



**WEST
VANCOUVER
SCHOOLS**

A world of opportunity

VIEWBOOK

westvancouver.schools.ca



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BRIGHT FUTURES

At West Vancouver Schools, the focus is on who you are and who you want to become. Inspiring a sense of discovery begins on day one, and continues through graduation and beyond.

More than 90 percent of graduating students attend post-secondary schools within a year of graduation to pursue their dreams and make a difference.

THE PREMIER PLACE FOR LEARNING

West Vancouver Schools has a strong reputation for academic excellence that matches or exceeds independent school and provincial results.

Student achievement remains at the 100th percentile among public school districts, according to the number of students meeting or exceeding expectations on district examinations and our annual Grade 10, 11 and 12 government program examinations.



STRONG FOUNDATIONS

At West Vancouver Schools, we work with early learning partners and specialists to bring cutting-edge cognitive and developmental research into the classroom.

Innovation is part of our culture, and this support promotes the right balance of social, emotional, cognitive and physical health among students. Project-based learning, also known as 'Inquiry', is practiced throughout the district, allowing students and teachers to explore ideas in depth and across subject areas.

At the elementary level, classroom teachers infuse physical exercise into subjects like math, building important physical and emotional health benefits right into the curriculum.



A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

West Vancouver Schools offers a wide range of school and district educational programs that keep students engaged and develop their unique potential. As of 2017, the district operates 12 Premier Academies in athletics, robotics, performing arts and a new outdoor academy. Entrepreneurship, public speaking programs, and a vast array of student clubs contribute to a vibrant campus life at both the elementary and secondary levels.

REAL-WORLD LEARNING

West Vancouver Schools provides real-world learning, both in and out of the classroom. Innovative programming, such as First Aid Swim Training, ArtWest45, Carpentry for advanced post-secondary credit and the District Honour Choir offer students the opportunity to learn and apply skills in the broader community. Our district was also the first in BC to adopt a "bring your own device" policy, from elementary school through secondary school.

LEADERSHIP, RESPONSIBILITY & CITIZENSHIP

Partnerships are an important component of any school community, and West Vancouver Schools builds leadership and responsibility into the curriculum through local and global involvement in humanitarian projects. Educators, who have long understood the link between citizenship, social and academic functioning, foster socio-emotional development as early as kindergarten, and continue to guide students as they advance through secondary school.

A FRESH ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

A broad range of focused programming, backed by dedicated and caring staff, opens doors for graduates. We offer the International Baccalaureate® (IB) programs, including the Primary Years Programme (PYP), PYP French Immersion, Middle Years Programme (MYP) and IB Diploma. Advanced Placement options include the highly prized AP Capstone option. Our district also offers the north shore's only publicly funded Montessori program.





RICH ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

PARTNERING FOR EXCELLENCE

At West Vancouver Schools, partnerships with local organizations and individuals provide invaluable learning opportunities for students in creative and performing arts. In addition to a joint agreement with the 500-seat Kay Meek Theatre, West Vancouver is one of the only districts with specialist art teachers in all elementary schools. Distinguished alumni include Bobbie Burghers, Douglas Copeland and Ross Penhall, who have each spent time working with students to support art and design mentoring opportunities.





DEDICATED TO ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE

THE VALUE OF TEAMWORK, THE JOY OF OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

Our schools are active places, where the youngest learn the value of play, and youth participate in a wide variety of sports. Physical literacy – in which movement is built into classroom subjects and students are taught basic movement skills, such as throwing, running, kicking and jumping – has enormous benefits for those pursuing school and community-based team and individual sports. Our three high schools have a matching afternoon timetable, allowing interested students to take part in our premier sports academies, including ballet, baseball, basketball, dance, fencing, field hockey, hockey, mechatronics robotics, outdoor connections, rugby, soccer and tennis.

