

Killarney Secondary School

Grade 8 Handbook 2025- 2026



**Killarney Secondary School
6454 Killarney Street
Vancouver, BC V5S 2X7**

**Phone: 604-713-8950 Website:
www.killarneysecondary.com**

WELCOME

We, the Killarney staff, welcome you to our school. We believe that Killarney offers the highest quality education and, therefore, we are pleased that you have chosen to complete your high school education here. We hope that the transition from elementary school to high school goes smoothly with as little difficulty and confusion as possible. If problems do occur, please feel comfortable talking to any of our staff or administrators who will arrange to get you the help you need. The school offers a great number of extracurricular activities some of which are outlined in this handbook. In addition to academic excellence, Killarney has a tradition of strong, competitive athletic teams, outstanding drama productions, and excellent performances in band, choir, and strings. The success of these programs is, however, dependent on student participation and support. Please take the time to read through this handbook and familiarize yourself with the various courses and activities offered to you. We hope you will enjoy your next five years at Killarney and that you are successful in all endeavors.

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

Killarney Secondary School opened (A and C wings) in September 1957 to 1,260 students in Grades 7, 8, 9, and 10. The teaching staff of 52 was under the direction of Principal Tom Alsbury. Grade 11's were added in 1958 and Grade 12's one year later with the first class of senior students graduating in 1960.

In 1957, the area to the south and east of the school was just beginning to be developed and so the school was surrounded by vacant land. As the area south of 49th Avenue was developed and grew, so did Killarney. In November 1961, B-wing was completed and opened. Some six years later, in December 1967, D-wing was opened which greatly expanded and improved the Science and Technical Studies facilities.

Since the completion of the main building in the mid-1960's, Killarney's capacity grew with the addition of 10 portable classrooms which were replaced in 2002 with the opening of the new west wing consisting of 21 classrooms including a state of the art music lab. Currently, the student population of Killarney is approximately 1550 students, and they are taught by some 90 teaching staff. This community of learners is one of the largest enrolling schools in Vancouver! Killarney has developed a pride in its history, traditions, and accomplishments. These aspects of life at Killarney have been built around various cornerstones:

School Motto: "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful)

School Colours: Green and Grey

School Emblem: The Shamrock

Team Name: Cougars

GRADE 8 SCHOOL CONTACTS

Grade 8 Vice-Principal	Mr. Mark Nakada
Grade 8 Counsellor	TBD
Principal	Mr. Chris Parker

SCHOOL COUNSELLORS

Counsellors are certified teachers with specialized training in Counselling Psychology. At Killarney each grade has their own counsellor who starts with them in Grade 8 and continues as their counsellor until grade 12. Counsellors can:

Assists parents and students to:

- Understand school curriculum, courses, and services
- Understand educational strengths, challenges and needs of the student
- Become aware of post-secondary options and career possibilities
- Develop effective communication skills with each other
- Become aware of alternate courses, program and schools that may better suit the student.

Help students navigate:

- Anxiety, depression, and other mental health concerns
- Conflict Resolution Bullying, Gangs and Peer Pressure
- Family Relationships
- Career and Post-Secondary planning
- Stress Management, Decision Making and Problem Solving

Contacting your School Counselor

1. Students can drop by their counsellor's office to talk.
2. If it's an emergency, contact any counsellor in the office for help.
3. Parents can phone or email their child's counsellor to make an appointment

LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS

Killarney's ***Library Learning Commons*** is a lively and friendly place where you can get support with your classroom research projects. The two friendly teacher-librarians are also there to help you find interesting and engaging reading materials (print and online/digital sources) for school projects or for reading for pleasure (a highly important life-long skill). Students are always welcome to come into the ***Library Learning Commons*** to study, meet with peers for group work, use the computers and read, of course. Killarney's two teacher-librarians are here to help instill a love for reading and learning. As information literacy specialists, they are here to support your learning: whether you need inspiration for a research topic, or help with digital presentations, don't hesitate to ask.

