

John Oliver Secondary School

530 E41st Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5W 1P3

Tel: 604-713-8938 [http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/John Oliver/](http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/John%20Oliver/)

August 2025 Newsletter

Principal: Andrew Schofield
Director of Instruction:
Vancouver School Board Liaison:
JO PAC Chair:

Vice Principals: Karen Blake; Jason Mark
Ranjit Bains
Christopher Richardson
Fatima Hinds

Principal's Message

Greetings John Oliver students and parents! As the beginning of the school year arrives you will find several important information items enclosed with this letter to help set up a successful school year. We hope that summer break provided time for you to relax, and time to chart a course for the upcoming year. All of us at John Oliver Secondary look forward to sharing with you the numerous learning possibilities we will experience over the course of this coming school year! Can't wait to see you ... and remember: attendance = success!

*Yours truly,
Andrew Schofield, Principal*

Making Your Start Successful

There are several things you can do to make your start successful.

1. Please read over this August newsletter and refer to our John Oliver website for information on school opening policies and procedures.
2. Pay attention to the information that will be given to you in **homeroom** the first week of school. After that week you will be expected to be familiar with the **procedures** and **rules** contained in the agenda book.
3. Use your **agenda** to help you plan and organize (the book will be available after school fees have been paid). It is an invaluable tool!
4. Remember: Ask, if you need help. People at John Oliver are caring and will help you if you need it.
5. Virtue triumphs.

School Opening Schedule (please see pg. 7 for summary)

Life Skills (LS) and Learning Assistance and Life Skills (LALS) District programs.

For students in our Life Skills (LS) and Learning Assistance and Life Skills (LALS) programs your first day is Wednesday 3 September, starting at 8:30 and ending at 3:00. **Life Skills (LS) students** who are part of the VSB's bussing program should expect communication from the bus company confirming pick-up scheduling in the last week of August. The bus will drop Life Skills students off at the school's south (music wing entrance) where they will be met by our program Support Workers. **Learning Assistance and Life Skills (LALS) students** should arrive by 8:30 and head up to your first floor classrooms.

Integration is an important part of every student's experience at John Oliver; during the first two weeks of the new school year we will be assessing student needs and class availability in order to integrate students where possible.

Regular, LAC and Take a Hike students.

The 2025 – 2026 school year starts on Tuesday, September 2nd with a homeroom period (homeroom room locations are posted in the atrium - **NOTE – homeroom assignments can change from year to year!**)

Grade 9-12 students: 9:30 – 10:30am. New grade 9-12 students who enrolled prior to August 29, 2025 will have had a homeroom assigned and should report directly to their homeroom, as shown on the lists in the first floor corridors.

All Grade 8 students please meet at the auditorium by 12:30 pm. They will be met by administrators, counsellors, and our LINK Crew students who will take Grade 8's to their homeroom. Grade 8's will learn how to navigate their new school environment from their homeroom teachers and through the leadership of our LINK Crew Students.

Homeroom Period for ALL STUDENTS in Grades 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12

- Wednesday, September 3rd from 8:40 am – 8:55 am.
Semester one schedule, period one starts at 9:00. Day ends at 2:25 pm. (Teacher collaboration and planning from 2:25-3:15)
- Thursday, September 4th from 8:40 am – 8:55 am.
Semester one schedule; period one starts at 9:00. Day ends at 2:25 pm. (Teacher collaboration and planning from 2:25-3:15)
- **Friday, September 5th. No homeroom; regular timetable and schedule (see p.7 and 8)!**

During mandatory homeroom periods teachers take students through important school procedures, routines, and policies. The framework that guides decision-making for all John Oliver students and staff is our school's **Student Code of Conduct** which is reviewed during our homeroom periods.

During the first week of school, students meet their teachers and new classmates for the semester, classroom-learning goals are established along with homework expectations.

Should you have questions for your child's teacher or grade counsellor, please contact them directly. Please take time during this important first week to review with your child a program of strong work habits at school and home that will set him or her up to maximize their educational opportunities.

Further information about the start of the school year may be found on our **school's website**, [http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/John Oliver](http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/John%20Oliver). Information about important dates on this year's school calendar are also posted on the school website. Your child's John Oliver **Student Agenda**, which will be distributed during the homeroom periods, also contains useful information including the John Oliver Student Code of Conduct and school routines, policies, and procedures.

What to bring ...

Classes begin Wednesday, September 3rd, so please bring binders, paper, pens, pencils, erasers, white-out and lunch - full cafeteria service is scheduled to start on Wednesday, Sept. 3rd.

Please bring your school issued lock to school. Grade 8s will be issued locks on Tuesday, September 2nd.

Attendance

Prompt, regular **attendance** in class is an essential part of your child's success at school. We encourage families to continue scheduling any important medical appointments, etc., outside of class time.

