



Killarney Secondary School

2015 - 2016

Grade 8

Handbook

SCHOOL COUNSELLORS

What is a School Counsellor?

A certified teacher with specialized training in Counselling Psychology.

At Killarney each grade has their own counsellor who starts with them in Grade 8 and continues as their counsellor until grade 12.

What does a Secondary School Counsellor Do?

A) Assists Parents and Students to:

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

B) Helps Students Deal with Life Issues such as:

- Anxiety, Depression and other mental health concerns

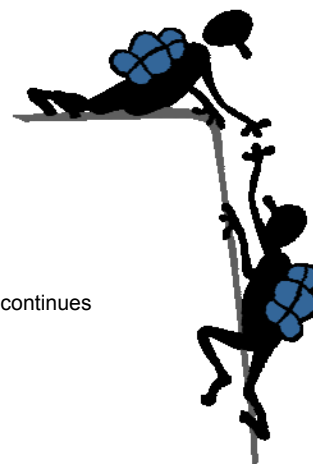


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Counselling Department	inside front cover
Table of Contents	1
Welcome!	2
Administration Team & History of School	3
Bell Schedule (Monday-Friday) (Collaborative time) (iTime)	4
Grade 8 Students' Schedule consists of:	5
Programs for Grade 8 ELL Students	5
VSB District Programs	6
Counselling Services	6
Library Learning Commons	6
Health & Career Education Planning	7
Map of School—1st, 2nd and 3rd Floors	8 + 9
Killarney School Clubs & Athletics	10
Killarney Course Descriptions	11 to 14
English, Art, Drama, Band, Choir, Strings	11
Business Ed., Foods, Clothing & Textiles, Technical Studies	12
French, Humanities, PE, Science, Social Studies	13
Mathematics	14
TRACKS / CORE Programs	15
English Language Learners Program (ELL)	15
Mini School Program	16
Killarney's Website, Facebook & Twitter URLs	inside back cover



WELCOME!

We, the Killarney staff, welcome you to our school.

We believe that Killarney offers the highest quality education and, therefore, we are pleased that you have chosen to complete your high school education here.

We hope that the transition from elementary school to high school goes smoothly with as little difficulty and confusion as possible.

If problems do occur, please feel comfortable talking to any of our staff or administrators who will arrange to get you the help you need.

The school offers a great number of extracurricular activities that are outlined in this handbook. In addition to academic excellence, Killarney has a tradition of strong, competitive athletic teams, outstanding drama productions, excellent performances in band, choir and strings music.


The success of these programs is, however, dependent on student participation and support.



Roberto Moro

GRADE EIGHT

8



HANDBOOK & COURSE OUTLINE

School Contacts for Grade 8 Students:

Grade 8 Vice Principal:	Mr. M. Vulgaris
Counsellor	Mr. O. Goncalves
Principal	Mr. R. Moro
Vice Principals	Mr. D. Matear
	Ms. T. Legg

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

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

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

Since the completion of the main building in the mid-1960's, Killarney's capacity grew with the addition of 10 portable classrooms which were replaced in May, 2002 with the opening of the new west wing consisting of 21 classrooms including a state of the art music lab. Currently, the student population of Killarney is just under 2,000 students, and they are taught by some 106 teaching staff. This community of learners is one of the largest enrolling schools in Vancouver!



UPDATE ON “I-TIME”

“i-Time” at Killarney runs at the same time every day from 8:40 to 9:00 am (with the exception of Collaborative Days). “i-Time” is an opportunity for the students to take charge of their own learning by visiting teachers for extra support or help. This allows students the opportunity to ask questions in small group settings and to meet other students in study groups or for enrichment work. “i-Time” provides teachers with more instructional options and it allows students to receive extra assistance or meet for special events. Teachers may request mandatory attendance for “i-time” sessions. Period 1 commences every day at 9:00 am.

Your GOALS could be:

- ▶ **ACADEMIC** (if you are struggling in your courses – under or over-achieving student)
- ▶ **LEADERSHIP** skills (e.g. helping mentor your peers or younger students during i-Time)
- ▶ **EMOTIONAL** (if you need to de-stress, get organized, organize your notes, binder, etc.)
- ▶ **PHYSICAL** (if you need to take care of your health first/ avoid sleep deprivation, eat breakfast, etc.)