GRADE 8 COURSE PROGRAM

GRADE 8 SCHEDULE

Foundational Courses	Fine Arts Elective
<p>All Grade 8 students will be enrolled in the following courses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. English Language Arts 8 2. Social Studies 8 3. Mathematics 8 OR Numeracy 8 4. Science 8 5. Physical & Health Education 8 6. French 8 OR Tutorial 8 (referral) 7. Applied Skills Rotation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Education • Home Economics • Technical Studies 	<p>All Grade 8 students choose one of the following elective courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Band 8 Beginners ○ Band 8 Advanced ○ Choir 8 ○ Strings 8 Beginners ○ Strings 8 Advanced ○ Art / Drama 8

2025/26 BELL SCHEDULE

Regular Day	Flexible Instruction Time (FIT) Day
<p>Period 1: 8:40 – 10:00 am</p> <p>Break: 10:00 – 10:10 am</p> <p>Period 2: 10:10 -11:30 am</p> <p>Lunch: 11:30 am – 12:15 pm</p> <p>Period 3: 12:15 – 1:35 pm</p> <p>Break: 1:35 – 1:45 pm</p> <p>Period 4: 1:45 – 3:05 pm</p>	<p>Monday and Friday: Morning blocks are reduced to 60 minutes with an additional 40-minute FIT block before Period 1</p> <p>Tuesday and Thursday: Afternoon blocks are reduced to 60 minutes with an additional 40-minute FIT block between Period 3 and 4</p>

FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTION TIME (FIT)

FIT blocks are a period of Instructional Time built into the daily schedule that allows students to have some measure of choice and control over their own learning.

During FIT Block students can:

- Work individually or in groups to complete schoolwork
- Meet with teachers for support on classwork
- Work on projects under teacher supervision
- Get caught up on missed work

During FIT Block students are expected to:

- Focus on learning
- Have a plan for the time
- Have all materials required
- Remain in the learning space they selected

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The following are descriptions of Grade 8 Courses only. For full program details and to access all of Killarney Secondary's course offering please see our complete [Course Planning Guide](#) on our school website.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

English 8 provides students the opportunity to strengthen their understanding of themselves, diverse cultures, and multiple perspectives through the exploration of First Peoples' and other Canadian and international texts. Students will be expected to engage critically with and produce their own oral, written, visual and digital texts. Reading, listening and the critical viewing of texts will be presented as a source of creativity and joy.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Social Studies 8 builds and expands on the geography skills and history studied in elementary school. Students will learn to use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills as well as how to assess the significance of events in the past and their short-and long-term consequences. Current event issues will provide an opportunity to think critically and to promote debate and discussion in the classroom.

MATHEMATICS 8

The goals of our mathematics program at Killarney are consistent with those set forth by the Ministry of Education. These are that the curriculum will provide:

- The mathematics necessary to function in society
- The mathematics necessary to engage in life-long learning
- The mathematics necessary to pursue further formal study in mathematically related areas
- The opportunity to develop skills in logical analysis and to present problem solutions in a clear manner

This course is designed for Grade 8 students with a record of satisfactory/good achievement in elementary school mathematics.

NUMERACY 8

This course is designed to support students who have not yet met the curricular competencies of Mathematics 7. It provides students an opportunity to learn and develop the necessary skills and understanding required to be successful in future mathematics courses.

Please note: Numeracy 8 is not the equivalent of Math 8. Please refer to [Killarney Course Planning Guide](#) for the Math pathway.

SCIENCE 8

This first science course introduces students to science, the scientific method, and their applications. The specific science areas that are emphasized at the grade 8 level include: cells and systems, kinetic molecular theory, energy, and plate tectonics. This course is taught in a laboratory setting and includes lectures, demonstrations, laboratory exercises and experiments.

PHYSICAL HEALTH EDUCATION 8

This course is an introduction to selected team and individual activities with the emphasis on motor skill development, physical fitness, and the development of a positive attitude to activity as part of one's lifestyle. Some of the activities are soccer, wrestling, rugby, gymnastics, square dancing, swimming, basketball, weight training, track/ field, volleyball, field hockey and minor games.

Proper gym strip (grey t-shirt & black shorts - which can be purchased from the PE teacher) is required of all students.

FRENCH 8

An Introductory level course which offers basic French vocabulary and structures involving themes such as: personality and physical traits, friendships, hobbies and interests and travel. Students will be introduced to authentic documents used in the francophone world to familiarize them with the language and enable them to communicate at a basic level.

