

VANCOUVER COLLEGE

MIDDLE SCHOOL GUIDE TO THRIVE



May 2024



Vancouver
College

Middle School Survival Guide



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~ Edmund Rice Prayer ~

O God, we thank you for the life of Edmund Rice.
He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and injustice.
May we follow his example of faith and generosity. Grant us the courage and compassion of
Edmund as we seek to live lives of love and service.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Welcome to Vancouver College!

Blessed Edmund Rice received a unique gift from God: a Gospel message that revealed Jesus Christ as present in all of us, even the poor and disadvantaged. Young men were among the marginalized of Ireland in the nineteenth century, many of whom had no access to basic education and religious instruction. Edmund Rice responded to this need by establishing schools as well as founding the Congregation of Christian Brothers in 1802. Schools conducted by the Christian Brothers have now been established throughout the world, including Vancouver College in 1922. It is my belief in Blessed Edmund Rice's vision for Catholic education that brought me to Vancouver College, as I'm sure it played a role in your family's decision to accept an offer of admission to join this faith and learning community, one steeped in excellence and tradition.

Along your child's journey this year, he will be walking shoulder to shoulder with our faculty towards achieving their goals. It is a privilege to be charged with caring for and teaching your son. This is something that our school would never take for granted.

Vancouver College is committed to caring for each individual student and this begins with believing in the "soul" potential of all of our boys. We understand that at the heart of educating young men is the relationship each student has with his teacher. Michael Reichert and Richard Hawley, two renowned researchers in the field of education, argue that having an engaging and supportive relationship with a teacher is a requirement for all boys. They see it as, "if I don't believe in you, why should I believe in (or care about) what you say about biology or French class?" One message that I will continually emphasize with our faculty is that relationships are the cornerstone of our community and these connections allow for meaningful student learning to take place.

I truly believe that every child who walks through the doors of this school deserves to have a trusted adult who cares deeply for him, and who really knows them and wants to know them. It is my goal that Vancouver College will offer a safe space for our students to feel valued, heard, and ultimately inspired. It is in this type of relationship that each and every one of the boys in our care will learn to thrive socially-emotionally, spiritually, and academically. This was Blessed Edmund Rice's vision.

Please know my door is always open if you should ever have concerns about your son or questions about Vancouver College.

*Semper Fidelis,
Mr. Paul Legge*

Vancouver College Code Of Conduct

A code of conduct espouses the values and vision of a school in which relationships are conducted in a respectful and dignified manner. Vancouver College shares the responsibilities with parents to develop students' personal and social skills to inculcate these values and achieve this vision.

As part of the Catholic Community at Vancouver College, we, the students, staff, and parents, are expected to conduct all our relationships so that our actions will reflect the following Catholic Christian centred values and beliefs:

Hope and Confidence
Individuality and Community
Understanding and Forgiveness
Achievement and Celebration
Honesty and Integrity
Humility and Gratitude
Responsibility and Cooperation
Caring and Compassion
Enthusiasm and Dedication
Respect and Harmony
Faithfulness and Reverence

As a consequence of this, each person in the Vancouver College Community:

Has the responsibility to participate in creating and maintaining a safe, positive faith and learning environment.


Has a right to be emotionally and physically safe while at school, while going to and from school, and while attending any school function.


Has a right to know that his personal belongings are safe and will not be interfered with.

Is expected to proclaim gospel values which affirm the dignity of all persons and promotes the achievement of peace in our community.

Has a right to expect that all in the community will participate in creating a safe, positive faith and learning community.

Administration

Mr. Daryl Weaver Principal	About
	<p>Mr. Weaver has been at VC for six years and took on the role of Principal in September 2020. During his time here, he has earned recognition as an innovative educational leader with a proven track record in program development. In addition, he has been instrumental in creating new educational initiatives, connecting VC with worldwide partner schools and encouraging student leadership through service opportunities. His relationships with faculty and students are rooted in the charism of Blessed Edmund Rice and his belief that “our boys need to find Christ in the person next to them.” After graduating from St. Thomas More, Mr. Weaver earned his BSc and BEd at UBC, his MEd at Deakin University in Australia and sought out additional educational opportunities at York and Queen’s Universities. His educational experience has taken him from Central Africa to Hong Kong and of course, Canada. He is a proud father of a son studying Computer Engineering at UBC and a daughter at LFA. He and his family are active members of St. Mary’s Parish in Vancouver.</p>
Helpful Hint	Focus on helping others if you really want to help yourself.
Contact	dweaver@vancouvercollege.ca

Paul Legge Assistant Principal, Middle School	About
	<p>Mr. Legge has been at Vancouver College for 12 years as a Middle School Religion, English, Art, and PE teacher, CLE 10, CLC 11, CLC 12 teacher, Retreat Coordinator, and coach for a variety of sports. This will be his third year as Assistant Principal in Middle School. His years of experience in building relationships and community within the school and outside of the walls of Vancouver College are instrumental in his approach to education and learning. It is all about the ‘relationships between the students, the staff, and the parent community and how they are nurtured that will lead to higher levels of learning’. He is the proud father of Matthew VC’ 2015, Jack VC’ 2017 and Alexandra LFA’ 2019 and an active member of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Richmond.</p>
Helpful Hint	
Contact	plegge@vancouvercollege.ca

“Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you react to it.”

Charles R. Swindoll

Middle School Philosophy

THE STAFF OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO CREATING A CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT PROVIDING ROLE MODELS AND OFFERING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES WHICH LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE CHILD.

WE BELIEVE

IN THE SOUL POTENTIAL OF EVERY STUDENT

WE CARE

ABOUT EACH STUDENT

WE WANT


ALL STUDENTS TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND INSPIRED TO LEARN

WE KNOW

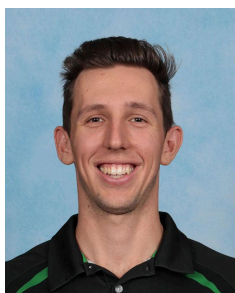
THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT CENTERED
LEARNING IN COMBINATION WITH HIGH EXPECTATION


