

Vic High



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Victoria High School

Welcome to the oldest school north of San Francisco and west of Ontario. Vic High was founded in 1876. Our iconic 111-year-old building at 1260 Grant Street has undergone seismic upgrading and major renovations. We are delighted to be back in our beautifully renovated state-of-the-art facility.

All the best,

Leah K Gordon
Leah Gordon, Principal

First Week of School Schedule

Tuesday, September 2nd

Grade 10-12

- 9:30 - 10:30 am - All Grade 10-12 students will meet in their A-Block classrooms.
(A Block classes will be posted near the Grant Street main entrance steps.)

- 10:30 am - Dismissal

Grade 9

- 11:00 - 11:15 am Greetings on front steps
- 11:15 - 11:45 am Assembly in Auditorium
- 11:45 - 12:15 pm Homeroom in A Block
- 12:15 - 1:15 pm Run through B, C, & D block
- 1:15 - 1:30 pm Closing announcements & dismissal from D Block class

Wednesday, Sept. 3rd & Thursday, Sept. 4th

Grade 9-12

- All Grade 9-12's follow a modified schedule:

A Block:	9:00 - 10:08
B Block:	10:13 - 11:20
Lunch:	11:20 - 11:50
C Block:	11:50 - 12:58
D Block:	1:03 - 2:10

Grade 10-12

- Dismissed at 2:10 pm

Grade 9

- 2:05 - 3:15 pm - Grade 9 Orientation

Friday, Sept. 5th

We will follow our regular Bell Schedule with dismissal for all students at 2:10 pm

Regular Bell Schedule Starting on Friday, September 5th

Bell Schedule - Term 1, 2025-2026

Monday and Wednesday schedule

Block A	9:00	-	10:20
Block B	10:25	-	11:45
Lunch	11:45	-	12:30
Block C	12:30	-	1:50
Block D	1:55	-	3:15

Tuesday schedule

Block A	9:00	-	10:00
FOCUS	10:00	-	10:40
Block B	10:45	-	11:45
Lunch	11:45	-	12:30
Block C	12:30	-	1:50
Block D	1:55	-	3:15

Thursday schedule

Block A	9:00	-	10:20
Block B	10:25	-	11:45
Lunch	11:45	-	12:30
Block C	12:30	-	1:30
Block D	1:35	-	2:35
FOCUS	2:35	-	3:15

Friday schedule

Block A	9:00	-	10:08
Block B	10:13	-	11:20
Lunch	11:20	-	11:50
Block C	11:50	-	12:58
Block D	1:03	-	2:10

School Culture and Communication

Victoria High is a vibrant learning environment that offers excellent opportunities to make friends, expand students' learning, and enjoy new experiences inside and outside of the classroom. Consider following Vic High's Instagram account @vichigh61.

Vic High This Week for Families is emailed to families regularly. Please make sure your email address is up-to-date. Our daily announcements are available through the school website.

To learn more about expectations for behaviour and school rules, please review our School Code of Conduct included as a printed insert with this newsletter or on our website.



VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL

1260 Grant Street, Victoria, BC V8T 1C2

Telephone: (250) 388-5456 • Fax: (250) 388-6702

E-mail: vichigh@sd61.bc.ca

Vic High

CALENDAR

Length of School Day: 9:00 am to 3:15 pm – Monday to Thursday
9:00 am to 2:10 pm – Friday

SEPTEMBER	
1	Labour Day
2	School Opens - *Alternate Schedule
3	
4	
5	Regular Schedule
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	Cornerstone Celebration
13	
14	
15	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm
16	First Day of Focus Block
17	Meet the Teachers
18	School Photo Day
19	
20	
21	
22	Pro D Day – No Scheduled Classes
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	National Day For Truth & Reconciliation - School Closed

OCTOBER	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	School Photo Retakes
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	Thanksgiving - School Closed
14	
15	Progress Reports/ IE Communications
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm
21	
22	
23	
24	Pro D Day – No Scheduled Classes
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	Parent Teacher Meetings – * Alternate Schedule
30	
31	

NOVEMBER	
1	
2	
3	Provincial Numeracy/ Literacy Assessment
4	Copernican Schedule A & C
5	Copernican Schedule B & D
6	
7	End of Term 1
8	
9	
10	Remembrance Day Assembly
11	Remembrance Day - School Closed
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm
18	
19	
20	Report Cards Issued
21	Pro D Day – No Scheduled Classes
22	
23	
24	Grad Photos
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