The intent and purpose of “i-Time”:

- students will increase responsibility by taking charge of their own learning
- students will gain more opportunities for help when they need it
- students will have more opportunity for positive teacher-student mentoring
- teachers will have more instructional options; setting up small group sessions for example
- students will have more time to work on group tasks, or meet for service clubs
- students will have another opportunity to meet with a counsellor, or career prep teacher, or support staff
- students and teachers will have more opportunities for study groups or enrichment work: the i-Time can expand students' strengths, passions, and ability areas.

REGULAR SCHEDULE (MONDAY to FRIDAY)	
iTime	8:40—9:00
Period 1	9:00—10:10
BREAK	10:10—10:25
Period 2	10:25—11:35
Announcements	11:32—11:35
LUNCH	11:35—12:20
Period 3	12:20—1:39
Travel Time	1:39—1:43
Period 4	1:43—3:03

COLLABORATIVE DAY SCHEDULE	
Collaborative Time	8:40—10:00
Period 1	10:00—10:40
Travel Time	10:40—10:50
Period 2	10:50—11:32
Announcements	11:32—11:35
LUNCH	11:35—12:20
Period 3	12:20—1:39
Travel Time	1:39—1:43
Period 4	1:44—3:03



GRADE 8 STUDENTS' SCHEDULE

contains the following:

A. Foundation Studies [Required] Grade 8 students will be enrolled in a combination of the following courses:

1. **English 8** or Humanities 8 or Tracks / CORE (referral)
2. **Social Studies 8** or Humanities 8 or Tracks / CORE (referral)
3. **Physical Education 8**
4. **Mathematics 8** or Mathematics 8 Honours or CORE Mathematics 8
5. **Science 8** or TRACKS / CORE (referral)
6. **French 8**

B. Applied Skills - ALL grade 8 students will be enrolled in an Applied Skills rotation.

Each class will experience Home Economics, Technical Studies and Business Education during the year.

C. Fine Arts Selected Studies - ALL grade 8 students will be enrolled in one [1] of these courses.

Please select first [1] and second [2] choice:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Band 8 Beginners | <input type="checkbox"/> Band 8 Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chorus 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Art/Drama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strings 8 Beginners | <input type="checkbox"/> Strings 8 Advanced |

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS PROGRAM (ELL)

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	TRANSITIONAL / ELC
ELL English (XLDCE10EN1)	ELL English (XLDCE10EN2)	ELL English (XLDCE10EN3)	Transitional English (XLDCE10TEN) (XLDCE10TENJ)
ELL Literature (XLDCE10LT1)	ELL Literature (XLDCE10LT2)	ELL Literature (XLDCE10LT3)	English Language Development (XLDCE10SUP)
ELL Social Studies (XLDCE10SS1)	ELL Social Studies (XLDCE10SS2)	ELL Social Studies (XLDCE10SS3)	Transitional Social Studies (XLDCE10TSS) (XLDCE10TSSJ)
ELL Science (XLDCE10SC1)	ELL Science (XLDCE10SC2)	Regular Science	Regular Science
ELL Life Skills (XLDCE10LS1)	ELL Life Skills (XLDCE10LS2)	Planning 10 (Grades 10 & 11) (MPLAN10ELL)	Elective
Math	Math	Math	Math
P.E.	P.E./Elective	P.E./Elective	P.E. / Elective

VSB DISTRICT PROGRAMS

Referral of students to the following programs is through VSB Central Screening only. Course descriptions are available through the Student Services Department of the Vancouver School Board.

- JUNIOR CONNECTIONS PROGRAM
- JUNIOR LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM
- LEARNING ASSISTANCE / LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM

COUNSELLING SERVICES

The resources of the Counselling Department are available to students and their parents. If students require information concerning their present or future educational and career plans or if they wish to discuss any problem of concern to them, the Counselling Department is ready to assist them.

The general policy is to allow a student to choose any of the counsellors with whom he or she wishes to relate. However, for course planning, each counsellor has a grade responsibility and each student is assigned a counsellor according to grade level. There are six counsellors in the department. Each is trained in many different areas such as vocational, educational and personal-social counselling.

LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS

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

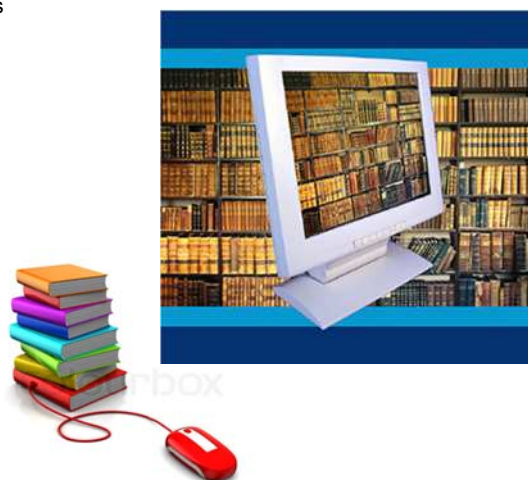
We have **30 computers** and a high volume printer (sorry, no colour) and scanner for students to use during and after school hours. Consider joining Killarney's awesome **Reader's Advisory Club** and/or **Library Club** – a great opportunity to meet new friends, do meaningful volunteer work and have fun in a busy, lively place! The Library Learning Commons is **open daily 8:40 – 4:00 pm**.

Make sure to prepare yourself as a learner, by checking out Killarney's **Library Learning Commons** webpage at <https://sites.google.com/site/killarneysecondarylibrary/>

As a grade 8, you should know how to do the following:

- Look up and find a book on the school library catalogue
- Find a book from the shelves
- Find valid, online research sources (hint: use the DATABASES)
- Create a WORKS CITED (list of references)
- Put your Works Cited list at the back of all research projects
- All grade 8 English classes will have Library orientations in

Killarney's teacher-librarians look forward to meeting you!
- Ms. North & Ms. Greer



HEALTH & CAREER EDUCATION



H.C.E. 8, 9 are required for graduation; it is taught by the grade counsellors, through P.E. or Humanities classes.

Evaluation is based on attendance, effort and attitude, quality assignments and projects. The goals of guidance and counselling are to assist students in finding realistic and meaningful solutions to their problems, to guide and advise students regarding their educational and vocational pursuits, and to help prepare students to live happily and productively in a rapidly changing society.

The core guidance / HCE curriculum for Grades 8 and 9 consists of:

A. Educational Guidance

- orientation to school (stressed at Grade 8 level)
- Academic achievement
- Post-secondary institutions
- Trends in education
- Post-secondary school plans
- Study techniques & time management
- Course planning

B. Vocational Guidance

- world of work
- Psychometric testing
- Career cruising (on internet site)
- Vocational selection program
- Changing world
- Vocational exploration & educational goals
- Trends in employment

C. Understanding Behaviour

- individual differences
- Family roles
- Personality growth
- Individual & inter-personal relations
- The family & its place in society
- Mental & emotional health
- Child abuse
- Family life topics
- Physical growth
- Social relationships
- Self-concept—how I see myself and how other see me
- Substance abuse
- Personal safety