504
SUPER
COLLEGE


Teachers


Name	Mrs. C. Accili - Math Department Chair
Subject	<i>Math 9</i>
	Mrs. Accili has been at Vancouver College for 24 years and teaches Mathematics 9 and 10. She has a Bachelor of Science from UBC with a major in Mathematics and a Master of Education from SFU with a focus in Mathematics Education. Besides teaching, she contributes her time to coordinating the annual VC Walkathon. She currently lives in beautiful Ladner with her family of four children (a boy, a girl and a set of twins), who keep her very busy. Her favourite things are watching VC football and basketball, afternoon coffee, Autumn and going on long walks.
Helpful Hint	Think before you speak!
Contact	caccili@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Ms. E. Ashcroft - Music Department Chair
Subjects	<i>Band 8, Band 9 and MS Jazz Ensemble</i>
	Ms. Ashcroft began teaching in 2010 and is amazed at how quickly the years go by. She grew up in Manitoba and taught in Alberta before moving to the Okanagan and now to Vancouver. She feels very fortunate to have had several extremely talented band directors who continue to inspire her and the students she teaches. She received the Alberta Band Association's <i>Keith Mann Young Band Director</i> Provincial Award in 2015. She loves to travel and enjoys water sports. As a child, her parents first introduced her to the 1963 album "Surfer Girl" by the Beach Boys. Attending Band festivals with her students throughout the year is a favourite activity, and she is hoping to get back to that in the fall.
Helpful Hint	"To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable." Ludwig van Beethoven
Contact	eashcroft@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mr. M Rutter
Subjects	<i>Science 8</i>
	Mr. Rutter is joining Vancouver College for the 2024-2025 school year in the role of Middle School Science Teacher. He received an Honours Degree from the University of Queensland and has been teaching in Brisbane, Australia for the last 7 years. Throughout Matthew's teaching journey, he has taught grades 7-10 Science, Physical Education K-12, and Health Education K-12. Outside of the classroom, he has taken on leadership and pastoral care roles, working as a Head of Year for Grade 8 and 9, supporting the learning, social, and emotional well-being of students. Matthew has been a Director of Athletics and coached Cross Country, Track & Field, Golf, Field Hockey, Basketball, Volleyball and Australian Rules Football teams. Mr. Rutter has a keen interest in combining science with sport and is looking forward to unlocking students' scientific passions.
Helpful Hint	

Contact	mrutter@vancouvercollege.ca
Name	Mr. H. Budai - Head of Tennis Program
Subjects	<i>French 7, French 8, and Spanish 9</i>
	Mr. Budai has been with Vancouver College for 41 years and coaches the senior tennis team. He is crazy about fly fishing and is a 12-year man from Vancouver College.
Helpful Hint	Most important thing is to be organized! Follow the binder system and you will be successful! Remember, your attitude determines your altitude!!
Contact	hbudai@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mr. N. Evangelista
Subjects	<i>Robotics 8, Robotics 9</i>
	Mr. Evangelista is a graduate of Vancouver College (VC 1993) and has been teaching for over 12 years, most recently at Notre Dame and St. Patrick's Elementary. Mr. Evangelista received his B.Ed at UBC and, with his wife Ellen, has two daughters, Grace (11) and Jacquie (8). His passion for basketball and technology has led him to coach many teams over the years and also sponsors the robotics and drone clubs. Mr. E loves spending time with his family, swimming, thrifting, coffee and playing Madden (2nd place finish in BC 2005).
Helpful Hint	Meet people and make new friends, life is short so ask lots of questions, be curious and do your best to be a positive role model for yourself and others. Say hello, thank you, you're welcome and goodbye. Welcome to VC!
Contact	nevangelista@vancouvercollege.ca



Name	Mr. R. Kozikowski - Grade 8 Homeroom
Subject	<i>Grade Level Coordinator -Grade 8, PE 8</i>
	Mr. Kozikowski has been with Vancouver College for over 23 years and has worn many hats at the school. He is married and has two beautiful children. Mr. Kozikowski loves to fish, read, and partake in extracurricular activities such as athletics and chess. Mr. Kozikowski has coached numerous sports at VC and looks forward to seeing students outside of the classroom enjoying themselves in all that VC has to offer.
Helpful Hint	Life is a road filled with many obstacles and adverse situations. Take it one step at a time and sometimes it's easier to go around than to go through.
Contact	rkozikowski@vancouvercollege.ca

Name	Ms. F. Li - Grade 9 Homeroom
Subjects	<i>Math 8, Math Accelerated 8 and Math 9</i>
	Ms. Li has been teaching at VC in middle school for 20 years and also taught in middle schools in the Coquitlam district. In addition to teaching, she contributes her time by coaching Gr. 7 Volleyball and is involved in ticket sales for our annual Theatre production and Graduation dinner. She has two children and her husband is an alumnus of Vancouver College. Ms. Li is committed to bringing out the best in each and every student she teaches.
Helpful Hint	Be punctual and prepared.
Contact	fli@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mr. S. Lum-Tong
Subject	<i>PHE 8</i>
	Mr. Lum-Tong (VC 2011) is in his third year of teaching at Vancouver College. He completed his undergraduate and master's degrees in Kinesiology and High-Performance Coaching at UBC. During his time there, he worked as a Sport Performance and Strength Conditioning Coach for Varsity Athletics, where he worked with a variety of teams, mainly Football, but also Men's and Women's Basketball and Volleyball. Mr. Lum-Tong has also coached grade 9 basketball for the past few years at VC and enjoys working out and playing sports in his spare time.
Helpful Hint	Don't have regrets after your time at Vancouver College! Take advantage of the number of opportunities here, especially with something you are passionate about. The VC community is one of a kind and some of my best and longest-lasting friendships were made when I was a student here.
Contact	slum-tong@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Ms. N. McDonald - Head of Dramatic Arts, Director of VC Musical/Play, Director of A Night with VC Talent, Head Coach of the Alpine Team
Subjects	<i>Theatre 7, Theatre 8, Theatre 9, Theatre Company 10-12, Theatre Production 10-12</i>


	Ms. McDonald has been teaching at VC for 15 years . She holds her BA Honours and Masters degree in Drama in Education, has been performing since she was six years old and has been teaching since she was 17 years old. She is the proud mom of a son named James (VC'31). She enjoys skiing, snowboarding, surfing, world travel, directing and performing. Theatre class will get you up out of your seat, having fun and speaking confidently to anyone in no time!
Helpful Hint	Get involved- try new things and be respectful!
Contact	nmcdonald@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mr. E. O'Donnell - Grade 9 Homeroom
Subjects	<i>Computer Studies 7-9, English 9</i>
	Mr. O'Donnell is originally from Oshawa, Ontario and has been at Vancouver College for four years. He completed a BA in History and English at the University of Toronto and subsequently completed a BEd at the University of Ottawa. Mr. O'Donnell moved to Vancouver ten years ago and now considers it home. He began his teaching career at Madrona School Society and followed that by supporting a wide variety of learners in the Key Program at The Westside School. Outside of his professional life, he is an avid cook, and enjoys long-distance running and taking part in races. He is a devout fan of the Toronto sports teams (sorry, Canucks fans!) but also loves to support our local Vancouver Canadians baseball team.
Helpful Hint	Be bold, take risks and be a lifelong learner; as Albert Einstein once said, "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."
Contact	eodonnell@vancouvercollege.ca
Name	Ms. M. Ozdogan
Subjects	
	Ms. Ozdogan started her university schooling in Fine Arts, completing one year before switching to Literature and Modern Languages at the University of Alberta and L'universite de Strasbourg, and later receiving a Masters in Educational Research from the University of Calgary. She taught in Germany and Turkey for some years before returning to Alberta, where she taught Art 10-12 and high school English and Drama. She is now the English Department Chair, working alongside Mrs. Wicken in English 12 and English Literature 11. She enjoys many hobbies besides art, including sailing, paddle-boarding, equestrian, cycling and home renovations.
Helpful Hint	If you don't know, don't be too shy to ask. That's how you find out. And six other people wanted to ask the same question, so you're helping them too!
Contact	mozdogan@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mrs. S. Parker - Religious Education Department Chair, Retreat Coordinator, and Grade 8 Homeroom Head Cross Country Coach and Assistant Track and Field Coach
Subjects	<i>Religion 8 and Social Studies 8</i>