DECEMBER	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	Grad Winter Formal
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	Grade 9 Immunizations
12	
13	
14	
15	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm
16	
17	Grad Photo Retakes
18	
19	Last Day of Classes
20	
21	
22	Winter Break
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	

JANUARY	
1	Winter Break
2	
3	
4	
5	First Day of Classes
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	Prov. Numeracy/Literacy Assess. Français Langue Assessment
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	Copernican Schedule A & C
28	Copernican Schedule B & D
29	End of Term 2 Curriculum Completion - No Scheduled Classes
30	Semester Turn Around - No Scheduled Classes
31	

OF EVENTS – 2025-2026

FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL		MAY		JUNE	
1		1		1		1		1	
2	First Day of Semester 2	2	Progress Reports/ IE Communication	2		2		2	Grad Ceremony - UVic
3		3		3	Good Friday - School Closed	3		3	
4		4		4		4		4	
5		5		5	Easter Sunday	5		5	
6		6		6	Easter Monday - School Closed	6		6	
7		7		7		7		7	
8		8		8		8		8	Prov. Numeracy/Literacy Assess. Français Langue Assessment
9	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm	9	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm	9		9		9	
10		10		10		10		10	
11		11	Parent Teacher Meetings * Alternate Schedule	11		11	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm	11	
12	Report Cards Issued	12		12		12		12	
13	Pro D Day - No Scheduled Classes	13	Last Day of Classes	13		13		13	
14		14		14		14	District Orientation Day - *Alternate Bell Schedule	14	
15		15		15		15	Pro D Day - No Scheduled Classes	15	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm
16	Family Day - School Closed	16	Spring Break	16		16		16	
17	First Day of Focus Block	17		17	End of Term 3	17		17	
18		18		18		18	Victoria Day - School Closed	18	
19		19		19		19		19	
20		20		20	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm Provincial Numeracy/ Literacy Assessment	20		20	
21		21		21	Copernican Schedule A & C	21		21	
22		22		22	Copernican Schedule B & D	22		22	Copernican Schedule A & C
23		23		23		23		23	Copernican Schedule B & D
24		24		24		24		24	Celebration Assembly
25		25		25		25		25	End of Term 4 Curriculum Completion - No Scheduled Classes
26		26		26		26		26	Administrative Day - No Scheduled Classes
27		27		27	Pro D Day - No Scheduled Classes	27		27	
28		28		28		28		28	
		29		29		29		29	
		30	First Day of Classes	30	Report Cards Issued	30		30	
		31				31			

July 6th, 2026
Report Cards Issued

Student Absences

To report a student absence, please email VicHighAttendance@sd61.bc.ca or call the attendance line at 250-388-5456. Upon the student's return to school, the student should head straight to their class.

Students leaving during the school day for an appointment are asked to sign out in the office.

Assessment and Reporting

There have been recent changes to the K-12 Reporting Policy. While students in Grades 10-12 courses will continue to receive a letter grade and percentage, students in Grade 9 courses will receive marks on the Provincial Proficiency Scale. All students will receive learning updates which include attendance data and descriptive feedback to ensure students and families understand where the student is at in their learning, and areas for further growth.

Additionally, each term all students will be provided an opportunity for self-reflection and goal setting on the core competencies, and if completed, this can be viewed in SD61 Parent Connect and Student Connect. In the final term of the year, all Grade 10-12 students will be able to view their progress towards graduation through the Graduation Status Update available through Student Connect or Parent Connect.

You can learn more about the changes on our school's website at <https://vichigh.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/assessment-and-reporting-information/>

In addition to formal learning updates, teachers may issue informal reports, such as interims, to students who require extra support or to parents who request information about their child's progress. Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held once per semester, providing an opportunity for parents/guardians to participate.

Meet the Teachers evening will be Wednesday, September 17th, 2025, and the scheduled dates for Parent/Teacher Meetings are Wednesday, October 29th, 2025, and Wednesday, March 11th, 2026.

Learning Support

At Victoria High School, we hold the belief that every student has the potential to thrive, and we are committed to making every effort to help each student achieve success.

If your student finds they are facing difficulties in their schoolwork here are the school resources available for support and information:

- (1) We recommend you first connect directly with the student's teacher about the available learning supports.
- (2) Case manager or academic counsellor.
- (3) Administrators.

For students with Individual Education Plans, please contact Inclusive Education teachers.

Drop-in assistance is available daily from 8:30 am to 9:00 am and during lunch in Room 200.

