



VANCOUVER COLLEGE

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Friday, August 21, 2020

Dear Senior School Parents and Guardians,

I trust you are enjoying the last little bit of summer that this year has to offer, and I hope you are all excited to begin the upcoming school year. Realizing the state of the world is one that we have never experienced, the time in front of us is a critical one in history. Since the spring of 2020, we have witnessed numerous changes in the way education is delivered. We have been able to pivot as seamlessly as possible to various formats and methods of delivery and we have committed to the same standard of quality education of which Vancouver College and its graduates can be proud.

Understandably, you may be wondering what lies in front of us and what the following few months or perhaps years look like. Rest assured, the administration has been diligently working toward providing a safe, connected, and quality learning experience for all students. Our focus is and always will be on the formation of the whole person while preparing students for lives dedicated to excellence, leadership, and service to Church and community.

Let me begin by welcoming you back to Vancouver College. For some, this will be a brand new experience. For most, you have been entrenched in the culture of this school for some time. I am in the position of the former as I am new to the school. My name is Frank Trentadue and I am the Assistant Principal of the senior school. I am thrilled to be part of this diverse, faith-filled learning community and I am excited to meet every student as he grows in body, mind, and spirit.

As I reflect on the current pandemic and what impact it has had on education, I am fascinated by the speed at which situations have unfolded. Reacting to the many sudden twists and turns, administrators, teachers, and support staff have had to be nimble and agile while staying committed to their vocation. I am also struck by the seriousness of this state of the world. It has underlined the importance of our health and safety among a host of other things. Thus, in developing the return to school plan for September 2020, we must be cognizant of the guiding principles that direct our decisions. First and foremost, health and safety must be the top priority. Secondly, providing a quality learning experience for all students is taken into consideration. Finally, finding ways to keep students connected and engaged while at school cannot be overlooked. What lies before us is a new world - one that we have never seen! We find ourselves facing a task with which no one has any experience. We are in uncharted territory, looking around for what will be the best for all. This requires bravery and courage along with an open mind and tolerance of sorts. It is a "brave new world."

Thus, what follows is a detailed plan for re-opening the school and returning to some form of normalcy. There may be reasons to shift from time to time and revisions to this plan may be necessary. I respectfully request your understanding and patience. You will be informed of all changes.

Finally, I take great pride in being able to partner with each of you to help raise the young men of Vancouver College. We are charged with the all-important task of preparing these men for the future. It

is a responsibility I take very seriously and I thank you for entrusting your sons unto our care. I am confident that each young man will be able to fully develop his God-given talents.

Semper Fidelis
Frank Trentadue
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Schedule:

The 2020-21 school year will commence using a 50% return to class model with students in Grades 10-12 in class every other day. When not in school, students will be connected to their classes via teacher direction. This may include various forms of technology or tasks for which students are responsible. This model is designed to provide students with

- an uninterrupted learning experience.
- the ability to shift from in-person to online instruction when necessary.
- minimal physical contact with other students while in the building.
- a regular connection between student and teacher.

We strongly encourage students and parents to consistently review our calendar, which includes our yearly schedule on the school’s website and phone app.

First Week of School:

The school will open on Thursday, September 10th. Please review the following:

Date	Time	Event	Description
Tuesday, September 8	10am-12pm	New Student Orientation	All students new to Vancouver College entering Grades 10-12 are invited to an introduction and orientation
Thursday, September 10	8:30am-2:15pm (see staggered arrival/dismissal schedule)	Classes begin for Learning Group 1	Orientation Day
Friday, September 11	8:30am-2:15pm (see staggered arrival/dismissal schedule)	Classes begin for Learning Group 2	Orientation Day
Monday, September 14	8:30am-2:15pm (see staggered arrival/dismissal schedule)	Classes begin for Learning Group 1	First full day of academic classes

Senior school students are expected to enter Blessed Edmund Rice using the door closest to the alumni gym (or the south door of Manrell Hall if their advisory is located in that building) to meet with their advisory group. Please consult the 2020 ADVISORY GROUPS GRADES 10-12 (found in the emailed version of the Friday, August 21, 2020 Parent Communication) to locate your Advisory and Learning Group. Groups are organized by grade and alpha. To find your Groups, use the appropriate tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet. These lists will also be posted on the wall near the entrance. Faculty and staff will be available to help students find their classrooms. Due to health and safety protocols, parents are not permitted in the building.

Students are expected to bring their lunch to school during the first week of school.

Daily Timetable:

The Senior School daily timetable consists of four academic blocks per day with built-in transition times and a lunch period. Classes will take place in 14 alternate day blocks. Students will take up to four of their regular classes for 14 straight days followed by the next group of up to four classes for the next 14 days. The cycle then repeats. This year we have extended the timing of our Advising Block and it will take place weekly on Wednesday mornings. We will no longer host four shorter Advising check-ins per week. Advisories are now organized into grades and further into learning groups.