	Mrs. Parker has been with Vancouver College for 15 years . She graduated from SFU with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Psychology and a Bachelor of Education, focusing on Curriculum and Development. Mrs. Parker received her Master of Education Technology from UBC and has a strong passion for creative and engaging learning. Her love of running and fitness led her to coach Track and Field and Cross Country. Mrs. Parker and her husband, Matthew, are the proud parents of Chase (VC 2033) and Callum (VC 2036).
Helpful Hint	In a world where you can be anything, be kind.
Contact	sparker@vancouvercollege.ca

Name	Mr. JP Planta - Grade 7 Homeroom and Grade 9 Basketball
Subjects	Science 8, Math 8, PE 8
	Mr. Planta is a graduate of Vancouver College (VC 1997) and is in his 18th year of teaching at VC. Mr. Planta received his B.Ed at UBC and has also been a grade 4 and grade 6 teacher at VC. Coach Planta has also coached the Grade 9 Basketball Team for the past four years. He and his wife, Cheryl have two sons, Jaxson (Gr. 9) and Jace (Gr. 5).
Helpful Hint	Invest your energy in the things you can control.
Contact	jplanta@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mr. C. Povey - Grade 9 Homeroom
Subject	Science 9, Photography 9
	Mr. Povey started his teaching career in the UK before deciding to make a move to Vancouver. Originally from a small village in England, Mr. Povey studied Biology and graduated with honours from the University of Nottingham before studying for a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education from Kingston University. Having taught for two years in the UK, he is now entering his 5th year at Vancouver College. Mr. Povey strives to make even the most challenging concepts easy to grasp, and his students appreciate his great enthusiasm for the subject matter. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Povey acts as a coach for our Varsity Ultimate program. He is also a capable snowboarder and spends much of his winter on the North Shore mountains. His other hobbies include hiking, photography and weightlifting.
Helpful Hint	I'd rather that you aimed high and missed, than aimed low and hit.
Contact	cpovey@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Ms. A. Reese
Subject	<i>Art 8 & 9</i>
	<p>This is Ms. Reese's fifth year teaching at Vancouver College. Her goal is to have every student feel comfortable trying a new thing in the art room. Whether it be in drawing, painting, building, sculpting, watercolour, there are endless skills and materials to engage with. When not teaching art, Ms. Reese enjoys sewing, running, and being outdoors with her husband and dog.</p>
Helpful Hint	Take as many different courses in school as you can - you never know who or what you might connect with.
Contact	areese@vancouvercollege.ca

Name	Mr. B. Horodyski
Subject	<i>Music</i>
	<p>Mr. Horodyski is entering his second year at Vancouver College. A Vancouver native (Point Grey '18), Mr. Horodyski later pursued his BMus and BEd from UBC. An accomplished musician, he performs with local orchestras, bands and choirs. Mr. Horodyski helps with the school musical, runs the VC drumline, and is the head of the Ultimate team.</p>
Helpful Hint	Don't let your high school years go by without taking advantage of every opportunity, I promise you'll have more fun if you do.
Contact	bhorodyski@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mr. B. Wicken
Subjects	<i>French 8 and French 9</i>
	<p>Mr. Wicken is originally from Victoria and then grew up in BC's interior. He attended UBC where he earned a BSF and also a BA in French Language and Literature. He taught at Collingwood School for many years and then at St. Patrick's Elementary School before coming to VC in 2020. He enjoys many outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, and kayaking. He loves reading and travelling, along with learning about other cultures.</p>
Helpful Hint	I value the Golden Rule - Do unto others as you would have them do to you.
Contact	bwicken@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mrs. M. Rapier - Languages Department Chair
Subjects	<i>French 9, French 10, Accelerated 10/11</i>
	Mrs. Rapier (BA/BEd) has been teaching at VC for 12 years first in Elementary French then Senior School Religion, Social Studies and French. She is currently finishing a Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies. Mrs. Rapier loves to travel and experience different languages and cultures. She is passionate about swimming and looks forward to meeting you if you are interested in the Swim Club! Mrs. Rapier is the moderator of the Reverence for Life Club and is active in the Senior School retreat program. Outside of school, Mrs. Rapier can usually be found near the water. She is the mother of three adventurous daughters who always seem to get her involved in their various outdoor endeavours.
Helpful Hint	VC has something for everybody. Find “your thing” and get involved. You will not regret it.
Contact	mrapi@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mr. V. Ricci - Grade 8 Homeroom and Head of Lacrosse Program
Subjects	<i>English 8, Socials 8</i>
	Mr. Ricci graduated from Heritage Woods ('10) and then studied English for two years at UVic. He was then awarded a 4-year athletic scholarship to Limestone College in South Carolina, where he pursued his passion for lacrosse. He received his BA in English, a BEd and won two NCAA Division II National Championships. In 2016, Mr. Ricci returned home to Port Moody and joined the VC team in 2017 as an EA and now a teacher, where he has brought his love and passion for lacrosse to VC as a coach.
Helpful Hint	Mr. Ricci is still active in the lacrosse community, as he coaches youth community teams and currently plays in the WLA for the Coquitlam Adanacs. You can always talk lacrosse or mention how amazing the Coquitlam Adanacs are to start a conversation.
Contact:	vrizzi@vancouvercollege.ca

Name	Mr. M. Roselli - Head of Wrestling Program
Subjects	<i>PE 9</i>
	Mr. Roselli studied education at SFU while competing with their Wrestling team. Wrestling has been a lifelong passion for Mr. Roselli. His accolades include winning the 1991 National Greco-Roman championship in the heavyweight division, spending ten years as a professional wrestler in WWE, NWA and All Japan Wrestling, and working as a stunt man on over 70 films and television shows in Vancouver, Toronto and L.A. Mr. Roselli is married with four young children. Being a teacher at VC is a dream come true!
Helpful Hint	For incoming students: “Be on time, be prepared and be ready to go!”
Contact	mroselli@vancouvercollege.ca


