



Killarney Secondary School

6454 Killarney Street, Vancouver BC V5S 2X7

Phone: 604-713-8950

August 26, 2022

Dear Students and Families,

It is my pleasure, as the Principal of Killarney Secondary, to welcome all students, parents, and staff at the start of another school year. Like last year, we are continuing with the semester system which will see most students completing 4 courses at a time in half-year chunks. In this schedule format, students will get the same 4 classes every day. One small change for this year will be a mid-semester block rotation which will see the morning and afternoon blocks flip. We are still in the midst of the Covid-19 global pandemic and the health and safety of our school community continues to be a priority. To this end we will follow public health orders from the province and the District. In addition, we will continue to build on last year's successful return to athletics and extra-curricular offerings.

The coming year will be filled with promise and anticipation for a new cohort of grade eight students beginning their high school career, for junior students challenging themselves to greater achievement and excellence in the higher grades, for new arrivals to Canada getting ready to study and learn in a new environment, and for the graduating students of 2023 beginning the final chapter of their secondary school experience.

Included in this newsletter you will find important information relating to school opening procedures. Please note the contents carefully and do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or inquiries.

I thank Killarney parents in advance for their support of school programs and activities. The Killarney Parent Advisory Council (KPAC) serves the dual role of connecting parents to the school and of providing education around a variety of issues connected to parenting high-school age children. Families who are new to our school community are encouraged to participate in meetings organized by KPAC. It is an excellent way to learn about the school and to network with other parents. The first meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on September 28th in the Killarney cafeteria. It is an in-person meeting but subsequent meetings will be virtual meetings through the Zoom platform. KPAC will provide further details about registration for future online meetings.

As the school year unfolds, please visit the school website on a regular basis to check for updated information and/or announcements. The view full calendar tab can be used to access the most up-to-date calendar information. In addition, the school will continue to email important information and notifications to parents. For students, communication will continue to happen through the classroom, grade, and all school TEAMS online platform.

The isolation experienced during the current global pandemic has highlighted the importance of social connection for mental health and well-being. To address this need, one of the goals in this year's school growth plan will be to develop students' sense of belonging through social connection and positive relationships. The second goal, which is District-wide, is to increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Indigenous histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all learners. Both of these goals are connected to the school's broader mission of providing an environment within which all learners can be successful. We look forward to further advancing this approach to learning as another school year begins.

Welcome back!

Kal Gill, Principal

2022-2023 COUNSELLORS & ADMINISTRATORS

Principal: Mr. K. Gill
Vice Principal: Mr. N. Despotakis (gr. 8)
Vice Principal: Mr. B. Soong (gr. 9/11)
Vice Principal: Ms. S. Underwood (gr. 10/12)

Counsellors

Grade 8: Ms. T. Romano
Grade 9: Ms. S. Glynianyi
Grade 10: Mr. O. Goncalves
Grade 11: Mr. H. Clark
Grade 12: Ms. A. Sum/Mr. R. Ferguson

Message from Counsellors

We are so excited to be back and cannot wait to see your faces.

The Counselling Suite is open daily and available to all students. Please pop in and say 'hi' when you have a minute. We are looking forward to meeting all of our new students and reconnecting with those of you who we have not seen in a long time. The first few weeks will be a busy time for everyone as we adjust to being back and during this time, we will be continuing to organize students into their classes. If you would like to make a counselling appointment with us, please send us an email and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Counsellor Summer Schedule

We know a lot of you are eagerly anticipating what your schedules will look like in September and that information will be available to you on Tuesday, August 30th at 3pm by logging into your MyEd account. The school will be open from 7:30am to 3pm. Please note, emails will **NOT** be accepted for course changes **just** for counselling appointments. The course change schedule is posted below. Counsellors will be seeing students as follows during this week:

August 29th - no students

August 30th new Killarney students who registered over the summer

August 31st - Grade 12's & Link Crew

Sept 1st - Grade 12's, 11, 9 (all new international students)

Sept 2nd - Grade 11's & 10

**grade 8's/parents if you need to see Mrs. Romano please email her for an appointment anytime between

August 31st - Sept 2nd : tromano@vsb.bc.ca

We would also like to remind students that while we try our very best to fulfil all course requests sometimes this is not possible. Please connect with us if you don't see one of your requested courses and we will do our best to find an alternative or place you on a waitlist.

Grade 8 – Mrs. Romano at tromano@vsb.bc.ca

Grade 9 – Ms. Glynianyi at sglynianyi@vsb.bc.ca

Grade 10 – Mr. Goncalves at ogoncalves@vsb.bc.ca

Grade 11 – Mr. Clark at hjclark@vsb.bc.ca

Grade 12 – Ms. Sum at asum@vsb.bc.ca & Mr. Ferguson at rferguson@vsb.bc.ca

Student Attendance Week of Sept. 6th

September 5 Labour Day, No School

September 6 Orientation Day, students to report to the Auditorium at the following times:

9am Grade 9s

10am Grade 10s

11am Grade 11s

12pm Grade 12s

12:45pm Grade 8s (and link crew)

****grade 9 to 12 students will be at school for approximately 45 minutes, grade 8 students will be at school for approximately 2 hours.***

September 7-9 Please report directly to your 1-1 class at 8:40am (there will be no homeroom).