Parent Advisory Council

All parents are invited to become involved in the PAC. The PAC encourages communication regarding school activities and events and makes recommendations regarding school policies and programs. Our PAC also holds a Gaming License that provides funding for the school's curricular and co-curricular programs. Projects are funded in the fine arts, athletics, and student activity programs.

The first PAC meeting of the school year will take place on Monday, September 15th at 7:00 pm. Please see the *Calendar of Events* for all of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting times.

Remember, the Vic High motto is . . .

“Palma non sine pulvere”
(No reward without effort)



VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL

1260 Grant Street, Victoria, BC V8T 1C2

Telephone: (250) 388-5456 • Fax: (250) 388-6702

E-mail: vichigh@sd61.bc.ca

Safe, Caring, and Orderly Schools

The Greater Victoria School District is committed to each student's success, and nurtures student learning and well-being in a culturally safe, culturally responsive, and inclusive learning community.

All members of our learning community have the right to an environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family or marital status, physical or mental disability, age, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, or any other reason noted in the BC Human Rights Code.

This Code of Conduct aligns with the Ministry of Education and Child Care's guide to Safe, Caring, and Orderly Schools summarized as:

- **Safe schools** are ones in which everyone is free of the fear of harm
- **Caring schools** are ones in which everyone feels a sense of belonging and support
- **Orderly schools** are free from chaos and confusion, and alive with purposeful learning

This Student Code of Conduct also aligns with the Local Education Agreements (LEAs) of Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation, and the Education Agreements with the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria and Urban Peoples' House Indigenous Advisory. Any policy changes that will impact Indigenous students must be shared with the Indigenous Education Council.

Purpose & Goals

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to set clear expectations for appropriate student behaviour and inform consequences for inappropriate behaviour. This Code of Conduct aims to foster learning environments that:

- Support students' potential, aspirations, and achievements
- Maintain balances among individual and collective rights, freedoms, and responsibilities
- Provide consistent expectations between various schools and learning environments
- Inform students of rising expectations for their behaviour as they age and mature

Expected Conduct

All members of our school community are expected to behave in a responsible and respectful manner while at school and while attending school functions at any location. These expectations include:

- Treating all members of our learning community with dignity, respect, and kindness
- Respecting school property and personal property
- Arriving on time to all classes (unless excused), using class time effectively, and being prepared to learn
- Contributing to the learning environment in a constructive manner
- Voicing opinions respectfully using polite and inclusive language
- Using technology and school resources appropriately
- Maintaining a food and scent sensitive environment (including being aware and respectful of those with food or scent allergies)
- Using and storing transportation aides (including bicycles, skateboards etc.) in a safe and orderly manner
- Driving personal vehicles safely and parking in designated student spaces
- Respecting out-of-bounds areas on school property

Unacceptable Conduct

All members of our school community are expected to behave in ways that do not infringe on the rights and freedoms of others to have a safe, caring, and orderly school environment. Unacceptable conduct includes:

- Acts of hate, racism, violence, harassment, hazing, or bullying (physical, verbal, online, or otherwise)
- Possession, use, or distribution of illegal substances, alcohol, tobacco (except for approved ceremonial purposes with proper protocol), e-cigarettes, vaporizers, or related paraphernalia
- Possession, use, or distribution of weapons (including imitation or replica weapons)
- Disruptive or defiant actions
- Use of inappropriate language, gestures, images, and/or symbols
- Illegal acts such as theft, damage to property (including graffiti)
- Taking, producing, or distributing photos, videos, or audio recordings of students or staff without consent from the individual
- Visiting other school campuses without permission
- Selling, trading, or gambling (unless authorized by the school)
- Plagiarism, cheating, or inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Wearing clothing promoting substance/alcohol use, discrimination, offensive language or images, or other inappropriate content

Cell Phones and Personal Digital Devices

A 'personal digital device' means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet. Restricting the use of personal digital devices at school is for the purpose of promoting online safety and focused learning environments.

- Students are expected to follow restrictions set by their school and/or school staff, such as storing devices out of sight and on silent or airplane mode.
- During instructional hours, usage is at the teacher's discretion and direction for instructional purposes and digital literacy, taking into consideration appropriate use for the students' age and developmental stage.
- Equity must be considered to support learning outcomes. Accommodations can be made for students without a personal digital device who may need one to complete schoolwork, and to support students who may have disabilities, diverse abilities, or medical/health needs.

For full details, visit sd61.bc.ca.