Name	Mr. R. Shams - Grade 9 Homeroom, Head of Soccer Program, JV Basketball Head Coach
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Subjects	<i>GLC Grade 9, English 9, Socials 9 and Religion 9</i>
	Mr. Shams is a graduate of VC (2008) who has been working at Vancouver College for nine years. After finishing at VC, he graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Education. Mr. Shams is currently working towards his Master's at Queen's University with a focus in Educational Administration. Outside of his time at Vancouver College, he works for Basketball BC where he works with provincial-level athletes in basketball. When not at VC you can find Mr. Shams playing golf, reading up on coaching or on the ski hill.
Helpful Hint	"Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots - but you have to play the ball where it lies." - Bobby Jones
Contact	rshams@vancouvercollege.ca

Name	Ms. J. Stewart - English Department Chair Grade 7 Homeroom and Head of Junior Edmundians
Subjects	<i>English 7, Religion 7 and Socials 7</i>
	This will be Ms. Stewart's seventh year at Vancouver College, coming with 17 years of prior teaching experience. After graduating from McGill with a BEd in Secondary English and Religious Instruction, she taught at an International Baccalaureate World School in Montreal. Upon moving to Vancouver, Ms. Stewart became the Academic Director of a learning academy where she focused on curriculum development, teacher training, and community building. She is passionate about curriculum design and has supported school, board, and provincial development development. Ms. Stewart comes to Vancouver College with much enthusiasm for the faith-filled classroom.
Helpful Hint	Do small things with great love.
Contact	jstewart@vancouvercollege.ca

Name	Ms. A. Watson
Subjects	<i>Mathematics, Sciences, Humanities</i>
	Ms. Watson was born and raised in Liverpool, the hometown of the Beatles. After attending Liverpool University and studying International Business with Spanish, she completed a second degree in Teaching with a Spanish specialism. With five years of experience teaching Grades 5 and 6 in England, Ms. Watson embarked on a new adventure in Canada with her husband. In Canada, she began teaching at a co-ed private school in Downtown Vancouver, where Grades 5 and 7 were taught. Last year, she joined Vancouver College and is currently the Grade 4 teacher. Being part of the VC community has been thoroughly enjoyable, and Ms. Watson is excited about the new position. In her spare time, she can usually be found in a 32-year-old campervan, exploring BC with her husband and three-year-old daughter, enjoying the outdoors and the beauty of the province.
Helpful Hint	
Contact	awatson@vancouvercollege.ca

Library

Name	Mr. R. Duggan - Librarian and Model UN
Subjects	<i>Digital Arts 8 and Middle School Library</i>
	Mr. Duggan has been with Vancouver College for 23 years . He has two wonderful children, Samantha and Ky, and loves to sail, cycle, and climb mountains. Recently he has enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.
Helpful Hint	Life is too short to read a boring book - if you don't like it after 50 pages, bring it back and get a new one. There is a book out there that you are going to love - you just need to find it!
Contact	rduggan@vancouvercollege.ca

The Wellness Centre


The Wellness Centre provides a research and study area with computers for students to pursue their post-secondary research or study. The centre also houses a large library of post- secondary and self-help materials.

Name	Mr. A. Huang
Subjects	Director of Wellness
	Mr. Huang is a Registered Clinical Counsellor currently finishing his Ph.D. in Counselling Psychology. Some interesting facts about Mr. Huang: Firstly, a lot of people mispronounce his last name, so if you're able to say it correctly (or find out how), you'll definitely get a fist bump (when it is safe to do so, of course). Second, he'd like to say that he is an avid tennis and hockey fan, but unfortunately doesn't have enough time these days to catch up on the sports because of his studies. Third, he would've previously described himself as a gamer, but once again, there just does not seem to be enough time (he does own products by Microsoft and Sony, if that counts for anything). And lastly, he is an alumnus of VC, so feel free to look up his photo when spikey hair was the "in" thing.
Come see me when . . .	you simply want to have a chat to connect or check in, or if there's something serious that you need someone to listen to, such as when you feel stressed and/or anxious, overwhelmed, or you're worried about someone.
Contact	ahuang@vancouvercollege.ca

The Learning Centre

The goal of The Learning Centre is to provide a supportive, individualized learning environment for students with unique learning styles in accordance with the school's Special Education Policy. We celebrate the value and dignity of each person and nurture the development of the whole person.

Name	Ms. Kimberly Mah
Subjects	Director of Learning Support
	<p>Ms Kimberly Mah will be our new Director of Learning Support, starting in August 2024. Kimberly comes to us from St. Patrick's Regional Secondary, where she held a similar role for the past eight years. She has a Master's degree from NYU, a Bachelor's in Special Education and Assessment from UBC, and many other qualifications from her years of professional development. Kimberly also has experience with other school systems, including St John's School (IB), as well as at two public schools in New York City.</p> <p>Kimberly is an innovative, experienced, and compassionate educator with expertise in differentiated learning, assessment, and exceptional students. As an LFA alumna married to a VC alumnus, she is familiar with and keen to join our faith and learning community. Kimberly is looking forward to the challenge and brings with her the energy and expertise she will bring to our campus, helping us all to be more inclusive and thus better educators of our boys.</p>
Helpful hint	
Contact	

Name	Ms. T. Cruz
Subjects	Learning Resource Teacher and Personal Counsellor
	<p>Ms.Cruz has worked at Vancouver College in the Learning Centre for the past 10 years. In 2015 she obtained a B.Ed. from SFU and holds a B.A.Psych from UBC. She has just completed her MA in Counselling (UBC). Ms. Cruz has 3 sons (VC'18, VC '20 and VC '22) and is the Head Coach for the Grade 10 Basketball team, along with coordinating the Flag Football program for the Elementary School.</p>
Helpful hint	Effort is everything!
Contact	tcruz@vancouvercollege.ca

TLC Support



Ms. Nina Greaves
Educational Assistant



Ms. Sally McCandless
Educational Assistant



Patricia Silva
Educational Assistant

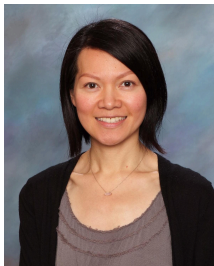


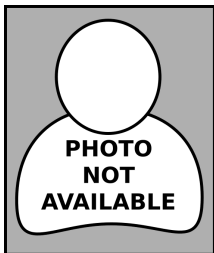
Donna Trasolini
Administrative Assistant