Senior & Middle School

Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri			Wednesday		
8:15 8:20 8:25	Staggered Arrival	Gr. 7/10 Gr. 8/11 Gr. 9/12	9:15 9:20 9:25	Staggered Arrival	Gr. 7/10 Gr. 8/11 Gr. 9/12
8:30 - 9:45	Block 1	75 min	9:30 - 10:30	Block 1	60 min
9:45 - 9:50	Transition	5 min	10:30 - 10:35	Transition	5 min
9:50 - 11:05	Block 2	75 min	10:35 - 11:05	Advising	30 min
11:05 - 11:10	Transition	5 min	11:05 - 11:10	Transition	5 min
11:10 - 12:25	Block 3	75 min	11:10 - 12:10	Block 2	60 min
12:25 - 1:00	Lunch	35 min	12:10 - 12:15	Transition	5 min
1:00 - 2:15	Block 4	75 min	12:15 - 1:15	Block 3	60 min
2:15 2:20 2:25	Staggered Dismissal	Gr. 7/10 Gr. 8/11 Gr. 9/12	1:15 - 1:45	Lunch	30 min
			1:45 - 2:45	Block 4	60 min
			2:45 2:50 2:55	Staggered Dismissal	Gr. 7/10 Gr. 8/11 Gr. 9/12

Senior School - September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	Labour Day Campus Closed 7	New (to VC) student orientation 8	ProD Day No Classes 9	Learning Group 1 Orientation 10	Learning Group 2 Orientation 11	12
13	ABCD Learning Group 1 on campus 14	ABCD Learning Group 2 on campus 15	ABCD Learning Group 1 on campus 16	ABCD Learning Group 2 on campus 17	ABCD Learning Group 1 on campus 18	19
20	ABCD Learning Group 2 on campus 21	ABCD Learning Group 1 on campus 22	ABCD Learning Group 2 on campus 23	ABCD Learning Group 1 on campus 24	ABCD Learning Group 2 on campus 25	26
27	ABCD Learning Group 1 on campus 28	ABCD Learning Group 2 on campus 29	ABCD Learning Group 1 on campus 30	ABCD Learning Group 2 on campus 1	Walkathon 2	

Senior School - October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	ABCD Learning Group 1 on campus 28	ABCD Learning Group 2 on campus 29	ABCD Learning Group 1 on campus 30	ABCD Learning Group 2 on campus 1	Walkathon 2	3
4	EFGH Learning Group 1 on campus 5	EFGH Learning Group 2 on campus 6	EFGH Learning Group 1 on campus 7	EFGH Learning Group 2 on campus 8	EFGH Learning Group 1 on campus 9	10
11	Thanksgiving Campus Closed 12	EFGH Learning Group 2 on campus 13	EFGH Learning Group 1 on campus 14	EFGH Learning Group 2 on campus 15	EFGH Learning Group 1 on campus 16	17
18	EFGH Learning Group 2 on campus 19	EFGH Learning Group 1 on campus 20	EFGH Learning Group 2 on campus 21	EFGH Learning Group 1 on campus 22	ProD Day No Classes 23	24
25	EFGH Learning Group 2 on campus 26	BCDA Learning Group 1 on campus 27	BCDA Learning Group 2 on campus 28	BCDA Learning Group 1 on campus 29	BCDA Learning Group 2 on campus 30	31

RATIONALE FOR TIMETABLE

The alternating day block model of learning offers the following:

- Close mirroring of a regular school day
- Coursework spanning the entire year allows for consistency of learning
- Limited mixing and physical contact with students while in the building
- Equity across all courses
- Routine and predictability while keeping cohorts separate
- Opportunities for deep cleaning of school facilities

When not in a class, students are expected to be working on assigned tasks for each respective class. These tasks take place asynchronously.

To ensure we can socially distance and maintain the proper flow of our students we will also institute a staggered arrival and dismissal time for Senior School students based on their grade level.

Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri - Arrival

8:15 am - Grade 10

8:20 am - Grade 11

8:25 am - Grade 12

Wednesday - Arrival

9:15 am - Grade 10

9:20 am - Grade 11

9:25 am - Grade 12

This means that students at each grade level are expected to be sitting at their desks prepared for class by the above time. For example, a Grade 10 boy would arrive at school after 8:00 am and be sitting at his desk by 8:15 am. Teachers will be in their classrooms at this time.

Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri - Dismissal

2:15 pm - Grade 7

2:20 pm - Grade 8

2:25 pm - Grade 9

Wednesday - Dismissal

2:45 pm - Grade 7

2:50 pm - Grade 8

2:55 pm - Grade 9

The above Senior School Timetable will remain in place for this academic year.