Attendance is taken in each class and recorded. Parents/guardians of students who are absent due to illness are asked to send an email to John.Oliver@vsb.bc.ca excusing their child's absence. Send the email to your teacher as well.

Make sure to add the following: **Student's full name / Student number / Date(s) and classes you were absent for / Reason for Absence**

School Calendar

John Oliver's School Calendar may be found on our website [available here](#): this is our active, live link and is updated as events are added!

The VSB is continuing a Flexible Instructional Time (FIT) schedule. FIT is a period of instructional time built into a school's schedule that gives students the opportunity to have choice in their learning time. Examples of using FIT time include:

- meeting with teachers for support in subject learning or completing assignments
- attending tutorial sessions
- connecting with counsellors
- collaborating with other students on projects
- individual time to study or enrichment passion projects
- completing Career Life Connections 12 and Capstone requirements
- engaging in Work Experience 11/12 activity.

Ultimately, FIT time encourages students to own their learning and gives them the opportunity to develop core competencies such as personal responsibility, self-regulation, goal setting, wellbeing and communication.

The FIT period is on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Our daily schedule, adjusted for FIT time and standardized across the district is available on page 7.

You will notice that the school day ends slightly later than in the past. This allows the introduction of monthly **collaboration time for admin and teachers** to meet and work on unit and school planning, and examine emerging best practices and growth opportunities in teaching. Collaboration activity complements our Professional Development work. Collaboration dates and times are also noted on the schedule on page 7.

School Fees

A list of school and supplemental fees may be found on the school website. Students will receive 'Student Account Summaries' during the first homeroom on September 2, 2025. We continue to use **School Cash Online**, to facilitate payment of school fees. We look forward to continuing to use this system and we appreciate your help in significantly reducing the amount of paper our school consumes. Please register by visiting the [VSB's School Cash Online website](#). Your child's first name, last name and birth date are required for registration. Once registered, an email notification is sent when items become available for purchase online. For support, technical help or additional information, please contact the School Cash Online parent/guardian help desk by visiting helpdesk.supportschoolcashionline.com or on 1-866-961-1803.

Further information on school and supplemental fees and the online payment of those fees is also available on the school website. School Cash Online will be available for parent registration as of September 5th. School and supplemental fees will be collected through School Cash Online starting the second week of classes and not during the homeroom periods as in the past. Parents wishing to pay fees by cheque or cash will be permitted to do so starting October 1st.

Parents, please make a note of the district's **Financial Hardship Policy** which recognizes that some families may not be able to fully afford school fees. Board policy is that no student of school age will be denied an opportunity to participate in a required course, class or program because of financial hardship. Parents/guardians unable to pay some or all of a school fee are invited to speak to their child's teacher, school counsellor, and/or administrator (Financial hardship application forms are available through the school office). All financial hardship applications and discussions shall be confidential. Ways in which difficulties in meeting requests for payment of school fees may be addressed include: partial payment, waiver of the fee, payment by instalment, and/or fundraising activities to reduce overall costs.

Communication, events, and what's happening at JO ...

Communication of school news and events is done primarily through email with our **JO WAAG** (Week At A Glance),

our monthly '**John Oliver News**' ebulletin and event specific emails: please be mindful of spam and fraudulent emails!!

Do you want to know when the next Professional Development Day is? ... please check our [online calendar](#).
What about homework assignments? ... please email teachers or check course outlines, staff webpages and blogs.
Do you want to know what intramural sports are being held? ... please check our school [webpage top tabs](#).

The calendar on the school's website is updated regularly. We recommend bookmarking the school's website on your devices.

Teachers, counsellors and administrators may all be contacted through the school's main phone number: 604-713-8938 or by email.

A '**Student Information Verification Form**' will be distributed during Tuesday's (September 2nd) homeroom period. Please verify this form and make any changes/updates directly onto the form. Please also ensure there is a Parent/Guardian email address listed on the form. The form is to be returned by students on the Wednesday, September 3rd homeroom or to the office in the first week of classes, please.

School Photos

School Photos will be taken on Tuesday, September 16th. Photo information forms will be distributed in homerooms on September 6th. Identification cards are included in your School Fees. All students **must** be photographed for a Go Card. Go Cards must be shown as I.D. at provincial literacy and numeracy exams, and accessing student fares on Transit.

Grad Photos (Individual portraits) are taken by Artona Studios from Sunday, January 11, 2026 - Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at the Artona Vancouver Studio.

Grad Group Sessions: Friday, September 19, 2025 - Sunday, March 29, 2026, also at their Vancouver Studio.

Please go to [this link](#) to book appointments for JOSS Grad photos... booking is essential and helps Artona with planning and scheduling!

Physical & Health Education

John Oliver Jokers PE clothing is available for purchase from the P.E. Department. While this purchase is optional, the P.E. department strongly recommends this purchase.