Georgia Woosey
Education Assistant

Support Staff

Name	Ms. L. Yu
Title	Office Coordinator
	This is Mrs. Yu's fifth year at Vancouver College and she is most excited to begin meeting all of the new students. She and her husband, Douglas (VC 1998) are the proud parents of Dylan, age 8 and Leah, age 5. Ms. Yu is a former florist who enjoys nature walks, spending time with her family and gardening.
Come see me when	You need help with anything! I am always here for you!
Contact	lyu@vancouvercollege.ca

Name	Mrs. F. George
Title	Database Administrator
	Mrs. George has been with Vancouver College for 31 years . She is in charge of the book room and PowerSchool at VC.
Come see me when	Your login does not work to PowerSchool or you have any problem with your text books.
Contact	fgeorge@mail.vc.bc.ca

Name	Ms. A. Deutsch
Title	Administrative Assistant
	Ms. Deutsch has been at Vancouver College for 8 years . She has a daughter, Alisha who graduated from St. Pat's ('10) and a son (VC'13). In her spare time Ms. Deutsch curls, paints, sews, exercises, and enjoys music.
Helpful Hint	Come dressed in your full uniform and know that "please" goes a long way.
Contact	adeutsch@vancouvercollege.ca

What Classes Do I Take?

Grade 7

Compulsory Courses	Elective Courses
English 7 French 7 Math 7 PE 7 Religion 7 Science 7 Socials 7	Choice of: Art 7/IT 7/Theatre 7 (1 term each) or Band (a minimum of 2 terms)

Grade 8

Compulsory Courses	Elective Courses
English 8 French 8* Math 8 PE 8 Religion 8 Science 8 Socials 8	Choice of: Art 8/CS 8/ Entrepreneurship 8 or Digital Literacy 8/ Robotics 8/Theatre 8 or Band 8 (all 3 terms)

Grade 9

Compulsory Courses	Elective Courses
English 9 French 9 Math 9 PE 9 Religion 9 Science 9 Socials 9	Choice of: Art 9/CS 9/ Photography 9 or Finnegan Media 9/ Robotics 9/Theatre 9 or Band 9 (all 3 terms)

*Some students have a language exemption

**students with IEPs have the option of requesting TLC as their elective course

What Does My Schedule Look Like?

Middle and Senior School 2024-2025

Middle & Senior School Daily Timetable

The daily timetable consists of four academic blocks per day with built-in transition times and a lunch period. The day starts at 8:30 am (Wednesday "late start" at 9:30 am). Students are dismissed at 2:30 pm to give them an opportunity to experience the full breadth of our co-curricular program. An Advising block (Better Man Block) is scheduled weekly on Wednesdays.

2024-2025 Vancouver College Schedule

Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri		
8:30 - 9:45	Block 1	75 min
9:45 - 10:00	Break	15 min
10:00 - 11:15	Block 2	75 min
11:15 - 11:20	Break	5 min
11:20 - 12:35	Block 3	75 min
12:35 - 1:15	Lunch	40 min
1:15 - 2:30	Block 4	75 min

Wednesday - Collaboration/Advisory Day		
8:15 - 9:10	Meeting	55 min
9:30 - 10:20	Block 1	50 min
10:20 - 10:30	Transition/Break	10 min
10:30 - 11:10	Advisory	40 min
11:10 - 11:15	Transition	5 min
11:15 - 12:05	Block 2	50 min
12:05 - 12:10	Transition	5 min
12:10 - 1:00	Block 3	50 min
1:00 - 1:40	Lunch	40 min
1:40 - 2:30	Block 4	50 min

Block Rotation							
Day-1A	Day-2E	Day-1B	Day-2F	Day-1C	Day-2G	Day-1D	Day-2H
A	E	B	F	C	G	D	H
B	F	C	G	D	H	A	E
C	G	D	H	A	E	B	F
D	H	A	E	B	F	C	G

Block Schedule- up close

Block Rotation							
Day-1A	Day-2E	Day-1B	Day-2F	Day-1C	Day-2G	Day-1D	Day-2H
A	E	B	F	C	G	D	H
B	F	C	G	D	H	A	E
C	G	D	H	A	E	B	F
D	H	A	E	B	F	C	G



How Do I Get Involved?

Grade 7 Sports and Clubs

Activity	Teacher	Months
Basketball Team	Mr. Lam	November - March
Book Club	Mr. Duggan	All year
Chess Club	Mr. Kozikowski	All Year
Cross Country Team	Ms. Parker	September - November
Debate Club	Mr. Duggan	All year
Dungeons and Dragons Club	Mr. Povey	All year
Environment Club	TBD	All year
Flag Football Club	Mr. Kozikowski	April - May
Junior Edmundians	Ms. Stewart	All year
Model UN Club	Mr. Duggan	All year
Middle School Student Council	Mr. Kozikowski	All Year
Peer Tutoring Club	Ms. Silva	All year
Readers are Leaders	Mr. Duggan	All year
Robotics Club	Mr. Evangelista	TBA
Track Team	Mrs. Parker/Mr. Sommerfeld	March - June
VC Talent Show	Ms. McDonald	January
Volleyball Team	Ms. Li	December- March
Wrestling Team	TBD	November - March
Yoga Club	Mrs. Greaves	All year

Talent may get you out on the field, but it's attitude and effort that will keep you there.

Ken Griffey Jr.

How Do I Get Involved?

Grade 8 and 9 Sports and Clubs

Activity	Moderator	Months
Alpine Team (Gr. 8-12)	Ms. McDonald	December-March
Badminton	Mr. Wicken	April - June
Grade 8 Basketball Team	Mr. Lum-Tong	November - March
Grade 9 Basketball Team	Mr. Gonzales and Mr. Planta	November - March
Book Club	Mr. Duggan	All year
Chess and Games Club	Mr. Kozikowski	All year
Cross Country Team	Ms. Parker	September - November
Debate Club	Mr. Duggan	All year
Environment Club	TBD	All year
Field Lacrosse	Mr. Ricci	November - March
Flag Football Club	Ms. Cruz	April - May
Football Team	Mr. Esaw	September - November
Golf	Mr. Legge	March - May
Middle School Student Council	Mr. Kozikowski	All year
Model UN Club	Mr. Duggan	All year
Peer Tutoring Club	Ms. Silva	All year
Readers are Leaders	Mr. Duggan	All year
Robotics Club	Mr. O'Donnell	All year
Rowing	Mr. Addison	September - June
Tennis Team	Mr. Budai	March - May
3D Club	Mr. Duggan	All Year
Track Team	Mr. Sommerfeld	March - June
VC Musical/Play (Gr. 8-12)	Ms. McDonald	December - April
VC Talent Show	Ms. McDonald	January
Wrestling Team	TBD	December - March
Yearbook Club	Ms. Reese	All year
Yoga Club	Mrs. Greaves	All year

Dress Code

The purpose of a Dress Code is to encourage students to be neat and clean at all times, to foster in them a sense of community and to create an atmosphere of gentlemanly behaviour and serious study.