Interventions, Supports, and Consequences

Consequences for students who do not follow the Code of Conduct will be appropriate to the behaviour, as well as the maturity level of the student. Whenever possible, conflict resolution practices are restorative rather than punitive, aiming to provide students with opportunities to take responsibility for their actions, fix and learn from their mistakes, and resolve concerns in a constructive manner. Special considerations may apply to students who are unable to comply with expectations due to having an exceptionality of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, or behavioural nature.

The LEAs will help inform any disciplinary actions that may need to be taken on account of student behaviour.

Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations

Students and all members of our learning community are responsible for following the bylaws, policies, and regulations as approved and enacted by the Board of Education.

Notification

It is important that parents/caregivers be informed when serious contraventions occur. District personnel and third parties (e.g. police and/or other agencies) may also be informed, with the specific goal of resolving the situation in the best interests of both the student and the school community.

Retaliation Prevention

Students are encouraged to “step in and speak out” if they witness acts that do not align with the Code of Conduct. This may involve seeking the help of a teacher, school administrator, counsellor, parent, or other trusted adult. To maintain a safe environment, acts of retaliation against a student who reports a breach of the Code of Conduct are taken very seriously and will be addressed.

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, BC, V8Z 1E8

www.sd61.bc.ca

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.



VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL 2025 – 2026 SCHOOL YEAR DEPOSITS, OPTIONAL COSTS

No student at Victoria High School will be denied an educational program due to an inability to pay. Please contact the Principal or Vice Principal if finances are an issue. Your privacy will be respected.

- **Textbook Deposit**

A refundable deposit of **\$22.00** is requested from all new Vic High students. This deposit is for educational resource materials such as textbooks, reused workbooks, novels and other resource materials. This deposit will be refunded, all, or in part, upon the return of the educational resource material.

Operational funding allocated to textbook replacement significantly impacts our ability to purchase other learning resources for our students. Textbook loss costs the school thousands of dollars every year.

Students are asked to take responsibility for caring for, and returning, textbooks provided for their studies.

Students who accumulate outstanding school resources over \$22 will not be issued new textbooks until the resources are returned, paid for, or determined forgiven by administration.

Students not issued textbooks will not be denied the opportunity to continue in their learning. While students will not have the convenience of accessing their own copy of the text, they may be given the opportunity to capture required information from a textbook through a personal device, provided paper or electronic copies or may have access to classroom copies of the textbook during their class, support block and/or learning over lunch.

- **Student Activity Fees**

The Student Activity fee is used to help provide for the extra-curricular programs at the school. Although this charge is optional, student activities cannot operate without the support of the student body. Student Activity fees pay for extracurricular school activities, spirit events, student awards and helps defray the cost of Leadership activities.

Clubs such as Youth for Change and Inclusion, the Gender & Sexuality Alliance and our Leadership group promotes a healthy, engaging and inclusive school culture. Your activity fee will assist to cover the costs of these activities and engagements. Please consider supporting these and other school groups with a **\$5.00, \$10.00 or \$25.00** contribution.

- **Locks and Lockers** – Students can rent a lock with locker for a rental fee of **\$10**. This is a one-time fee for as long as you are a student at Vic High. Students are to use school issued locks only. Students who do not pay a locker fee will NOT be issued a locker. There is no obligation to have a locker and most students will not have a need for one.
- **Athletic Fee** – The Athletic fee of **\$55** is for students who are participating on competitive sports teams. This fee covers a variety of costs associated with athletics, such as LVISSA, BC School Sport, Islands and Provincials registration fees. In addition, costs for first aid, training supplies, equipment and uniforms (not purchased by athlete) are supported by this fee.
- **Yearbook** – The cost of the yearbook is **\$58.00** (Optional)
- **Graduation Ceremony - Grade 12 only** – This **\$70** fee is for students attending the Recognition Ceremony and covers the cost of the ceremony and reception, gown rental (or purchase), facility rental, grad diploma/folder and Vic High Alumni membership. No one will be denied the opportunity to attend the ceremony due to economic hardship.
- **Grad Dinner Dance - Grade 12 only** – This **\$120** optional fee is for students who wish to attend the Grad Dinner Dance held in June 2026.

Project Costs - Under Board Policy, students may only be charged for materials that exceed the cost of the basic materials that are provided to meet course requirements.

School Cash Online Payments

For safety and efficiency reasons, the Greater Victoria School District would like to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our schools. Please join the many parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying online. To register or sign in to School Cash Online go to the Vic High website, <https://vichigh.sd61.bc.ca/>, and click on 'School Cash Online' bar located below 'Quick Links'.