

September
2027 **Grade 8**

PROGRAMS

All 18 secondary schools in Vancouver offer challenging and comprehensive programming. In addition to the programming available in neighbourhood schools, District choice programs provide specialized learning opportunities designed to meet diverse student interests and needs.

All information nights will be held in person and through online platforms. There is no District Wide Assessment required for application.

IMPORTANT DATES AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL REGISTRY:

All applicants complete the District Mini School General Registry between **9:00 a.m., Nov. 16, 2026 –**

Dec. 17, 2026, 11:59 p.m.

<https://govsb.ca/secondary-programs>

PROGRAM APPLICATION:

To complete the application process, students connect directly to each Mini School program they wish to apply to and submit the required information and documentation.

Deadline: Refer to school website

Schools are dynamic and changes to program offerings may occur. Our District Choice Programs are reviewed annually to ensure they continue to be delivered in an educationally sound and operationally viable manner. Key considerations include enrolment, facilities, and staffing.

For latest information: govsb.ca/secondary-programs

BRITANNIA HOCKEY ACADEMY

integrates academic programming with a licensed Hockey Canada Skills Academy (HCSA). Students participate in programming that combines regular secondary school coursework, field studies, and hockey training. Specifically, students take a Physical and Health Education (PHE) course offered in one semester, during which students receive on-ice training about four times per week. All other courses are completed within the regular school timetable. Instruction is delivered by Vancouver School Board (VSB) PHE teachers who are trained and certified by Hockey Canada. The program is further supported by specialized guest instructors and trained assistants.

Info Night: November 5, 2026, 6 p.m.

www.vsb.bc.ca/britannia-secondary/page/577/hockey-academy

BRITANNIA VENTURE PROGRAM

is an academically focused program in grades 8 to 10 that seeks to build excellence in critical thinking, communication and presentation, along with a strong sense of responsibility to self and community. The program is designed primarily to prepare students for future study in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program offered at Britannia in grades 11 and 12.

Info Night: November 5, 2026, 7 p.m.

www.vsb.bc.ca/britannia-secondary/page/575/venture

BYNG ARTS MINI SCHOOL

is designed for students who wish to direct their energy and passion towards the fine arts, work within a community of students who share their interests, and maintain strong academic achievement. As a comprehensive Grade 8 to 12 program, we promote academic and artistic excellence through curricular and extra-curricular activities in visual arts, literary arts, orchestral strings, concert band, choir, media arts and drama.

Info Night: November 4, 2026, 7 p.m.

byng2.vsb.bc.ca/byngarts



DAVID THOMPSON ODYSSEY PROGRAM

is a unique combination of accelerated Math and Science subjects with enriched Social Studies and English courses that are taught in a cohort model. Our goals are academic excellence, leadership, and social responsibility through service to others. Odyssey students are curious and enthusiastic learners. We offer a variety of field studies, and science and math competitions to extend learning beyond the classroom.

Info Night: October 22, 2026, 6 p.m.

blogs.vsb.bc.ca/thompson-odyssey

GLADSTONE MINI is an accelerated program, in which learners earn credit for grades 8, 9 and 10 in two school years.

The program emphasizes high academic achievement, creative and original thinking, independence, initiative, responsibility and leadership. Successful applicants are self-motivated, able to work co-operatively and value thinking for its own sake.

Info Night: October 19, 2026, 6 p.m.

www.vsb.bc.ca/gladstone/page/1843/mini-school-enrichment-program

HAMBER CHALLENGE STUDIO PROGRAM

is a 5-year program featuring a more Humanities-based focus. It offers both acceleration and enrichment for highly-motivated and academically-capable students who have a desire to shape the direction of their own studies and a wish to pursue areas of passion. Creative and critical thinking, project-based learning, and student ownership are key. At the grade 8 level, the program consists of English, Social Studies, Science, and Critical Thinking/Fine Arts. Students also may be considered for advanced placement in Math and French depending on their ability. Field studies, speakers, and social events provide a well-rounded experience in an active community.

