



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 úxwumíxw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Dear Students & Families,

We have successfully made our way through the first month of school! It has been great having the staff and students back in the building!



One of the highlights so far was our school-wide Terry Fox Run. This was the first time that our school has held this event for the entire student body. We started in the gym with all students listening to a powerful message from Mr. Moes and a video that highlighted Terry's story. You could hear a pin drop as each student was engaged. Afterwards all students (and some of our staff members!) participated in a 3-kilometer run / walk and were encouraged to donate funds towards the Terry Fox Foundation. It was incredible to see the buy-in of our school community. Huge thanks to our Leadership students and staff, Mrs. T, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Matthews, and Mr. Moes, for their efforts in organizing such a great event. We had a goal to reach \$1,000. To date, our students have raised nearly \$1,500!

As we have moved away from the weekly Student Bulletins, it is important for our students to check their All-Students Teams Page each day to stay up to date with what is occurring at our school. The calendar on our school website is also an important resource as are the televisions found around the school. As well, you can follow our Instagram account: @universityhillhawks

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

Kinjeel Patil, Office Admin Assistant
Holly Low, Accountant
Charlene Wang, Student Records
Shay Nezaki, 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:

Improve student achievement in literacy and numeracy, physical and mental well-being, and belonging

Our goal is to promote and support positive mental health for all students by fostering a safe, inclusive environment that prioritizes well-being, builds resilience, and provides access to meaningful supports and strategies for self-care.

Improve equity

Our goal is to ensure that all learners are provided with an opportunity to achieve their academic potential.

Continue our journey of reconciliation with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit

Our goal is to advance reconciliation by ensuring all students engage in meaningful Indigenous learning and experiences.

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 16, 2026**
- Written Learning Update published **November 27, 2026**
- Summary of Learning published **February 5, 2027**

Semester 2

- Informal Learning Update published **March 12, 2027**
- Written Learning Update published **May 04, 2027**
- Summary of Learning published **June 29, 2027**

Full Year Courses

- Informal Learning Update published **November 27, 2026**
- Written Learning Updates published **February 5 & May 04, 2027**
- Summary of Learning published **June 29, 2027**

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 10, 2026** (for Semester 1) and **Wednesday, May 12, 2027** (for Semester 2).

Counselling Corner

Upcoming Mandatory Information Session for Grade 12 Students

- October 15th, 2026- Grade 12 Information Assembly (during FIT). Grade 12 Students are to report to the LLC for a CLC assembly and information session about all things post-secondary from the counselling team

2026-27 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. We have several colleges / universities visiting in-person. Please go to the UHill Counselling website for the most up-to-date 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>

Ymind- Registration is open for Y Mind - a **FREE 7 week skill building support program** starting this October at Robert Lee YMCA, 955 Burrard Street. Y Mind empowers ages 13 - 18 and 18 - 30 with **practical coping skills to manage stress, worries and mild-moderate anxiety** using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), mindfulness and self-compassion. Y Mind for ages 31+ is available virtually. Beyond increasing wellbeing and lowering anxiety, Y Mind offers a chance to **connect with peers with similar experiences**, guided by **trained mental health professionals**. **No diagnosis or referral needed, and all participants receive a free YMCA membership for up to 14 weeks, plus 10 guest passes.**

More details and dates here: <https://mailchi.mp/bc/y-mind-mental-wellness-support-for-teens-young-adults?e=f5945cdacc>

Safer Schools Together- is offering complimentary virtual sessions for students (Grades 5-12) on digital citizenship, respectful relationships, and consent, as well as sessions for parents, caregivers, grandparents, and youth aged 10+.

Student sessions are 60 minutes long, offered at various times to accommodate different school schedules, and are intended for educators to view with their classes.

Family sessions are designed for parents, caregivers, grandparents, and youth aged 10+. The first family session takes place on September 15th.

Details, registration, and session schedules are available [here](#) for student sessions and [here](#) for family sessions.