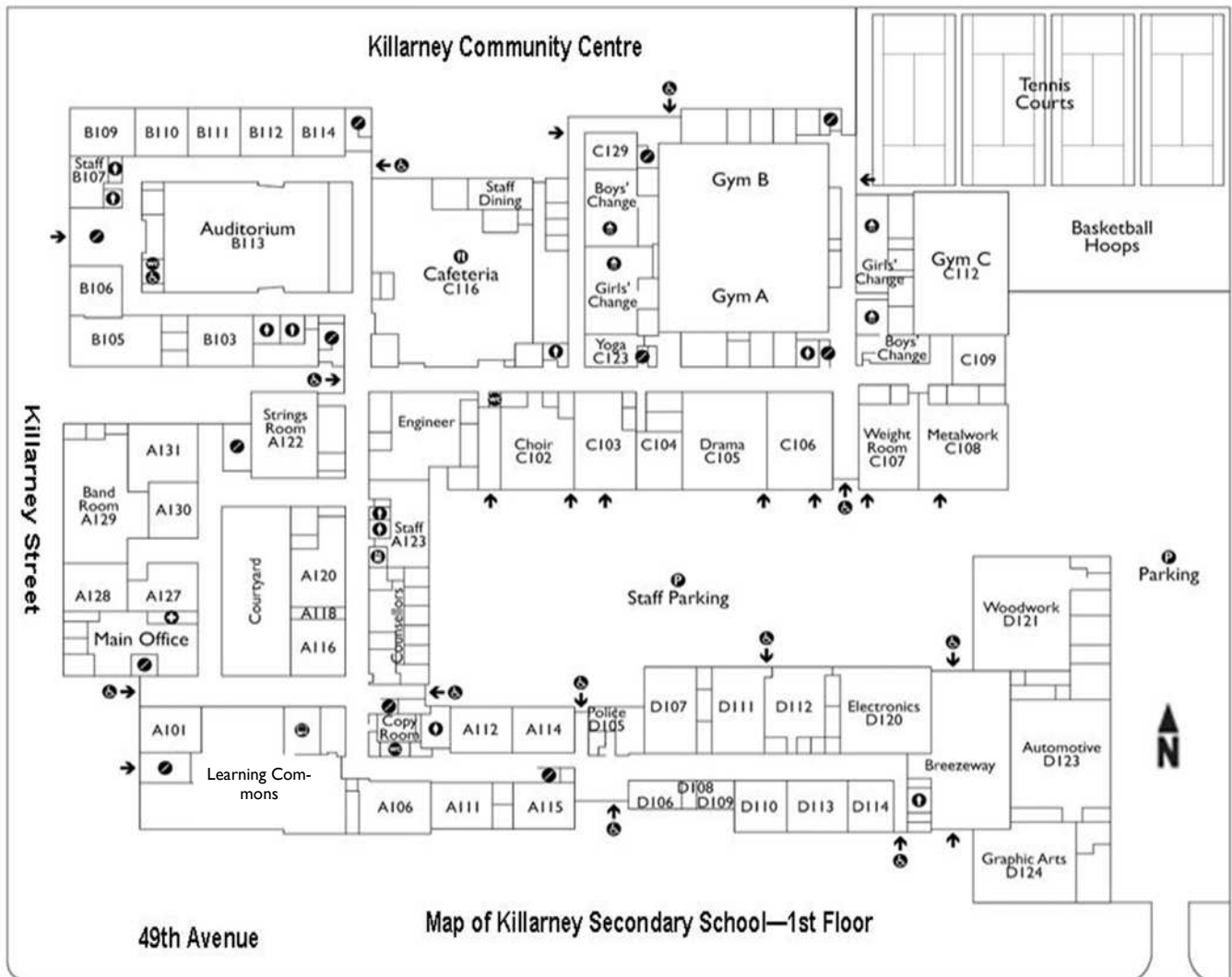
D. Communications

- defining types of communication
- quality of communication
- the media
- fostering dialogue
- group communication
- relating to teachers, parents
- non-verbal communication
- how well you listen
- pitfalls in communications:
- institutional values & personal values, fact, opinion, elementary logic