For students in Grades 7-12 the Dress Code is as follows:

- White long sleeved dress shirts
- School tie (purple/black)
- All black leather shoes (no other colours)
- Socks extending beyond the ankle (dark dress socks)
- Slacks: Grades 7 to 11 – Grey Dress Pants
- Only white undershirts can be worn
- Dress quality, black or brown belt

It is not only important what students wear, but how they wear it. In all instances slacks must be worn at the waist with shirts tucked in and buttoned to the top with the school tie drawn to the neck.

In instances of cool or inclement weather, students may elect to wear a garment over their shirt and tie. If students elect to do this, only the following garments will be considered to be in Dress Code:

- Black, monogrammed Vancouver College sleeveless vest
- Black, monogrammed Vancouver College v-neck sweater

No hoodies are allowed even if they are from Vancouver College.

The Dress Code will be in effect everywhere on campus, throughout the school day, and at out-of-school activities when requested. This applies to unscheduled blocks and lunchtime. On specific occasions, the Dress Code may be relaxed for suitable reasons, as announced by the Administration. Please note: The sweatshirt below is the only acceptable sweatshirt for Vancouver College students.



Optional Summer Dress Code for Grades 7 – 12

Summer Dress Code is in effect from the beginning of the school year until the first day back following Thanksgiving and then again on the day following the Mother's Day Masses. The Summer Dress Code consists of the following:

- A Vancouver College golf shirt with collar turned down or a white dress shirt and school tie
- Dress pants or Vancouver College shorts
- All leather black shoes (no other colours)
- Socks
- Black or brown, dress quality belt

Grooming

Hair should be clean, well-groomed, and not radically styled or unnaturally coloured.

Jewellery must be in good taste and subdued in nature. No body piercing rings are permitted. Earrings, while permitted, must be either a stud or a single small ring.

Decisions regarding the suitability of grooming are left to the discretion of the Vancouver College Staff and Administration.

Violations of Dress Code and Grooming Policy

If a student appears in class or in the hallways and common areas out of Dress Code, teachers will make every effort to ensure the student is compliant with the Code (i.e.: remove outer garments, tuck in shirt, draw tie to the neck). If a student remains non-compliant (i.e.: no tie, running shoes) he will be referred immediately to an Administrator. A student may not be in class out of Dress Code without a note from an Administrator or his or her designate.

If there are repeated breaches of the Dress Code Policy, consequences will become more serious consistent with our practice of Progressive Discipline. Consequences include contact with parents, counselling, in-school suspension, suspension, withholding of re-registration, or expulsion.

The success of the Dress Code and Grooming Policy depends upon the cooperation of the entire Vancouver College Community – staff, students, parents and administration.

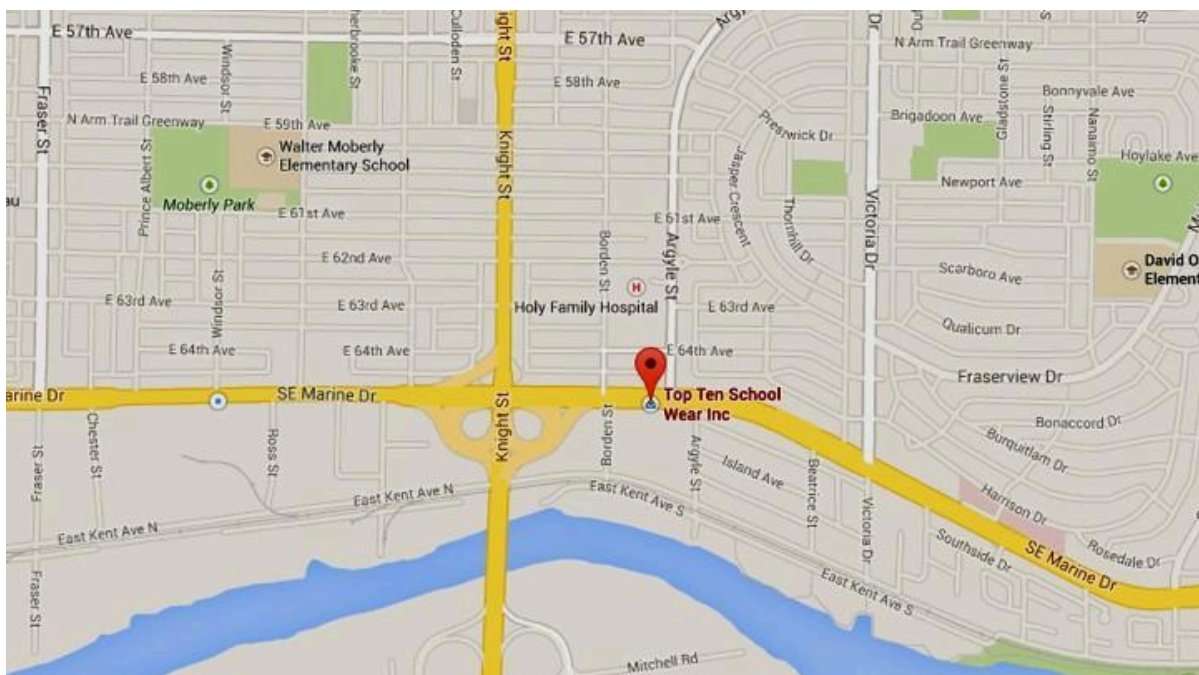
Top Ten School Wear

1638 S.E. Marine Drive

Vancouver, BC, V5P

2R6 Phone:

604.322.1626



Appendix i: Other F.A.Q.'s



What is a homeroom? What homeroom am I in?

- Grade 7 is divided into 2 homerooms: 7-1 and 7-2.
- Grade 8 is divided into 6 homerooms: 8-1; 8-2; 8-3; 8-4; 8-5 and 8-6.
- Most of your classes (except for your elective and language) will be with your homeroom class. You'll find out your homeroom placement in August.

How do I figure out where I am going?

- The first two days of school will focus on orientation. You will learn the locations of your classes, who the teachers are, where the washrooms are, and you'll be able to ask as many questions as you would like in order to help you get acquainted with Vancouver College. You will receive a copy of your schedule in the spring and also at the end of August.

What is the binder system?

- The binder system is an organizational tool which will be fully explained during orientation. In addition, a Grade 9 student will help you set it up during orientation week in September.

How do I get my supplies and textbooks?

- You will receive a list of supplies that are needed and your parents can help you purchase what is necessary. You will also be told what day you are to pick up your textbooks from the book room located in Manrell Hall.

How do I find out where my locker is?

- On the first day of school, your homeroom teacher will let you know where your locker is located and it will be on your schedule.