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



VSB CAREER PROGRAMS INFO NIGHT

Earn graduation credits! Get a headstart!

Get more information about careers in the construction, healthcare, hospitality, creative, and technology sectors.

John Oliver Secondary Auditorium

6:30pm
October 28th

VSB students can pre-register using this QR code for a chance to win a door prize or access the form here: https://bit.ly/cp_infonight

EducationPlannerBC Live Learning Sessions

Join a fall virtual presentation that's right for you

Programs & applications

Explore 4000+ post-secondary programs and skills training opportunities in B.C.

Open to anyone, anywhere.

Join us

Wednesday, Oct. 21
Wednesday, Nov. 4
Tuesday, Nov. 17

6:30 - 7:30 PM PT

Parents & supporters

Discover post-secondary opportunities, career paths, and resources to support your student.

Join us

Wednesday, Oct. 7
Tuesday, Oct. 27
Wednesday, Nov. 25

6:30 - 7:30 PM PT



EducationPlannerBC



Athletics

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Mr. J. Hodgson, Athletic Director at 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

GO HAWKS GO! Jeff Hodgson, Athletic Director

School and Graduation Photos

The photographers from Artona Studios were at UHill on **September 11 2026** to take school photos. All photos are now available online from their website. Click the link to view and order photos: <https://artona.com/>

What if students missed the original photo day?

Artona will be back on site on October 8th. The photo retake day schedule will be as follows:

12:30 - 12:50 – Grade 8

12:50 - 1:10 – Grade 9

1:10 - 1:30 – Grade 10

1:20-1:25 - Class Change

1:30 - 1:50 – Grade 11

1:50 - 2:10 – Grade 12

2:05 – Class Change

2:10 - 2:30 – Last Call

Graduation Photo Session Dates are January 31 to February 3, 2027

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.

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 - 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. **PLEASE RETURN THESE TO THE OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 29th.**

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 2026-2027 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 26, 2027**.

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 2026–2027: A Heart Beyond PAC—Learn Together, Grow Together

Dear UHill Community,
As we begin a new school year, our PAC is excited to continue building a positive Learning Community rooted in respect and belonging, where students are supported, parents are empowered, and families grow together.

Our 2026–2027 PAC plan will focus on four key pillars:

Fundraising

Supporting school initiatives and enhancing student experiences through fundraising, corporate partnerships, digital giving, and meaningful parent engagement.

Learning

Creating more opportunities for students and parents to learn together through guest speakers, Parent Learning Circles, workshops, and shared resources.

Empowerment

Equipping parents with practical knowledge and confidence to support their children, while creating more opportunities for students to develop their voice, leadership, and interests.

Connection

Strengthening relationships among students, families, staff, and the broader community.

We look forward to working with the wider UHill community to make this a year of learning, connection, and growth.

Warmly,
PAC Executives

PAC Meetings for the 2026 – 2027 school year will be on the following **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Library (ULC) unless otherwise noted:**

- October 21, 2026
- November 18, 2026
- January 13, 2027 (virtual)
- February 10, 2027 (virtual)
- April 21, 2027
- May 19, 2027
- June 16, 2027

Looking ahead

Oct. 8: Photo Re-Take Day
Oct. 12: Thanksgiving (NO SCHOOL)
Oct. 13-16: SPIRIT WEEK!
Oct. 15: Grade 12 Assembly FIT LLC
Oct. 16: Semester One Informal Learning Update Published 3PM
Oct. 20: Grade 11 Career Education Assembly FIT LLC
Oct. 21: PAC General Meeting 7PM ULC / Earthquake Drill 10:16AM
Oct. 22: PM Collab Planning Day (Students Dismissed at 1:45PM)
Oct. 23: Professional Development Day (Classes not in session)
Oct. 27: FIT w/ Home Room Classes for Core Competencies
November 2-November 6: Literacy 12 Assessments (Schedule to be published)