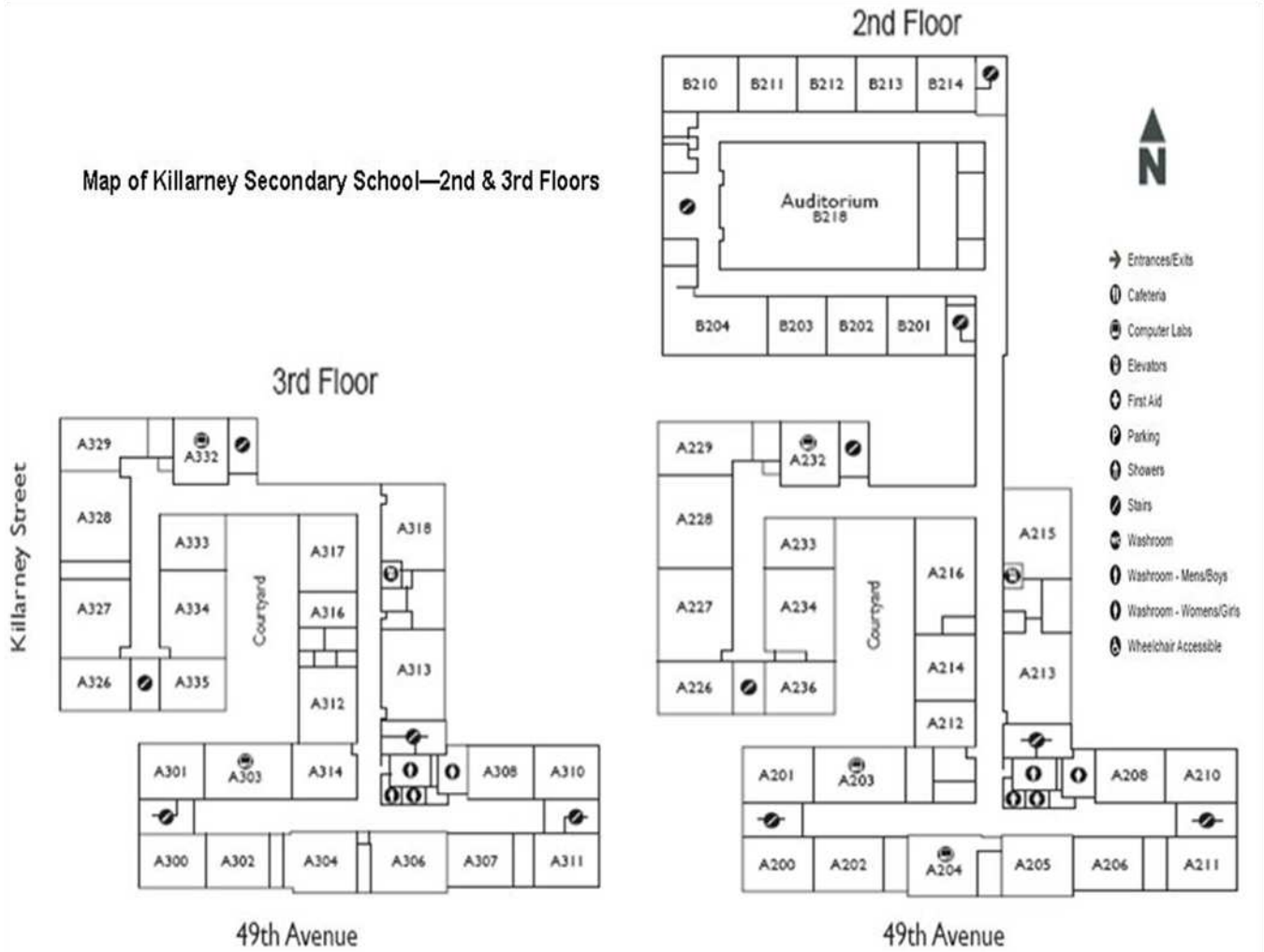
E. Values

- values defined
- value trends
- value systems in contemporary societies
- values in other societies
- philosophical viewpoints
- values in real life situations





Map of Killarney Secondary School—2nd & 3rd Floors



KILLARNEY SCHOOL CLUBS & ATHLETICS

CLUBS:

Anime Club
 Board Games Club
 Cycling Club
 Environment Club
 Gay/Straight Alliance
 Japan Club
 KC2 (Killarney Christian Fellowship)
 Key Club
 KYMI Youth Mentors
 Leadership Club
 League of Legends
 Library Club

CLUBS:

Link Crew
 Math Help Club
 Model U.N. Club
 Physics Club
 Programming Club
 Robotics Club
 Service Club
 SPCA Club
 Student Street Squad
 Tech Club
 Theatre Production
 Yearbook Club

ATHLETICS:

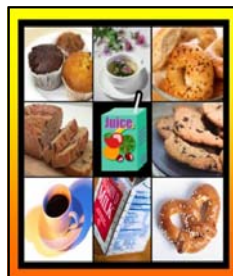
Badminton (ALL)
 Basketball (ALL)
 Cross-country (ALL)
 Field Hockey (Girls only)
 Golf (ALL)
 Ice Hockey (Girls only)
 Soccer (ALL)
 Tennis (ALL)
 Track & Field (ALL)
 Ultimate Frisbee (ALL)
 Volleyball (ALL)
 Wrestling (ALL)

Why join a club?