What do I do if I forget my lock combination?

- If you forget your combination lock please see Ms. Deutsch or Mr. Legge.

How much homework should I expect?

- Every class will be different but expect a maximum of an hour of homework per night.

What is Confirmation?

- Confirmation is the final rite of initiation into the Catholic Church. Every student undergoing this rite must register through his parish and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in Grade 7.

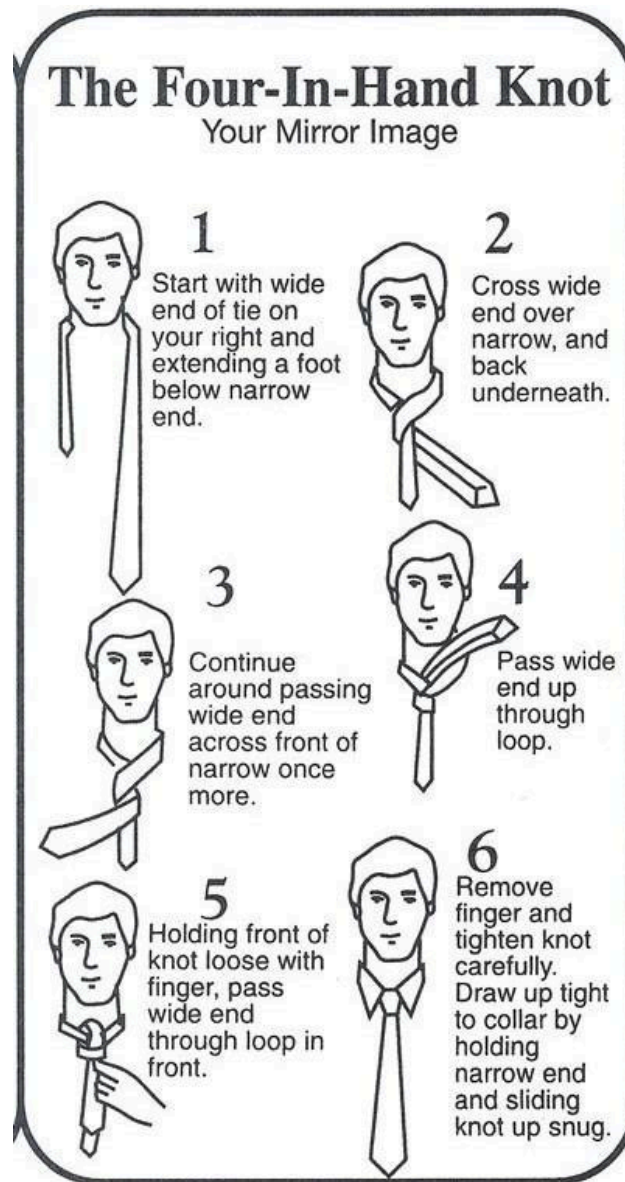
Where do I get changed for gym?

- In the downstairs locker rooms of the Rice/Holler Building. Your gym teacher will show you where these are during orientation. You will need a second lock for PE that can be purchased in the office for \$10.00.

What do I do if I am late for school?

- If you are late for school and have a note from your parents go to the Main Office in Lannon Hall to drop off your note and then go straight to class.

Appendix ii: How to Tie a Tie



(www.mrmac.com)

Appendix iii:



One of the most effective ways to get students organized is to use a 3-ring binder for all subjects.

Materials needed

1. 2 x 2.5" Binders - a good strong one, with rings that close solidly
2. 3 sets of plastic tabbed dividers
3. Loose-leaf (individual teachers might wish to specify clear or graph paper)
4. Plastic 3 hole "pouch"
5. Packet of hole-strengtheners to go in pouch
6. 2 duo-tang project folders

Organization

1. The first section in the binder is labelled Homework.
2. Each day's homework is dated and neatly written out.
3. Subject teachers should always allow time for homework to be noted – and demand that it is.
4. Homeroom teachers should frequently check to ensure that all students have noted and completed all their work.
5. This organization allows homework checks to be done easily.
6. The back page(s) are reserved for "long-term" assignments.
7. Each other section is reserved for separate subjects or areas within subjects. For example, English may be divided into novels, short stories, vocabulary, etc. Because of individual teacher preferences regarding 'breakdowns', this really can't be a mandated organization in terms of all students.
8. The plastic pouch holds hole-strengtheners, and any material to be sent home – such as letters or report cards – should be placed in the pouch.
9. At the back of the binder, just after the pouch, the 2 duo-tang folders are kept, ready to be used if any teacher wishes to review a student's notes or work.
10. On return, the notes are replaced in the binder and the duo-tang returned to the back.
11. Extra section dividers are kept at the back to be used if a teacher wishes to begin another area of study.

This organization works. The most unorganized students, once introduced to this plan, improve tremendously, simply because their own inabilities are compensated for, especially since teacher-supervision is much easier.

Some Advantages

1. Since all "books" go home and return to school each day, the students can't say, "I forgot my book(s)."
2. Since all students are required to note all homework – whether they complete it in class or not – supervision by homeroom teachers and parents is made much easier, since a quick check can be made to verify completion and/or quality. Since everyone has a homework section, and all other subjects are in the same binder, supervision is a snap.
3. Any part or all of a student's notes can be checked by pick-up without having to stop ongoing class-work.
4. Any part can be rewritten without disfiguring a notebook or leaving in place low-quality work. (I suggest that all

class/work/assignments, etc. be dated in order to maintain the sense of the binder as a portable filing system).

5. Any teacher notes (photocopied) should be hole-punched and put in place appropriately in the binder.

Appendix iv: Tips on being a friend

You'll be meeting a lot of new people. How can you be a good friend? Here are the top 10 tips. Revised from [wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com)!