Info Night: October 28, 2026, 6 p.m.

<https://www.ehchallengestudio.com>

IDEAL MINI SCHOOL features a safe environment for academically motivated and creative students who feel they would flourish in a smaller setting with a close network of peers.

The Ideal program emphasizes community, social responsibility, collaboration, mentorship and leadership development. These values are achieved through cross grade interaction, school-wide initiatives, community-based partnerships, and a cohort-based learning environment under the leadership of a core group of Ideal teachers. Students who thrive at Ideal are self-motivated, academically capable, appreciate their individuality and that of others, and are creative and collaborative thinkers.

Info Night: October 29, 2026, 7 p.m.

www.idealminischool.ca

JOHN OLIVER DIGITAL IMMERSION MINI SCHOOL

is a program that promotes strong, self-directed and motivated lifelong learners who are able to maximize a technology enhanced learning environment. There will be experiential and practical hands on learning through extended field studies related to core subjects, leadership and outdoor education as well as math acceleration and enrichment in core subjects.

Info Night: October 26, 2026, 7:30 p.m.

blogs.vsb.bc.ca/jo-minischool

KILLARNEY COMPUTER SCIENCE MINI SCHOOL

is a 5-year Computer Science focused experience for highly motivated students. Students will experience an enriched math, science and information technology curriculum (Grade 8-10 levels) for the junior high school years, and then be able to focus on a specialty area for grades 10 – 12. The specialty areas include:

- Programming (Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence)
- System Administrator
- Network Administrator
- Cyber Security
- Robotics

Info Night: November 17, 2026, 6 p.m.

www.vsb.bc.ca/killarney/page/2483/mini-school

KING GEORGE CATALYST MINI SCHOOL

is designed to give students the leadership skills they need to thrive in the modern world. Over two years, students will explore a range of leadership and communication styles in a cohort environment covering English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and PE.

Info Night: November 9, 2026, 6 p.m.

kgmini.wixsite.com/mysite



For more information: <http://govsb.ca/secondary-programs>

MAGEE SPARTS SPARTS offers a part-time educational program to Gr. 8-12 students participating in high-level athletics and performing arts. Due to the rigours of competition, training, and learning, SPARTS students are enrolled in morning or afternoon classes only. SPARTS students take the same core academic courses as regular students, while being eligible for adjudicated credit for their training outside of school and any external transfer credit certification to meet graduation requirements. Successful applicants are independent, communicative, and cooperative learners.

Info Night: October 8, 2026, 7 p.m.

vsb.bc.ca/magee/page/3205/sparts

POINT GREY MINI SCHOOL is a comprehensive, 8-12, academic, enriched program which values community, leadership, and service. Successful students are self-motivated, academically able, and have a high degree of self-discipline. Program components include cross-grade courses and activities, cultural outreach, and outdoor education.

Info Night: November 18, 2026, 7 p.m.

pgmini.org

PRINCE OF WALES MINI SCHOOL is a 5-year district enrichment program established to meet the needs of highly capable and motivated students. Our school seeks students who are enthusiastic, self-motivated, love a challenge, and pursue leadership in their community. We encourage students to develop as well-rounded individuals to find an appropriate balance of academic, athletic, artistic, and social pursuits.

Info Night: November 5, 2026, 7 p.m.

www.pwminischool.com

TEMPLETON MINI is a grade 8 to 12 enrichment program for students who have demonstrated above average academic achievement and whose curiosity and motivation lead them to seek a challenging and enriching school setting.

At Templeton Mini we strive to create a program that promotes critical thinking through problem solving, project-based learning, and cross-curricular activities. Participation in community service and outdoor education leads students in the Mini School to graduate as engaged, thoughtful, and productive members of society.