Lockers:

Students will not have access to a book locker at the beginning of this school year. This will be reviewed as the year progresses and decisions will be based on health and safety protocols. These areas are high-risk areas that impede the flow of student traffic in our hallways. All students are asked to come to school with a backpack that will aid in the transport of their belongings. Students will be able to use the Physical Education (PE) lockers in the Rice Building before and after PE classes. Students are asked to bring a lock to school on the days they have PE.

A variety of precautions will be taken in our Locker Rooms to ensure the safety of our students and faculty.

Uniform:

Students are expected to take pride in their school community by ensuring that they wear their uniforms to code. Please review uniform expectations in your Student or Parent Handbook.

Appropriate uniform items include:

- regular black, dress shoes, with leather uppers, cut beneath the ankle. Black running shoes cannot be substituted for dress shoes.
- dress quality, black or brown belt. Students are expected to wear a belt to school.
- school-issued sweaters. This does not include Spirit Wear items, such as hoodies.

Lunch:

Students will eat lunch in their third-period class and not in the cafeteria. Students are encouraged to bring their lunch to school. Only one Learning Group of students will have access to the cafeteria each day.

Electronic Device Use & Vancouver College's Acceptable Use Policy:

Our school aims to create an environment in which students can be focused and present, both in class and during non-instructional time. It is clear that smart devices offer many benefits, and we believe that we can all learn how to make the best use of these tools. However, it has been shown that excessive screen time also leads to many negative emotional and social side effects and can be harmful to school culture.

In the Middle and Senior School, students may bring cellphones to school, but are expected to have them off and away during class, unless a teacher asks them to use them for educational purposes. During social times (before school, at breaks, at lunch, and after school) and when in public areas with other students, students are expected to keep their devices off and away.' Gaming, outside of a club or intramural setting, is not permitted, and students will be asked to put away devices used for this purpose or to risk having them confiscated. Repeated infractions will lead to further interventions, which may include disciplinary consequences.

Senior School Parent Orientation Evening:

All Senior School parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the Parent Orientation Evening on Thursday, September 17th. This evening will allow you to meet our Principal, Mr. Daryl Weaver; our President, Mr. Johnny Bevacqua; our Parents' Association President, Celia Courchene as well as myself and your son's teachers. We strongly recommend that at least one parent/guardian is in attendance

This year's Orientation Evening will take place online. Please await more information in our school's newsletter, sent out weekly each Monday.

Your [Parent Handbook](#) is an excellent resource for answering questions or clarifying any concerns you may have. Should you have any further questions regarding the Senior School start-up for the 2020-21 school year, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. April Deutsch, Administrative Assistant (604-261-4285 ext. 226 or adeutsch@mail.vc.bc.ca).

Co-Curricular Activities:

As co-curricular activities are an important part of our school's culture, we will continue to offer co-curricular activities before and after school. Please note that co-curricular activities will likely involve students interacting outside of their learning groups and appropriate physical distancing is required in those circumstances. All staff have been informed of specific protocols relevant to each activity.

Grade Level Coordinators:

These leadership roles are designed to further assist our boys in their development as a whole person, ensuring that each student is known and supported at their grade level. These faculty members coordinate various student life initiatives and grade-specific activities, provide academic support, deal with lower-level discipline issues, and provide referrals when further help is needed.

Andrea Prout-Bernett (Grade 10), Lillian Vernier (Grade 11), and Enzo Nardi (Grade 12) will continue to serve in these roles. Students will be referred to our Grade Level Coordinators (and me) from Advisory and subject-specific teachers.

Please speak to your son's advisory teacher or grade level coordinator should any social-emotional issues arise at school. Should any academic issues arise at school, please speak to your son's subject-specific teacher to discuss the matter.

Additionally, please know that you can always contact me to discuss your son and how to best support his needs.

SUMMARY: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SENIOR SCHOOL VC STUDENT

- Senior School students will be at school every other day.
- Senior School students will be at home every other day where they will be working on asynchronous tasks as prescribed by subject-specific teachers.
- Regular contact with teachers and a cohort of classmates.
- School-based technology will include communication via email and Google Classroom (Learning Management System).
- Individual courses may utilize other software on occasion.
- Completing a medical pre-screening DAILY CHECK before arriving at school.
- Arriving at school during staggered times with controlled entrances to buildings.
- No locker access to begin the year.
- Masks to be worn in the school, hallways, shared public spaces, and classrooms.
- Follow physical distancing signage and markings as reminders.
- Physical distancing will be enforced in lines, cafeteria, classrooms, and hallways.
- Handwashing and sanitizing regularly upon entry to new areas.
- Carrying lunch, materials, clothes for each of his four daily classes in a backpack.
- Student engagement and social and emotional well-being to be prioritized in orientation, classes, and co-curricular experiences.
- Dismissal from school during staggered times with controlled exits from buildings.
- School-sanctioned activities or events will have expectations posted for distancing and hygiene.