*Develop your current interest or talent with likeminded students.
 Try something new. Expand your circle of friends.
 Fun and Food. You can't join the party if you're not in the club.*

The list of clubs varies from year to year depending on the number of interested students and whether there is a sponsor.

*Clubs are an integral part of Killarney in many ways.
 Sign up and contribute to your Killarney Secondary School experience.*



RECIPE FOR A GREAT MORNING START:

- 7-8 hours of sleep
- 1 healthy breakfast
- 30 minutes of walking
- Done daily leads to health and wellness.

To assist those who are in a hurry and don't have time to eat breakfast, the Killarney Cafeteria is able to offer:

- Cookies, Juice, Milk, Banana Loaf or Bagels (8:00-8:30 am)
- Muffins, Scones or Pizza Pretzels (8:30—9:00 am)

START YOUR DAY WITH A SMILE!



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



ENGLISH

All students are required to take English or Humanities in grade 8. Teachers of English courses are given a great deal of freedom to choose material to meet the needs of specific classes and individual students. English courses offer students a wide range of reading material. All courses include a variety of literary forms: Novels, Poetry, Plays, Short Stories, etc.

ENGLISH 8

The English 8 program provides an introduction to all skills with a special emphasis on developmental reading. There is an emphasis on the enjoyment of English through investigation and exploration.

ART / DRAMA

The student will spend half a year in each subject area.

DRAMA 8 (DR8)

Welcome to one of the biggest programs in the VSB. With over 500 students enrolled in the Theatre & Film program, students in Grade 8 will develop:

- self confidence
- skills in team building
- Creativity
- work ethic
- organization and commitment.

Throughout the semester, students will do a variety of activities and assignments to build life skills and confidence.



BAND

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

BEGINNER'S CONCERT BAND - LEVEL ONE

Prerequisite - None. Any interested student with no previous band experience is eligible.

This is a beginner's course that focuses on teaching students skills in reading music, breathing, articulation, scales, arpeggios, music terms and performing. Tubas, baritones, oboes, synthesizers and large percussion equipment are available at the school. All other instruments must be supplied by the students. Students of any grade may join this band.

ADVANCED CONCERT BAND 8 - LEVEL TWO

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

* **STAGE BAND** is available starting in grade 9.

CHORUS 8

Prerequisite - None, but previous experience in singing is helpful. A full year course for boys and girls concentrating on two and three part singing, ear and voice training, sight reading and some basic music theory. The student must be prepared to take part in performances as they occur. One pianist is also required as accompanist, minimum standard - Royal Conservatory, Grade 9.

STRINGS 8 BEGINNER - LEVEL ONE

Prerequisite - None. There are six levels of string orchestra. If students have never played a stringed instrument before, they should enter the program at level one.

This is a beginner's course in learning to play string instruments (viola, cello, bass). Viola, cello and bass instruments may be rented from the school if available. Students may study violin in grade 9 if this course is taken as a prerequisite. Students of any grade are eligible. One pianist is also required, minimum standard-Toronto Conservatory Grade 8.

STRINGS 8 ADVANCED - LEVEL TWO

This course is designed for students who have taken a minimum of one year in the V.S.B. string program or private instruction on the violin, viola, cello or bass. This is a continuation of the elementary school program.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

APPLIED SKILLS: Students will have experience working in three applied skills areas:

BUSINESS EDUCATION 8

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

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

THEN, THIS IS THE COURSE FOR YOU!!!

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



HOME ECONOMICS 8

Students develop useful skills in Home Economics courses, and can transfer these to their home lives. Home Economics 8 is an introductory applied skills course for all Grade 8's, in two parts:

FOODS & NUTRITION



Foods and Nutrition offers students the opportunity to learn basic principles of nutrition and food preparation. Students are encouraged to develop healthy eating habits. Basic cooking techniques will be practiced as students prepare fun and healthy snacks and meals. Students will practice the safe use of a variety of kitchen appliances and equipment.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

This section of the course gives students an introduction to the safe and efficient use of the sewing machine and other basic sewing tools. Small projects are completed, such as shorts, lunch sacks, sports bags, cushions or aprons. Students also learn about the selection and care of personal clothing.