Info Night: November 3, 2026, 7 p.m.

templetonminischool.wixsite.com/templeton/home

TUPPER MINI is a place where academically motivated students can thrive and challenge themselves! Our five-year district program is designed for those eager to become lifelong learners, offering a well-rounded education that provides an enriched program in English, Social Studies, and Science. We also provide an accelerated Math program in grades 8 and 9, ensuring students are well-prepared for advanced coursework in the senior years. Students are encouraged to meet the expectations of attendance, attitude, work habits, and achievement while also engaging in extracurricular activities and leadership roles.

Info Night: October 21, 2026, 7 p.m.

www.tupperminischool.ca

VANCOUVER TECHNICAL FLEX HUMANITIES PROGRAM is an enriched, evolving liberal arts environment for intellectually curious, self-directed students committed to rigorous inquiry, critical analysis, and historical and political thinking.

Grounded in Dewey's pedagogy, it emphasizes independent and collaborative learning while developing Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills in thinking, research, communication, self-management, and collaboration. An interdisciplinary curriculum integrates Philosophy, Literature, History, Geography, Political Science, Film, and the Arts to foster deep understanding and reflective, engaged learners.

Info Night: October 15, 2026, 7 p.m.

www.vsb.bc.ca/vancouver-technical/page/4626/flex-humanities

VANCOUVER TECHNICAL SUMMIT PROGRAM is an enriched science & math program with an additional emphasis on social justice, community involvement and leadership. Successful students will have a strong background in science and math, good organizational capabilities, be task oriented, and be willing to take on leadership both inside and outside the school community.

Info Night: October 20, 2026, 7 p.m.

vtsummit.wixsite.com/summit

WINDERMERE LEADERSHIP is a Grade 8–12, cohort-based mini-school that focuses on environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Rooted in academic learning, community involvement, and outdoor education, this program challenges students to become thoughtful, empathetic, and engaged leaders. The cohort model emphasizes relationship building, supporting meaningful connections with teachers and lasting friendships with peers. Leadership students are provided with a diverse range of experiences as they explore social and environmental topics. Whether it is through camping in natural environments, collaborating on an inquiry project, or working with community partners, students develop a deep, personal connection to the program's core values.

Info Night: October 27, 2026, 6 p.m.

windermereleadership.org



FRENCH IMMERSION AND MANDARIN

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAMS

(Grade 8-12) are available at Kitsilano, Churchill, and Vancouver Technical Secondary.

The Secondary French Immersion Program offers students the opportunity to continue developing advanced proficiency in French while fully engaging with the BC curriculum. French Immersion supports learners in becoming confident, bilingual communicators and engaged global citizens while earning a Dual Dogwood Diploma, recognizing achievement in both French and English. Through coursework delivered in French, students develop creativity, leadership, and strong academic skills that prepare them for post secondary studies and open pathways to future careers in Canada and beyond.

Students are eligible for entry if they have successfully completed an elementary French Immersion program, or an equivalent program in Vancouver or another district.

Info Night: November 18, Van. Tech., 6 p.m.

www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5297/french-immersion

EARLY MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM

is at Windemere Secondary. Students take two Mandarin courses in grade 8, and one Mandarin course in grade 9 as a co-hort. In grades 10-12 students complete coursework in the mainstream program.

Priority is given to students who complete the Early Mandarin Bilingual program at Norquay. Other students with program level of Mandarin are welcome to apply.

MANDARIN BILINGUAL PROGRAM

is at Eric Hamber Secondary. Students take two Mandarin courses in grade 8, and one Mandarin course in grade 9 as a co-hort. In grades 10-12 students complete coursework in the mainstream program.

Priority is given to students who complete the Mandarin Bilingual program at Trudeau. Other students with program level of Mandarin are welcome to apply.



SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

Priority for enrolment is given to students who live in the school catchment. If space is available after catchment students have been accommodated, out-of-catchment students may be considered. Out-of-catchment students will be considered through the cross-boundary application process.

Check with your local secondary school for up-to-date information on school-based programs.

STEM PROGRAM AT TEMPLETON

combines science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into a multi-course cohort that engages students in project based learning. Exemplifying BC's new inquiry-based curriculum, students work in collaborative teams to activate core and curricular competencies through authentic, multi-week design challenges based in real-world problems.