ATHLETICS	ROCKRIDGE	SENTINEL	WVSS
FALL			
Cross-Country	✓	✓	✓
Field Hockey - girls	✓	✓	✓
Football - junior/senior			✓
Rowing		✓	
Rugby - grade 8 boys & girls	✓	✓	✓
Soccer - boys	✓	✓	✓
Swimming	✓	✓	✓
Volleyball	✓	✓	✓
WINTER			
Basketball	✓	✓	✓
Curling			✓
Gymnastics (subject to availability)	✓		✓
Ice Hockey			✓
Skiing/Snowboarding	✓	✓	✓
Wrestling		✓	✓
SPRING			
Badminton	✓	✓	✓
Football - grade 8 boys & girls			✓
Golf	✓	✓	✓
Ice Hockey	✓	✓	
Mountain Biking	✓	✓	✓
Rugby - girls seven aside	✓		✓
Rugby - junior/senior boys	✓	✓	✓
Soccer - girls	✓	✓	✓
Tennis	✓	✓	✓
Track and Field		✓	✓
Ultimate Frisbee	✓	✓	✓
FULL YEAR DISTRICT PROGRAMS			
200 Hour Yoga Teacher Training (based at WVSS)	✓	✓	✓
First Aid Swim Training (at WV Aquatic Centre)	✓	✓	✓



ROCKRIDGE SECONDARY

Rockridge Secondary school enrolls students in Grades 8 through 12, with a population of about 900 students. Located furthest to the west of the district, Rockridge offers a range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses for students in Grades 11 and 12, and is an authorized International Baccalaureate® school offering the Middle Years Programme (MYP). The MYP is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world. All students in Grades 8-10 participate in the IB World School MYP.

Rockridge Secondary school enjoys a vibrant campus life, with a broad range of student clubs and team sports year-round. Fall sports include rugby, soccer, volleyball, field hockey, cross-country running and swimming. In the winter, the school offers basketball, skiing and snowboarding. Spring sports include ultimate Frisbee, mountain biking, rugby, soccer, tennis, golf, badminton and ice hockey.

ÉCOLE SENTINEL SECONDARY

École Sentinel Secondary is a comprehensive high school serving more than 1250 students in Grades 8 through 12. The school offers a range of specialty programs, including Advanced Placement and French Immersion. Many students engage in a technology-infused environment.

Families choose Sentinel not only for a great academic environment, but also for a remarkable arts and athletic experience. In the fall, students can participate in cross country, field hockey, rowing, rugby, soccer, swimming and volleyball. In winter, the school offers basketball, skiing, snowboarding and wrestling. Spring options include badminton, golf, ice hockey, mountain biking, rugby, soccer, tennis, track & field and ultimate Frisbee.





WEST VANCOUVER SECONDARY

West Vancouver Secondary School is the largest of the three high school campuses, located centrally within the community of West Vancouver. Enrolling approximately 1500 students in Grades 8 through 12, the school provides an environment that fosters self-confidence, life-long learning, responsible citizenship and numerous opportunities for social, physical, aesthetic and intellectual growth. The school offers several specialty programs, notably the International Baccalaureate[®] Diploma, Carpentry and ArtWest45.

Athletics opportunities at West Vancouver Secondary School are broad: in the fall, students can take part in cross country, field hockey, football, rugby, soccer, swimming and volleyball. Winter sports include basketball, curling, gymnastics, ice hockey, skiing, snowboarding and wrestling. In the spring, the school offers badminton, golf, mountain biking, football, ultimate Frisbee, rugby, soccer, track & field and tennis.

PRIMARY AND ELEMENTARY PATHWAYS

Grounded in a solid academic foundation, programming at West Vancouver Schools provides a learning experience that fosters the needs, interests and aspirations of individual students to develop the leadership and critical thinking skills needed in a complex world. Across the district, we implement digital and physical literacy, self-regulation and inquiry to create a joyful learning experience for each child.

The district offers early and late French Immersion, Honour Choir (Grades 7-12), Ignite Your Passion Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) programs, Band and Outside45.

SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMING OPTIONS

Early French Immersion
École Cedardale, École Pauline Johnson

Late French Immersion
École Pauline Johnson

IB Primary Years Programme
École Cedardale (French Immersion)
Cypress Park Primary, West Bay Elementary

iDEC (Inquiry-based digitally enhanced community)
Caulfeild

Montessori
Eagle Harbour





EXPLORE A WORLD OF WONDER

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Studying and living in Canada offers many possibilities for academic and personal growth. Our students develop strong thinking, creative and leadership skills in an education system that challenges and inspires: you will be impressed with our facilities and the many unique programs and services available in our schools.

Our English Language Learning specialists work with both domestic and international students to bring language alive. Immersion within our domestic school population promotes deep cultural knowledge to prepare students for future studies and global citizenship.

In operation since 1982, our International Programs were the first in Canada to welcome global students into Canadian public schools. Since that time, West Vancouver Schools has developed one of the best International Programs in British Columbia and Canada. As an international student at WVS, you will develop lifelong friendships with students from Canada, and realize your educational dreams.