HOME ECONOMICS:
Don't leave school without it!

TECHNICAL STUDIES

Students will be introduced to a combination of the following Technical Studies subjects:

DRAFTING 8



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

WOODWORK 8



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

METALWORK 8



Metalwork has been designed for the beginning student and his/her future courses. This course is primarily a practical course in the technology of metal shaping and fabrication. Basic jewelry production is also covered.

Some machines studied and used are:

1. drill press
2. grinder
3. buffer and many hand machines

Methods of working steel into useful take-home projects are studied and projects are made.

ELECTRONICS 8

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

- building various electronic circuits, with an electronic laboratory kit (The Blinker-Robot Project).
- learning to read and draw electronic drawings
- identifying and using electronic components
- techniques of soldering

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



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FRENCH



The new French curriculum stresses the communicative approach which focuses on developing the ability to understand a message and to respond appropriately. All courses will stress this oral approach (listening and speaking) and these will be balanced with a knowledge of grammar and its attendant reading and writing skills. Culture will be an integral part of the curriculum to stimulate the student's enjoyment of French and to arrive at an appreciation of other peoples and their cultures. There will be time for enrichment and creativity e.g. projects, oral presentations.

It is important to note that the language courses at Killarney are NOT designed for students with a previous knowledge of the language, from home contact or from immersion language studies.

FRENCH 8

This introductory course uses the Ca Commence and Passages 1 program. This is a theme based approach in which students are encouraged to participate and learn vocabulary and grammar structures to enable them to communicate in written and oral French at the beginner level. Students will be introduced to authentic documents and taped materials to create an awareness of the francophone world. Students work in pairs or larger groups and learn to respect other opinions, make and accept decisions and work to deadlines. Both self and peer evaluation play a large part.

HUMANITIES 8



Humanities 8 is a double block course which covers the English 8 and Social Studies 8 curricula. Humanities 8 integrates the Social Studies and English course content using a thematic approach. Students attend the course for two consecutive hours three times per week with the same teacher. A single mark is assigned for this double credit course.

Students for Humanities 8 are randomly selected by the computer. Since Humanities 8 is neither an honours or a remedial course, an average cross-section of students take the course.

Humanities is a branch of learning concerned with people's ideas, beliefs and values. It includes such disciplines as geography, philosophy, literature and history. Throughout the year, students will work on the following skills: reading, writing, library research, geography skills, poetry and oral language.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8



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

Swimming is required for all students in P.E. 8 and the only students exempted are those with a current, valid, medical certificate. The water safety component of the swimming course will be taught in the classroom. Grade 8's will take the Red Cross Junior Resuscitation program (or its equivalent).

Proper gym strip is required of all students enrolled in Physical Education. Shirts imprinted with logos or with pictures of rock bands, drugs, alcohol, cartoons, sex slogans, obscenities, etc., are not suitable attire and will not be permitted. Proper supportive running shoes are required. Socks are mandatory.