Most high schools in the district have adopted a P.E. strip policy (like John Oliver's) to promote school pride, enhance personal hygiene, and to ensure students are appropriately clothed for physical activity. If students choose not to purchase this optional John Oliver Jokers P.E. clothing, the department asks that students bring a change of P.E. clothing to wear that is appropriate for physical activities. P.E. clothing purchase and distribution takes place during the first week of classes directly from P.E. teachers.

Please note that family members are also more than welcome to purchase any of the clothing for themselves to share their school spirit! Strip is available through the P.E. office during school hours.

Prices are:

Grey Gildan T-shirt \$10
Black Dazzle Shorts \$10
Sweatpants \$10
Socks \$10

PAC

We look forward to connecting with parents at the **first PAC meeting** of the year. The date of the first meeting will be communicated to all parents in early September.

All parents/guardians of students at John Oliver automatically belong to and are voting members of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). The PAC is dedicated to the education and well-being of students and helps provide the best educational support possible. Parents are encouraged to participate in educational activities and decision-making to strengthen the role of families in education.

The role of the PAC includes:

- supporting educational opportunities for students;
- promoting co-operation between home and school;
- communicating between parents and the school;
- providing a forum for dialogue between parents and school;
- assisting parents to familiarize them with school events/activities;
- advising the administrative team of ongoing issues/problems;
- advising the administrative team/staff of parental views about school programs, policies and activities;
- organizing educational and special events.

PAC meetings are held monthly and the Principal attends. This is a time for parents to hear updates happening at John Oliver and provide feedback to admin. There are parent representatives on the working committee (PAC Executive). Through meetings, newsletters and meeting minutes there is an active effort to keep all parents informed and involved in school activities.

John Oliver Music

We hope you are all enjoying your summer! We would like to invite all new and returning members of the band, choir and strings and their families to our various events!

TRAVEL CREDITS

Every two years the senior students embark on a major international tour and learning experience. The junior groups also have opportunities for short tours and retreats. To support these tours and our on-going music enrichment programs, the Music program provides several opportunities to help student earn travel credits: Poinsettia sales, magazine sales and other programs give students a chance to earn credits for their own travel/tour accounts. All donations are also gratefully received.

Counselling Department

Counsellors are in the school to correct and update schedules for the 2025-2026 school year. Students will be contacted by telephone by their counsellor for schedule corrections involving conflicts, incomplete schedules and changes based on Summer School completion. No requested schedule changes can be considered at this time. Students will receive their schedule during Homeroom on Tuesday, September 2nd.

Schedules can also be accessed through the MyEd Family/Student portal starting August 30.

Enjoy the rest of your holidays, and we look forward to seeing you all back next week!

Counsellor assignments for the 2025/2026 school year are:

- Grade 8 (Last name A-C) TBA
- Grade 8 (Last name D-K) Ms. C. Martel
- Grade 8 (Last name L-Q) Mr. M. Wolfe
- Grade 8 (Last name R-Z) Ms. N. Ghani

- Grade 9, International and Trades: Ms. N. Ghani
- Grade 10: TBA
- Grade 11: Ms. C. Martel

Grade 8 Students: A big welcome to John Oliver! We hope that your first year in high school goes smoothly. Your Counsellor, your Teachers and the Peer Counsellors are here to assist you any way they can, so don't be shy if you need assistance!

Course Schedules: Please check your course schedules when you receive them in your homeroom. If you find any errors or omissions then please make an appointment with your grade Counsellor. More information on course change procedures is posted outside the counselling suite.

Summer School Courses: Course selection changes resulting from summer school are dependent upon the space available in a requested course. We anticipate that there will be limited space for changes.

Grade 12 News: Information will be available in the early fall regarding Career Life Connections and the Capstone project and please check out the Artona website to book your grad photo sessions:

Grad Photos (Individual portraits): Sunday, January 11, 2026 - Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at Artona's Vancouver Studio.

Grad Group Sessions: Friday, September 19, 2025 - Sunday, March 29, 2026, also at their Vancouver Studio.

School Liaison Officer

John Oliver welcomes back our School Liaison Officer, Cst. Sahota, who will focus their efforts proactively at the school, promoting positive relations between youth and the police, as well as acting as a resource person to the JO community.

MyEducation BC Student Family Portal

If this is the first-time logging into MyEducationBC website, please use the following login and link:

username: student number

password: Dist\$2026

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5037/myed-bc-student-family-portal>

Student Accident Insurance

The student accident insurance program, called The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP), is provided by Industrial Alliance and is a voluntary plan which offers coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan can supplement costs not covered by provincial health insurance or employer extended health and dental plans.