ACADEMICS	ROCKRIDGE	SENTINEL	WVSS
ENGLISH			
Communications	✓	✓	✓
Literature	AP only	AP only	✓
Writing	✓	✓	✓
English Language Learning (ELL)	✓	✓	✓
SOCIAL STUDIES			
Law / Social Justice	✓	✓	✓
History	✓	✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓	✓
Philosophy			✓
International Development			✓
Comparative Civilizations	✓	✓	✓
BC First Nations Studies	✓	✓	✓
SCIENCE			
Biology	✓	✓	✓
Chemistry	✓	✓	✓
Physics	✓	✓	✓
Forensic Science			✓
Earth Science	✓	✓	✓
Geology		✓	✓
Sustainable Resources			✓
BUSINESS & IT			
Digital Media	✓	✓	✓
Accounting	✓	✓	✓
Marketing	✓	✓	✓
Entrepreneurship		✓	✓
Economics		✓	✓
Animation			✓
Computer Programming	✓	✓	✓
Video Production	✓		✓

ACADEMICS	ROCKRIDGE	SENTINEL	WVSS
MATHEMATICS			
Pre-Calculus / Calculus	✓	✓	✓
Foundations of Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
LANGUAGES			
French	✓	✓	✓
Spanish	✓	✓	✓
Japanese	✓	✓	✓
Mandarin		✓	✓
ART			
Ceramics & Sculpture	✓	✓	✓
Drawing & Painting	✓	✓	✓
Media Arts / Photography	✓	✓	✓
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY			
Woodwork	✓	✓	✓
Drafting & Design	✓	✓	✓
Carpentry & Joinery	✓	✓	✓
Auto Technology			✓
PERFORMING ARTS			
Dance		✓	✓
Drama	✓	✓	✓
Theatre / Musical Theatre	✓	✓	✓
Improv			✓
Film & Television	✓		✓
MUSIC			
Choir	✓	✓	✓
Concert Band	✓	✓	✓
Jazz Band	✓	✓	✓
Rock / R&B Band		✓	✓
Orchestral Strings		✓	✓
Guitar	✓		✓

ACADEMICS	ROCKRIDGE	SENTINEL	WVSS
OTHER ELECTIVES			
Foods	✓	✓	✓
Textiles / Fashion	✓	✓	✓
Physical Education	✓	✓	✓
Yoga	✓		✓
Family Studies			✓
DISTRICT WIDE			
French Immersion		✓	
IB Middle Years	✓		
IB Diploma			✓
Pursuit	✓	✓	✓
Career Programs & Work Experience	✓	✓	✓
YELL (based at WVSS)	✓	✓	✓
Youth Train In Trades (based at WVSS)	✓	✓	✓
District Honour Choir (based at WVSS)	✓	✓	✓
Art West 45 (based at WVSS)	✓	✓	✓
Fashion Industry (based at WVSS)	✓	✓	✓

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

ROCKRIDGE:

English Language, English Literature, Calculus, Studio Art Drawing, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, European History, 2-D Design, 3-D Design, Computer Science Principles, Psychology, Statistics

SENTINEL:

English Language, English Literature, Calculus, Studio Art Drawing, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, 2-D Design, 3-D Design, French Language & Culture, Chinese Language & Culture, Japanese Language & Culture, Human Geography, Capstone Seminar & Research, Psychology, Statistics

IB DIPLOMA

WVSS:

English, History, Geography, French, Mandarin, Japanese, Spanish, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Geography, Theatre, Film Studies, Art/Design



A CAPTIVATING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Whistler, the co-host location of the 2010 Winter Olympics, boasts the best skiing and snowboarding in North America and is only a 90-minute drive away. Cypress mountain, also an Olympic venue, is only 20 minutes from West Vancouver's town centre and offers a great place for snow sports and amazing city views.

Summer temperatures are comfortable and support a wide range of pursuits such as hiking, swimming, sailing and biking. Winter temperatures almost never fall below freezing within the city, but our location, near the Coast Mountains, treats us to wintertime activities.



THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD

British Columbia, Canada's westernmost province, borders the Pacific Ocean. Vancouver is the third-largest city in Canada, with a population of more than two million, and consistently ranks as one of the top three most livable cities in the world. A combination of unspoiled natural beauty and urban sophistication makes the Vancouver area attractive to both tourists and international students.

