2 for \$15

All Tickets will be sold during lunch and at the door.

Karen Penney, Drama Teacher



Athletics

HAWKS

Winter Season

Our basketball teams and table tennis teams are under way and have begun their seasons (three boys' teams and one girls' team for basketball, one boys team for table tennis). We are super excited to see how our teams do this year and can't wait to host the rest of the school district teams in our beautiful gym.

Playoffs will be in February and then we will start looking at info meetings for our spring sports (coed badminton, ultimate, Bantam and Juvenile boys' volleyball, girls' soccer, coed tennis, coed golf and track).

Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

GO HAWKS GO!

WHITECAPS FC ACADEMY

Congratulations to recent grads Jeevan Badwal and Rayan Elloumi on their call up to the Canadian National team camp this month!

Give a Home to One of the Whitecaps FC Stars of Tomorrow!

The Whitecaps FC MLS Academy program is looking for host families in the UBC surrounding areas to host players for the duration of the upcoming school year. Becoming a Billet host in the MLS Academy program is a unique and rewarding experience, sharing day-to-day life with a young player developing towards their professional soccer career in the Whitecaps FC MLS Academy and continuing his education at University Hill Secondary School.

Each family will be given two 2026 MLS regular season tickets, as well as financial compensation to cover food and utility costs. As a family, you will provide a safe and comfortable living environment and physical nourishment, which includes three nutritious, prepared meals per day, seven days a week.

A typical MLS Academy season will begin in mid-August for pre-season preparation, with players travelling home for Christmas and Spring Break, finally culminating in June following the MLS NEXT Cup tournament. The first competitive games of the season will take place around Labour Day, with players travelling Friday to Saturday, on average twice per month from September to June.

If you are interested in becoming a Billet host family for this upcoming season, please contact:

Max Corcoran
Director, Academy Operations
mcorcoran@whitecapsfc.com
(604) 349-5744

GO WHITECAPS GO!

Graduation 2026 Information

Graduation Ceremony

The 2026 Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Chan Centre of Performing Arts at UBC at 4:00 pm on **Wednesday, June 3, 2026**. (Graduates must arrive by 3:00 pm.) Each Graduate will receive two tickets to the Graduation Ceremony for their guests. These tickets are included in the Graduation Fee. Tentatively, additional tickets will be available for purchase online directly from the Chan Centre website from May 1 to June 3, 2026. More information about the Ceremony, tickets, rehearsal and Grad gown size requests and pick up will be provided to the graduates and their families shortly.

Graduation Dinner / Dance (Prom)

The 2026 Graduation Dinner / Dance will be held at the Pan Pacific at 6:00pm on **Friday, June 12, 2025**. Further information to follow.

Graduation Photo Dates

Grade 12 students can now book their 30-minute appointment online at <https://artona.com/bookings>. For further information, please visit www.artona.com/schools/UHIL. If you have any questions regarding graduation photos, please contact Artona directly. You can click on "Contact Us" on their website or call them at 604-872-7272.

- **Graduation Photo Session Dates: February 1 to 4, 2026**
- **Grad Group Photo Session Dates: Sept. 19, 2025 to March 9, 2026**
- **Location: Artona's main studio at 353 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver**

School Office Reminders

Medical Alerts

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

Absences

Parents/guardians are to report all absences by email at uhillswitchboard@vsb.bc.ca. Emails should be sent using a parent/guardian email address and should follow the format below to excuse the absence:

Your relationship with the student: (Mother/Father/Guardian/Custodian/Homestay parent)

Student's first and last name:

Student number:

Grade:

Date(s) of absence(s): (e.g., February 12 to February 15)

Time of absence OR periods of the missed classes: (All day, P1, P2, P3, P4, Music off-timetable, Choir off-timetable, etc.)

Reason for absence: (Illness/Appointment/Medical Appointment/Parent Excused/Religious Holiday, etc.)

Students must sign in at the office whenever they arrive late. For extended absences parents/guardians must also email the student's counsellor. A student should 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** (and sign back in if they return the same day). **Students will only be released with parent permission.** Students who are ill should not come to school and if they attend school and are 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.

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 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!

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.schoolcashonline.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)

25-26 PAC Direct Donation Campaign.

"One Click, Big Impact"

Your generosity makes a meaningful difference—thank you for supporting our school and students!

PAC 25-26 Direct Donation Campaign

- Arts & Language
- Science & Technology
- Principal's Initiative
- AP Course Support
- Athletics
- Music
- General school improvements



School Cash Online

Follow the step-by-step guide that is attached to this message and be sure to select "U-Hill Secondary PAC" as the fund destination.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Thank you for your time, care, and generosity in supporting our Staff Appreciation Luncheon. From volunteering behind the scenes, to preparing and sharing delicious dishes, to making thoughtful donations, your contributions came together to create a truly meaningful and joyful event. Our staff felt deeply appreciated, and this success would not have been possible without our incredible parent community.



January 14th PAC General Meeting (Online Only)

Guest Speaker

Dr. Guofang Li, Professor, Department of Language and Literacy Education, UBC

Topic: Understanding Immigrant Youth Well-Being and Learning: Developmental, Cultural, and Language Perspectives

Upcoming PAC General Meeting Schedule

Meetings are scheduled on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and will focus on important topics related to UHill Secondary and school community.

- February 18 (online only)
- April 15
- May 13
- June 17

All parents and caregivers are welcome!