TUTORIAL

In place of French 8, Tutorial provides subject support and intensive remediation to students in Grades 8, 9, and 10 who are struggling academically. The goal of the course is to strengthen basic skills, fill in the gaps they may have missed along the way and to increase overall academic confidence so that they can continue in the regular stream of secondary education. If necessary, students can pick up language credits in later years. Students are requested for Tutorial through recommendations from elementary school and counsellors during the articulation process held in the spring.

APPLIED SKILLS 8 ROTATION (Technology, Business Education & Home Economics)

1. TECHNOLOGY 8 - Drafting, Woodwork, Metalwork, Electronics

Technology 8 is a course where all students develop and build solutions to technological problems. The course may be completed with one or more teachers with special emphasis on an introduction to:

- the design process
- creative design
- working with materials such as plastic
- wood and metal
- electronics

a) Drafting

Introduces the student to drafting instruments such as the T-square, set square, compass, types of pencils, etc. The main concept in drafting is 3rd angle projection which is a basic method in placing ideas on paper for others to read and use. Another basic technique that will be introduced is dimensioning. Dimensioning is the placing of extension lines, dimension lines, arrow heads and notations on a drawing in a clear and logical manner. Pictorial drawings will also be a part of the Grade 8 experience.

b) Woodwork

In woodwork, students are encouraged to be creative while designing their project within the context of a design problem. The course will cover wood technology, project planning, cutting, shaping, sanding and finishing. The students will be introduced to the safe use of a variety of hand and power tools to complete their chosen design.

c) Metalwork

Metalwork has been designed for the beginning student and their future courses. This course is primarily a practical course in the technology of metal shaping and fabrication. Basic jewelry production is also covered. Some machines studied and used the drill press; grinder; buffer and many hand machines. Methods of working steel into useful take-home projects are studied and projects are made.

d) Electronics

Students learn some basic electrical principles and have some practical experience with electricity. Some of the projects may include:

- building various electronic circuits, with an electronic laboratory kit
- learning to read and draw electronic drawings
- identifying and using electronic components
- techniques of soldering

Students will be encouraged to build small electronic projects and bring electrical items from home to repair in class.

2. **BUSINESS EDUCATION 8**

Do you have an idea that could make money? Have you thought about:

- How many items to produce?
- What the price should be?
- How to advertise and market your product / idea?
- How to get the money to get started?
- How you can spend the money you make?

THEN, THIS IS THE COURSE FOR YOU!!!

This course will take you through the steps from the idea to the finished product; and—hopefully the profit. Your class will start your own business and compete with the other Grade 8 business classes in Killarney's own "Shopping Mall."

3. **HOME ECONOMICS 8**

The Home Economics course is divided into two parts: Foods and Nutrition, and Clothing and Textiles. In Foods and Nutrition, students develop skills in basic food preparation. Healthy eating habits, nutrition and safety are emphasized throughout the course. In Clothing and Textiles, students will learn to use a sewing machine safely. Students will create and keep a basic sewing project (eg: fabric tote bag, apron, stuffed toy). Lab Fee.

GRADE 8 FINE ARTS ELECTIVE

CHOIR 8

Prerequisite - None. This course concentrates on two- and three-part singing, ear and voice training, sight reading and some basic music theory. The student must be prepared to take part in performances as they occur. One pianist is also required as accompanist, minimum standard - Royal Conservatory, Grade 9.

BAND

There are five levels of Concert Band. If students have never played a band instrument before, they should enter the program at level one. If students have played for one or more years in an elementary school band program, they should enter at level two in grade eight. These students should follow the advanced course selections.

BEGINNER'S CONCERT BAND - LEVEL ONE

Prerequisite - None. Any interested student with no previous band experience is eligible. This is a beginner's course that focuses on teaching students' skills in reading music, breathing, articulation, scales, arpeggios, music terms and performing. Tubas, baritones, oboes, synthesizers, and large percussion equipment are available at the school. All other instruments must be supplied by the students. Students of any grade may join this band.