West Vancouver, a waterfront city, is located in one of the most desirable places to live in Canada, thanks to its pleasant climate, sandy beaches, snow-capped mountains, safe neighbourhoods and easy access to downtown Vancouver. West Vancouver enjoys a reputation as the safest large urban community in Canada, with many beautiful neighbourhoods that are home to a highly educated professional population.

YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

While studying in our programs, students are placed by the homestay coordinator into Canadian homes. Homestay offers a truly unique experience: students are immersed in all that West Vancouver has to offer, develop lifelong friendships and accelerate their education through exposure to the English language at home and at school.



ADMISSIONS & APPLICATION GUIDELINES

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Applications for admission are open to both residents and non-residents of the school district.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT/OUT-OF-CATCHMENT APPLICATIONS

From mid-January until early February, West Vancouver Schools accepts applications from students living either inside or outside the district who wish to transfer schools.

PROGRAM ADMISSIONS

Many of our programs of choice begin accepting students as early as January for intake the following September. For some of these programs, a separate application process has been established, and criteria are established by the school and/or program leader.

Please see the programs area of our website for information on applying to specific programs, such as our Premier Academies, Youth Train in Trades Carpentry, Outside45, First Aid Swim Training, District Honour Choir, Ignite Your Passion and the International Baccalaureate® (IB) diploma program.

APPLICATION TIMELINES

Apply early! Many of our programs and schools are in high demand, so it is important to apply as early as possible to increase the likelihood that your child will be placed according to your preferences.

Kindergarten applications begin in mid-October for the following school year that begins in September.

Grades 1- to 12 in-catchment applications are also invited at this time.

Early French Immersion placement is determined by a lottery process held in December.

International applications are accepted starting November 1 for the following school year that begins in September.

International students may enter either at the beginning of September or the beginning of February each school year.



THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

In 2016, the West Vancouver Community Foundation published the *Vital Signs Report*, revealing that 18.5 percent of children in West Vancouver live in low income families, as measured by Statistics Canada's Low Income Measure (LIM), after taxes. For those who would like to make a one-time contribution or bequeath a portion of their estate to enhance learning opportunities for children, West Vancouver Schools has set up the Enhanced Learning Opportunities Fund, managed by the West Vancouver Community Foundation. Only the interest earned on contributions is disbursed, ensuring that your contribution provides benefits for generations.

Learn more at: westvancouver.schools.ca/endowment-fund

HOW TO APPLY

DOMESTIC STUDENTS

Applications begin online at: westvancouver.schools.ca/admissions

Students with Canadian citizenship or permanent residency status are considered residents of BC. In order for a student to be considered a resident of British Columbia, both the student and the parent or guardian of the student must ordinarily reside in British Columbia.

Following your application the school with space for your child will contact you to confirm that you wish to register. Registration documents are then submitted in person at the school office.

“ *The calibre of teachers, the focused course plan and the close relationships I developed early on really made it an easy decision.*

MADELEINE SAMPSON, FORMER STUDENT

DOMESTIC STUDENTS FROM ABROAD

Please begin your application by contacting our International Student Programs office at 604.981.1158. This office coordinates grade placement for domestic students from abroad to determine grade assignment.

Students with Canadian citizenship or permanent residency status who are moving to West Vancouver from another educational jurisdiction are typically placed as follows:

Grades K-7 Assigned according to chronological grade level.

Grades 8-12 Course equivalence coordinated by school counsellors during initial intake, but students are generally placed according to their chronological age in an appropriate grade level.

International students and other foreign language students are typically tested for their English language proficiency before being placed into their assigned school. This may be done at a district level or school level, depending on their arrival time during the school year.

STUDENTS FROM FAMILIES RESIDING IN BC UNDER WORK PERMITS

Families who are travelling to Canada under a federal work permit are required to first confirm their documents with the International Student Programs office prior to registering their children online. Please begin your application by contacting our International Student Programs office at 604.981.1158.

“ *We chose West Vancouver Schools for the great overall academic performance and the quality of the programs.*

VICKY NARANJO, ÉCOLE CEDARDALE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In Canada, the academic year runs from September to June, with short holidays in December and March. West Vancouver Schools' International Programs select a limited number of students each year. Students are admitted in September and February, but prospective students must apply well in advance to ensure they can be offered a seat in our program.

For more information and a complete application package, visit our website at: westvancouver.schools.ca/international

West Vancouver School District International Programs

1075 21st Street

West Vancouver, BC, Canada V7V 4A9

Email: international.reception@wvschools.ca

Phone: 1.604.981.1158 | Fax: 1.604.925.2033





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