MyEdBC & Student Schedules

Student MyEdBC accounts will be available to students/parents on **Tuesday, August 30th @ 3pm**. You will not be able to log on before this time. Please use your username and password from last year or click [here](#) for information on how to reset your password. If you continue to have problems resetting your password please email: killarney@vsb.bc.ca.

Grade 8 students will be able to log in using their student ID (found on the course verification form sent to you in the spring) as your username and **Dist\$2023** as your password. You will be asked to reset your password upon logging in. Click [here](#) for more detailed instructions.

Students new to the district should use the default password **Dist\$2023**. You will be asked to change your password once you have logged on.

Link for MyEdBC: <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspn/logon.do>

Need help with MyEdBC? Click [here](#).

How do I find my schedule?

Click [here](#) for instructions on how to check your schedule.

Microsoft Office 365

You will have access to [Office 365](#) to use in everyday learning, school assignments, presentations and to access VSB email. If you are having difficulty accessing your Microsoft 365 account please click [here](#) to reset your password. You will need to have your PEN (Personal Education Number) which can be found on your MyEdBC account.

Click for our [Technology Guide](#) if you require further assistance.

Notice of Late Return

Please complete the following [Notice of Late Return Form](#) if your student will not be returning to school before noon on Friday, September 9th. The form can be emailed to klrnabsences@vsb.bc.ca.

2022/23 Killarney Calendars & Bell Schedules

Our calendar and bell schedule can be found on our website.

[Bell schedule](#)

[Calendar at a Glance](#)

[Important dates](#)

Grade 8 Students

Hello Grade 8 Students and Parents,

My name is Mr. Despotakis and I will be your Grade 8 Administrator this year. On behalf of the Killarney Secondary community, I would like to extend an enormous welcome to you all. We look forward to working with you from this September and for the next five years. You are the class of 2027. The jump from elementary school to secondary school is a big one, and we hope to fill these coming years with opportunities for personal growth, challenges, and knowledge that you can use well beyond your high school years. I want to assure you that we will do what we can to assist you so your transition to secondary school can go as smooth as possible. My goals for you are to feel safe and comfortable at Killarney, and for you to feel challenged, inspired and supported. Take a few minutes in the next two weeks to think about what goals you have for yourself and what you hope you will be able to accomplish and experience in your grade 8 year. I'm looking forward to meeting you in the coming weeks and will always be available to help in any way I can.

At this time, you still have some time to rest and relax before coming back to school. With that said, I wanted to pass along some items you will be receiving more information on next week:

Our secondary school system has two online platforms for you to use.

The first is My Education BC (MYED), which is our student information system. On this platform, you and your parents will be able to see the student daily schedule, report cards, and attendance. As for courses, all Grade 8 students will be given a standard schedule and we have done our best to accommodate your chosen elective. This schedule will be available in the MYED Student Family Portal from August 30th.

The other platform is Microsoft Office 365 (O365) which is a whole suite of tools to support your learning. On this platform, students will be able to do everything from communicate electronically with school staff and peers, store files, create documents and presentations, and it is all online so it can be accessed while at school or at home.

Information on how to log in to MYED and O365 will be coming next week for you to try at home and we will assist you more in your classes.

The first full day of classes will be Sept. 7th, 2022. The day will start at 8:40am and end at 3:06pm.

My email address is ndespotakis@vsb.bc.ca. Your Grade 8 Counsellor for this year is Mrs. Romano. Her email address is trmano@vsb.bc.ca and she will be available by email from August 30th. If you would like to see your counsellor, please send an email to set up an appointment.

Again, more information will be coming out next week so continue to enjoy your summer. I will close off with Frequently Asked Questions.

FAQ's

- How do we get our daily classes and schedules? They will be available after August 30th on the MYED BC Student Family Portal. See above for log in instructions. Printed schedules will also be available for pick up in the auditorium on Orientation Day.
- Will we get a locker? Yes, you will be assigned a locker this year that you will have for the school year. Two locks will be provided as part of your school fees. One is for your hallway locker and the other is for your PE change room locker.
- Food? Our cafeteria will be open for service, as well as vending machines. Of course, you are welcome to bring your own food and snacks.
- How will I find out where my classes are? What do I do if I am stressed or worried? Come and ask any adult or LINK CREW member (they will have T-shirts on identifying themselves). We are always happy to help. Grade 8's will also get an agenda book and it will have a map. Our school is 3 floors, and we have 4 wings. It is pretty big, but you will have the hang of it in no time!
- What should I bring to school? A water bottle (we have filling stations throughout the school), snacks/lunch, a binder and stationery (pens, pencils, paper). Your individual teachers will outline other more specific things for you.
- Who do I tell if I am sick and need to miss school? Parents, please email: klrnabsences@vsb.bc.ca with the students First and Last Name, Student Number and Reason for absence. Follow up with an email to their teacher: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/killarney/About-Us/Our-Staff/Pages/default.aspx>
- Where can I get more information about the school? Visit our website at: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/killarney/Pages/default.aspx>