1	Spend more time around people and talk to them. If you want to make friends, put yourself out there somehow in order to meet people. Remember, friends seldom come knocking on your door while you sit at home playing computer games. You can talk to anybody, the person sitting next to you on the bus, or the person in front of you in the lunch line.
2	Join a team, club or organization with people who have a common interest. A common misconception about this is that you have to be really good at an activity in order to participate in a club or team. But not all teams are so competitive. As long as you enjoy the activity and support your teammates, joining a team club with a positive attitude could be a great way to make new friends. If you play an instrument, sing, or enjoy debating, try joining one of VC's many organizations.
3	Volunteer. Volunteering is also a great way for people of all ages to meet others. By working together you build bonds with people, and you might meet others who have a passion for changing things the way you do (a common cause). This can be done as part of your service hours for Religion class.
4	Make eye contact and smile. People are more likely to be receptive to your friendship if you smile. Try not squinting, looking bored, frowning or appearing blankly "deadpan", folding your arms (this practically screams "don't talk to me"); such habits may make you look troubled or disinterested.
5	Start a conversation. There are many ways to do this; a comment about your immediate environment (The weather is a classic: "At least it's not raining like last week!"), a request for help, or a compliment ("That's a nice Car") all work. Keep the conversation light and cheery. Many conversationalists say that it is good to follow a 30/70 rule (30% talking, 70% listening) pattern during small talk when possible.
6	Introduce yourself. It can be as simple as saying "Oh, by the way, my name is...". Once you introduce yourself, the other person will typically do the same. Remember his name! They will see that you were paying attention and are willing to be a true friend.
7	Initiate a get-together. Open up the opportunity for another conversation or meeting. If you have a club, band, church, etc. that you think they might enjoy, take the opportunity to give them your number or email address and invite them to join you. Take action.
8	Be loyal. Part of being a friend is being prepared to make sacrifices of your time and energy in order to help out your friends. Friends sometimes need help with an unpleasant chore or just need support. Be there for your friends when they need you.
9	Be a good friend. Remember to do your part (e.g. initiating some of the activities, remembering birthdays, asking how the other person is doing) or else the friendship will become unbalanced and an uneasiness or distance is likely to arise. Never ever make fun or laugh at your friend in front of others.



Appendix v: How do I Open a combination lock?



Students should use the following procedure when operating the combination lock:

1. Give the dial two or more turns to the **RIGHT**. 
2. On the third turn to the **RIGHT**, stop at the first number of the combination.
3. Next, turn **LEFT** one whole turn **past** the first number and stop at the second number in the combination. 
4. Now, turn **RIGHT** and stop at the last number in the combination. 

Pull down on the lock. It should open. If not, return to Step One and take your time.

5. Pull down on your lock again and open the door.

Appendix vi: Middle School Supplies

The following supplies are needed for English, French, Mathematics, Religion, Social Studies, and Science. Elective and Physical Education teachers will inform students of any additional supplies.

- 5 HB pencils/mechanical pencils with lead
- 1 eraser
- 2 blue pens
(eraser mate pens recommended)
- 1 red pen
- Lined loose-leaf paper
- Blank loose-leaf paper
- 12 (16) dividers for binder sections
- 10 plastic sleeves
- 2 x 2.5 inch binders (heavy duty)
(may need several depending on your son)
- 1 x 30 cm ruler
- 1 calculator
- 1 mathematical instrument set
(must include a protractor, right angle triangle, 15 cm. ruler, compass)
- 1 French/English, English/French dictionary
(recommended – Robert and Collins Junior Dictionary)
- 1 pair of scissors 9 (optional)
- 1 glue stick (optional)
- 1 pack pencil crayons (optional)
(may have felts as well, but not instead of pencil crayons)

All Middle School students at Vancouver College are required to use only two binders for all subjects.

- Of the various types of binders available, one of the best is the type that has a nylon cloth zippered cover and built-in pencil case. These binders tend to last much longer than the standard vinyl covered binders.

Students must have 2 locks both purchased from Vancouver

College: 1 for PE and 1 to remain on their school locker.



NO

cell phone use is allowed during school hours.
Students may occasionally be asked to use
their cell phone in the classroom under the
supervision and guidance of the educator.



Appendix vii: Why the Binder System?

The system provides a highly flexible but consistent structure. Mid-level students need a structured environment in about the same way they need food. The binder is simply one tool to help us provide structure: Ultimately though, it will be no more useful than our supervision of its use.

- It acts as a portable filing system
- Allows students and teachers to revise or add to materials in a coherent manner;
- Allows teacher-supplied materials to be stored immediately next to associated tasks;
- Allows collection, return, and ‘filing’ of products in a non-disruptive manner;
- Allows constructive supervision, including the appropriate replacement either of marked, revised, or re-done work or of lost or ruined material;
- It helps us to ensure that students who might become disorganized can be (re-) organized quickly and effectively;
- It provides a commonly held set of expectations, fostering a sense of structure and fairness critical for mid-level students: These expectations are listed under “Binder Organization and Use” found at the front of each student’s binder (to be signed by parents).

Mid-level students, especially boys, are going through a time of profound cognitive, physical, emotional, and social change unlike anything they will ever experience again. They are very vulnerable and need a stable, supportive environment with as few variables as possible. In the jargon, they are ‘field-dependent’. More than anything else, they need a supportive field, which provides them with the structure they need to meet the challenges they face. If the structure provides them with the opportunity to develop skills and to experience success, it fosters their notion of themselves as successful people. If it does not, if it treats them as though their characteristics and needs are irrelevant (needs which include challenge, high expectation, and supervision), the structure yields and breeds failure.

The binder system, if properly implemented (i.e. supervised), simply provides the boys with a flexible, systematic structure that helps them cope with demands, which are very different from elementary school. The binder itself is structured, and it provides more structure in that the boys will move from teacher to teacher without meeting as many as 7-8 different sets of expectations. Time spent supervising a boy’s use of the binder, which is as necessary and constructive as teaching subject matter, must be engaged in constantly by all, especially parents, particularly if a student is not achieving success.

It is fundamentally important to check the boys’ binders for things like organization, task completion, attention to detail, and compliance with direction. It is important that they treat their work, and by implication, themselves, with respect. Our close supervision indicates how important it is to us that they do.

Parent initials: _____ (Please sign the “....organization and use” and “Quiz” pages)

Appendix viii: PARENT/SON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



What makes you most excited about attending Vancouver College?

What makes you nervous about attending Vancouver College?

What actions or strategies can we take to smooth your transition to Vancouver College?

Mr. Legge's Challenge

You may want to take me up on my incoming student challenge. I believe this will help all of you to become Better Men by the end of your summer vacations and ease your transition to VC. Our school utilizes a four-stranded approach to education and we emphasize with our students the importance of their academic, artistic, athletic and spiritual development.

As you turn off your computer tonight, I would like our new students to begin to develop four tangible goals within those strands that will help them to become better men. These goals should be specific, measurable and timely. Your academic goal could be as simple as committing to read three books this summer or write every day in a journal. You might have an athletic goal of committing yourself to being active for 45 minutes per day. Maybe your artistic goal could be learning about the techniques of watercolour painting. Finally, your goal centred around faith could be trying to attend mass each Sunday.

When you arrive on campus in September, ask yourself, did I become a better man this summer? It is my sincere hope that our new boys take me up on this challenge as I know it

will ease their transition to our school community come the fall.

NEW PARENT NIGHT

Thursday, May 23, 2024

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Question and Answer session

with Mr. Weaver

Mr. Legge

Mr. Kozikowski

"Were we to know the merit of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbour for the love of God, we should prize it more than gold or silver."

Edmund
Rice August 10,
1806

Leave Here

AS A BETTER MAN...