Students have full access to facilities, elective courses, clubs and teams at Templeton Secondary School.

Note: This is not a District Program.

Info Night: November 12, 7 p.m.

templetonstem.org

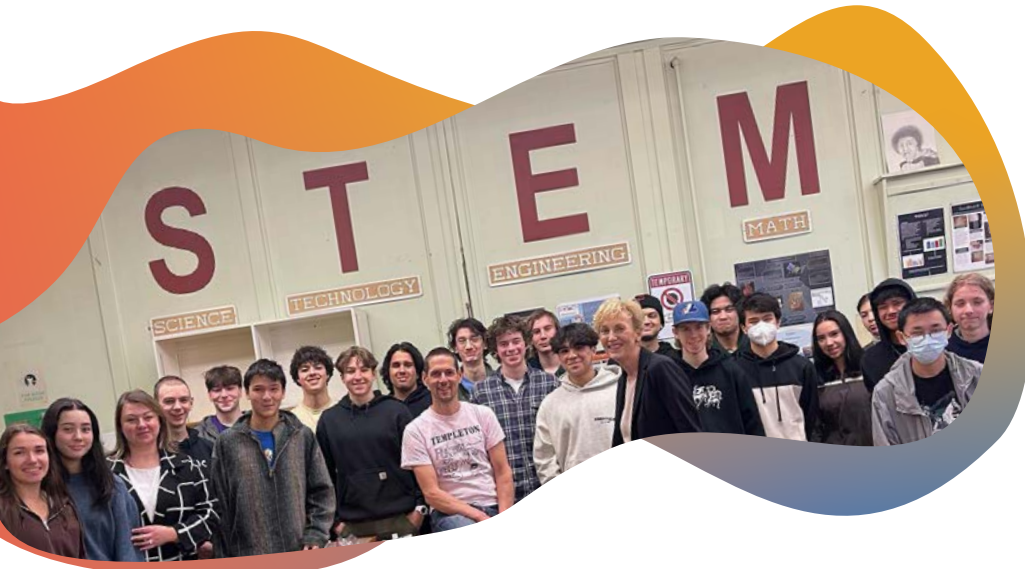
SYNERGY AT CHURCHILL

is for students who are talented and capable of going beyond the standard curriculum in scope and depth. Synergy students stay together for English, Socials, Applied Skills, and Science. Bright curious creative thinkers who have leadership potential are candidates for Synergy.

Info Night: October 13, 6 p.m.

Note: This is not a District Program.

www.vsb.bc.ca/sir-winston-churchill/page/3873



GRADE 8 DISTRICT CHOICE PROGRAMS

Attend an information session

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| Britannia Hockey Academy  | November 5, 2026, 6 p.m. |
| Britannia Venture Program  | November 5, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| Byng Arts Mini School Program  | November 4, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| David Thompson Odyssey Program  | October 22, 2026, 6 p.m. |
| Gladstone Mini School Program  | October 19, 2026, 6 p.m. |
| Hamber Challenge Studio Program  | October 28, 2026, 6 p.m. |
| Ideal Mini School Program  | October 29, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| John Oliver Digital Immersion Mini School Program  | October 26, 2026, 7:30 p.m. |
| Killarney Computer Science Mini School Program  | November 17, 2026, 6 p.m. |
| King George Catalyst Mini School Program  | November 9, 2026, 6 p.m. |
| Magee SPARTS  | October 8, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| Point Grey Mini School Program  | November 18, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| Prince of Wales Mini School Program  | November 5, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| Templeton Mini School Program  | November 3, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| Tupper Mini School Program  | October 21, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| Vancouver Technical Flex Humanities Program  | October 15, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| Vancouver Technical Summit Program  | October 20, 2026, 7 p.m. |
| Windermere Leadership Information  | October 27, 2026, 6 p.m. |
| French Immersion  | November 18, 2026, 6 p.m. @Vancouver Technical Sec. |

For more information: govsb.ca/secondary-programs