ADVANCED CONCERT BAND 8 - LEVEL TWO

Prerequisite - One or more years in an elementary school band or its equivalent in private lessons or successful completion of beginner's band in summer school or departmental permission. This course is a continuation of the elementary school band program. **JAZZ BAND** is available starting in grade 9.

MUSIC 8/9 STRINGS BEGINNERS

Prerequisite - None. This is a beginner's course in learning to play string instruments (violin, viola, cello, bass). Instruments are available for rent from the school. Students of any grade are eligible. One pianist is also required with Grade 7 RCM or equivalent.

MUSIC 8 STRINGS ADVANCED

Prerequisite: Elementary Strings experience or private lessons. This course is designed for students who have taken courses in elementary strings programs. One Pianist is also required with Grade 7 RCM or equivalent.

ART / DRAMA 8

Students will spend half a semester in each subject area.

DRAMA 8

Ever wanted to be a superhero? Or an ogre, a princess, a ninja or a raptor? In drama 8, you can be all of these and more! Through games, fun exercises, team building and scene work, you gain the skills needed to turn your imagination into performance! You will also explore:

- Improvisation
- Theatre terminology
- Confidence building
- Performance strategies
- Team building skills

So come and join one of the biggest programs in the VSB! We look forward to working with you!

VISUAL ARTS 8 FOUNDATIONS

This is a half semester course run in conjunction with Drama 8 that explores some of the major expression areas such as drawing, painting and printmaking and three-dimensional art.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Killarney offers a comprehensive program for students who are English Language Learners. Students are assessed at their elementary school during the Spring and then placed in programs at Killarney according to their level in reading, writing, and understanding of English. The assessment includes a standardized reading test and a composition. Students who score below grade five on the reading test and/or are making significant errors in their compositions will be referred to our ELL program, or to a specialized program through the articulation team. The English Language Learners Department provides a three-level program for incoming students.

Level 1 is appropriate for students whose English skills are at a beginning level.

Level 2 is for students whose English skills are at an intermediate level.

Level 3 students generally have advanced language skills and are preparing for success in regular classes.

Transitional

Senior—Grade 10, 11 and 12 ELL students who have reasonably good oral and written English language skills are registered in Transitional English and Transitional Social Studies.

Junior—Students in Grade 8 and 9 who have strong enough English skills will be placed in regular classes and receive one block of ELL support.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Killarney Secondary, we believe in allowing our students to grow, not only in their academic studies, but in their other hobbies as well. That is why we have numerous athletic teams and clubs for you to join. Involvement in such a group develops a sense of belonging which is a significant correlation of success.

CLUBS - 2024-2025	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After School Pride Film Club • Anime Club • Anti-Bullying Club • Badminton Club • Band Executive Council • BC Children's Hospital Club (BCCHC) • Chess Club • Christian Fellowship Club • CyberSecurity Club • Cycling Club • Diabetes and Mental Awareness Club • Drumline • Echoes: Prevention of Sex Trafficking • EDUPAVI Canada Club • End Violence Association(EVA) Club • Environment Club • Federation • Female Empowerment Club • Filipino Cultural Club • Fitness Club • Girls for Business • Girls for Tech • Glow-bal United • Good Guys • Happy Planet Crochet • Heart and Stroke Foundation Club (HASF) • Hong Kong Club • Illustration Club • Improvisation Club! • International Culture Club • Japan club • Killarney Book Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killarney Business Club • Killarney Cancer Awareness Club • Killarney Case Competition Club • Killarney Dance Club • Killarney Engineering Club • Killarney Gardening Club • Killarney Key Club • Killarney Mainstage Production Club • Killarney News Club • Killarney Physics Olympics Team Club • Killarney Pride Club • Killarney Secondary School Chamber Music Club • Killarney Student Government • Killarney Torpedo Turtles • Library Club • Model UN • MSA - Muslim Students' Association Club • Operation Smile Club • Poetry Club • Programming Club • Robotics Club • Safe Space Club • Senior Empowerment Club • Social Justice Club • SPCA Club • STEM Sorority • Strategy Board Games • Vancouver Care Packages (VCP) • Vancouver Sun Run • Vital Vision Foundation • World Vision
ATHLETICS	
Badminton Basketball Cross-Country Track and Field Soccer Volleyball Table Tennis Ultimate	