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



2026 Calendar Dates to Note

January 2026

12 to 30 Gr 12 Grad Attendance & Gown Order Survey Form Open on Teams
 13, 14 & 15 Theatre Production at 7:00 pm
 13 to 16 Grad Assessments (Literacy 12) in the LLC
 14 PAC General Meeting 7:00 pm (online only)
 15 Collaborative Planning Time PM – Classes end at 1:45 pm
 20, 21 & 22 Theatre Production at 7:00 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
 22 Choir Performance at Lunch
 23 Last Day of Semester 1
 26 & 27 Semester Turnaround Days
 28 First Day of Semester 2
 28 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Semester 2 Rotation #1 (Jan 28 to Mar 12)
 29 Gr 11 WCFC Course Planning Session during FIT in the LLC
 30 S1 Summary of Learning & FY Written Learning Update Published at 3:00pm
 30 Gr 12 Grad Attendance & Gown Order Survey Form Due/Closes on Teams
 31 Bee & Bowl History Trivia Contest 8:30 am to 5:30 pm

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
 02 Gr 8 WCFC Course Planning Session during P4 in the LLC
 03 Gr 10 Course Planning Session during FIT in the LLC
 03 Gr 9/10 WCFC Course Planning Session during FIT in room 2F6
 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 in LLC
 10 to 22 Students to enter Course Selections in MyEd
 13 PRO-D Day - Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
 16 STAT Holiday - Family Day
 18 PAC General Meeting 7:00 pm (online)
 19 Student Learning Survey for Gr 10 to 12 During FIT – Students Stay with P3 Class
 20 Collaborative Planning Time AM – Classes begin at 10:00 am
 22 Last Day to enter 2026-2027 Course Selections in MyEd
 25 Pink Shirt Day
 25 Pascal, Cayley and Fermat Math Contests in Room 1E4
 27 Last Day for 2025-2026 Yearbook Sales

March 2026

05 Choir Performance at Lunch
 06 S2 Informal Learning Update published at 3:00 pm
 08 Daylight Savings Time (clocks ahead 1 hour)
 10 Gr 12 Assembly during FIT (Re: Capstone)
 11 Spring Dance 7:00 pm in Cafeteria
 12 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Semester 2 Rotation #2 (Mar 12 to May 8)
 13 Last Day before Spring Break
 16 to 27 Spring Break
 30 School Reopens after Spring Break
 31 Euclid Math Contest in Room 1E4

April 2026

01 to 30 Gr 12 Grad Citation Survey Form Open
 02 to 15 Valedictorian Nominations Open – Forms available in Office
 03 STAT Holiday – Good Friday
 06 STAT Holiday – Easter Monday
 09 Collaborative Planning Time PM – Classes end at 1:45 pm
 10 Relationship Lab Assemblies – Periods 1, 2, 3 & 4
 14 Homeroom Class during FIT (Re: Core Competencies)
 15 Valedictorian Nomination Forms Close/**Due at 10am**
 15 PAC General Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC
 20 PRO-D Day - Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
 21 Shortlisted Valedictorian Candidates Notified
 21 to 24 Grad Assessments (Numeracy 10) in the LLC
 28 Gr 12 Assembly during FIT (Valedictorian Speeches)
 30 Gr 12 Grad Citation Survey Form Closes

May 2026

01 S2 & FY Written Learning Update Published at 3:00 pm
 01 Grad on-line Ticket Sales Begin – more details to follow
 04 to 15 AP Exams – Exam Schedule TBA
 05 Students sign-up at FIT re: May 21 Capstone Event
 06 Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early Dismissal at 2:05 pm)
 06 Choir Performance at Lunch
 07 Collaborative Planning Time AM – Classes begin at 10:00 am
 11 Applied Skills/Fine Arts 8 Semester 2 Rotation #3 (May 11 to June 23)
 13 PAC General Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC
 15 PRO-D Day - Non-Instructional Day (School Based)
 18 STAT Holiday - Victoria Day
 19 Gr 12 Capstone Technical Practice during FIT in assigned rooms
 20 Immunization Day #2 9:00 am – 12:00 pm in LLC
 21 Capstone Presentations during FIT and Period 4
 22 Vocal Solo Night 7:00 – 9:00 pm in Gym
 25 to 29 Student Council Nomination Week
 28 Gr 12 Assembly/Grad Rehearsal during period 3 in the LLC

June 2026

02 Homeroom Class during FIT (Re: Core Competencies)
 03 Graduation Ceremony at Chan Centre (UBC) at 4:00 pm
 08 STUCO Campaign Videos Due
 08 to 12 Student Council Campaign Week
 09 Collaborative Planning Time PM – Classes end at 1:45 pm
 12 Grad Dinner/Dance at Pan Pacific 6:00 pm - more details for follow
 15 to 19 Student Council Voting Week
 16 to 19 Grad Assessments (Literacy 10) in LLC
 17 PAC General Meeting 7:00 pm in the ULC
 18 Choir Performance at Lunch
 18 Locker Clean/Organize during FIT
 19 Gr 12 Yearbook pick up during Lunch
 22 Student Council Executive Announced
 22 Gr 10/11 Yearbook pick up during Lunch
 23 Year End Assemblies Periods 2, 3 & 4
 23 Last Day of Classes
 23 Gr 8/9 Yearbook pick up during Lunch
 23 Lockers MUST be emptied by end of day
 24 & 25 IE Days
 25 S2 & FY Summary of Learning Published at 3:00 pm