If you have questions about the program please contact Industrial Alliance directly via: Phone: 1.800.266.5667 or Email: solutions@ia.ca

Student Schedule for Sep 2 – 5, 2025

Monday September 1	Tuesday September 2	Wednesday September 3	Thursday September 4	Friday September 5
Labour Day – No School		8:40AM – 9AM Homerooms	8:40AM – 9AM Homerooms	8:40AM – 10:00 AM Block 1
	Homerooms Gr. 9-12's 9:30AM – 10:30AM	9:05AM – 10:15AM Block 1	9:05AM – 10:15AM Block 1	10:10AM – 11:30AM Block 2
		10:20AM – 11:30AM Block 2	10:20AM – 11:30AM Block 2	11:30AM – 12:15PM LUNCH
		11:30AM – 12:15PM LUNCH	11:30AM – 12:15PM LUNCH	12:15PM – 1:35PM Block 3
	Gr.8's arrive and meet in the Auditorium at 12:30PM	12:15PM – 1:15PM Block 3	12:15PM – 1:15PM Block 3	1:45PM – 3:05PM Block 4
		1:25PM – 2:25 PM Block 4 Early Dismissal	1:25PM – 2:25 PM Block 4 Early Dismissal	

NO FIT scheduled for the first week of school. FIT will begin on Sep 8, 2025

Grade Assemblies:

Assemblies are mandatory, are held in the Auditorium and start at the beginning of FIT.

Grade 8: Monday September 8 from 8:40 - 9:20AM

Grade 9 & 10: Tuesday September 9 from 1:20 - 2:00PM

Grade 11 & 12: Thursday September 11 from 1:20 - 2:00PM



**JOHN OLIVER SECONDARY SCHOOL
BELL SCHEDULE
2025 – 2026**



Semester 1: Sep 2, 2025 – Jan 27, 2026 Semester 1 Rotation 1 (S1R1) from Sep 2, 2025 - Nov 7, 2025 Block 1, 2, 3, 4 Semester 1 Rotation 2 (S1R2) Nov 10, 2025 - Jan 27, 2026 Block 2, 1, 4, 3	Semester 2: Jan 28, 2026 – Jun 26, 2026 Semester 2 Rotation 1 (S2R1) Jan 28, 2026 - Apr 17, 2026 Block 1, 2, 3, 4 Semester 2 Rotation 2 (S2R2) Apr 20, 2026 - Jun 25, 2026 Block 2, 1, 4, 3
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Semester Turnaround Days: January 26/27, 2026 & June 24/25, 2026 Pro D/Non-Instructional Day: Sep 19, Oct 24, Nov 21, Feb 13, Apr 20, May 15 Parent/Guardian Teacher Conference: November 6, 2025 & April 9, 2026
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:40 - 9:20 FIT	8:40 - 10:00 BLOCK 1	8:40 - 10:00 BLOCK 1	8:40 - 10:00 BLOCK 1	8:40 - 9:20 FIT
9:20 - 10:20 BLOCK 1				9:20 - 10:20 BLOCK 1
10:30 - 11:30 BLOCK 2	10:10 - 11:30 BLOCK 2	10:10 - 11:30 BLOCK 2	10:10 - 11:30 BLOCK 2	10:30 - 11:30 BLOCK 2
11:30 - 12:15 LUNCH				
12:15 - 1:35 BLOCK 3	12:15 - 1:15 BLOCK 3	12:15 - 1:35 BLOCK 3	12:15 - 1:15 BLOCK 3	12:15 - 1:35 BLOCK 3
	1:20 - 2:00 FIT		1:20 - 2:00 FIT	
1:45 - 3:05 BLOCK 4	2:05 - 3:05 BLOCK 4	1:45 - 3:05 BLOCK 4	2:05 - 3:05 BLOCK 4	1:45 - 3:05 BLOCK 4

**Early Dismissal for students at 2:25PM on
Sep 3 & 4 for Collaborative Days**

8:40 - 9:00 HOMEROOM
9:05 - 10:15 BLOCK 1
10:20 - 11:30 BLOCK 2
11:30 - 12:15 LUNCH
12:15 - 1:15 BLOCK 3
1:25 - 2:25 BLOCK 4

Collaborative Day Bell Schedule – Wednesday's	
Early Dismissal for students at 1:40PM on Oct 8, Jan 14, Apr 15, Jun 10	Late School start at 10:05AM for Students on Nov 12, Feb 25, May 13
8:40 - 10:00 BLOCK 1	10:05 - 10:45 BLOCK 1
10:10 - 11:30 BLOCK 2	10:50 - 11:30 BLOCK 2
11:30 - 12:15 LUNCH	11:30 - 12:15 LUNCH
12:15 - 12:55 BLOCK 3	12:15 - 1:35 BLOCK 3
1:00 - 1:40 BLOCK 4	1:45 - 3:05 BLOCK 4