SCIENCE 8

Prerequisite: None

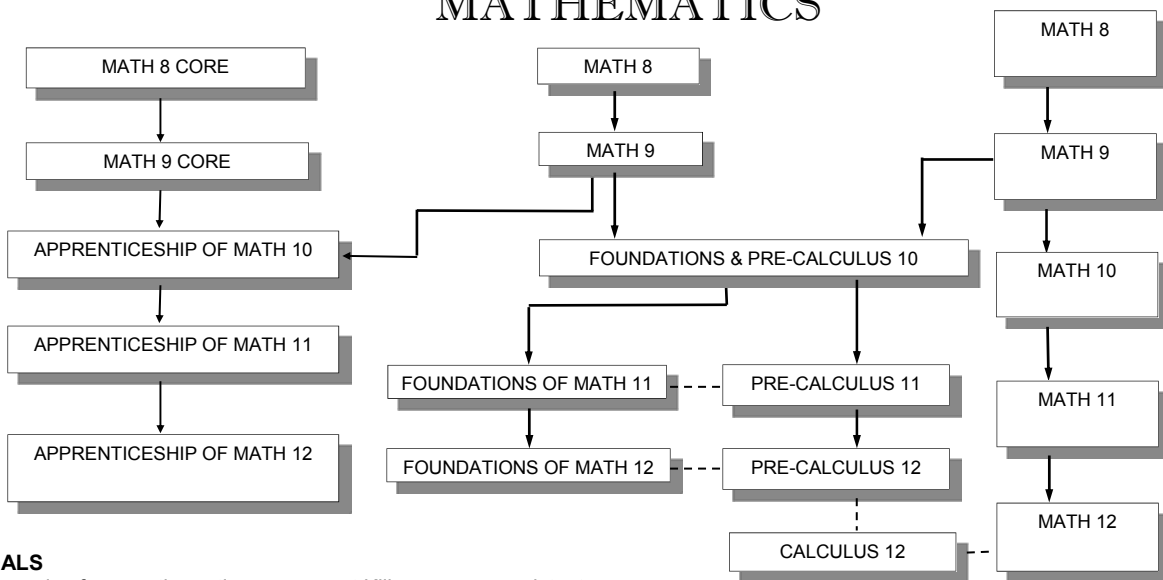
1. **Life Science:** Cells and Systems, Characteristics of living things, Cells, Organs and organ systems, Immune system
2. **Physical Science:** Optics, Waves, Visible Light, Electromagnetic Radiation, Human vision
3. **Physical Science:** Fluids and Dynamics, Force, Kinetic Molecular Theory, Density, Pressure, Temperature, Area and force in fluids, Natural and constructed fluid systems
4. **Earth and Space Science:** Water Systems on Earth, Ocean salinity and temperature, Landscapes shaped by water and ice, Productivity and species distribution in aquatic environments.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

This course has three major areas of study.

1. Medieval Europe from the fall of Rome to the Renaissance and the age of Discovery is explored.
2. Geography skills (mapping, map scale, direction, climate, latitude and longitude).
3. Cultures and Religion will provide a survey of India, China and world religions.

MATHEMATICS



GOALS

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

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

COURSE SELECTION

Killarney's Mathematics Department offers a variety of courses designed to meet the needs of all students. You will be assisted by your present mathematics teacher in choosing appropriate mathematics courses for the following year. Ask your mathematics teacher if you have any concerns about your choice of the courses available.

In selecting your courses in mathematics, remember the following: Your choices should be appropriate for your long-range goals and realistic in relation to your present level of achievement. Placement in an honours section is subject to approval by the mathematics department.

CALCULATORS

The mathematics curriculum of B.C. is designed to enable students to make use of calculators in the development of their understanding of concepts and in problem solving. Each student is required to have his or her own calculator. No calculators are used in Grade 8 and most of Grade 9. The school has limited supply of graphing calculators for in class use.

GRADE 8

Students entering Grade 8 at Killarney are placed in one of two main groupings based upon the recommendation of their grade 7 teacher and results obtained on placement testing that occurs in the spring and in September of each year. Entrance into Math 8 Honours is based on other assessments. Please see the Math 8 Honours webpage at killarneysecondary.com for details.

MATHEMATICS 8 (MMA—08)

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

MATHEMATICS 8 CORE (MMA—08COR)

This course is designed for those students who have had trouble in elementary school mathematics. The curriculum is adapted from the Grade 8 mathematics program and the classes are generally smaller than regular Grade 8 mathematics classes. Students may take Math 9 with a teacher recommendation.

MATHEMATICS 8 HONOURS (MMA-08HON)

This course is designed for those students with a strong mathematics background. It is part of a 3-year acceleration program. Criteria used to help determine which students enter the course.

- Mathematics Honours Entrance Assessment
- Gauss Contest Results
- Articulation with Grade 7 teacher

More detailed information can be found on Killarney's website: killarneysecondary.com



TRACKS and CORE PROGRAMS

The **Tracks** program is designed for students who struggle socially and emotionally and whose emotional issues have a significant impact on their learning. Students in the program are enrolled in the same four core subjects of Mathematics, English, Social Studies and Science and move together as a pod to these classes. The teachers of these courses are selected for their skill in working with this population and monthly meetings are held with all four teachers, tutorial teachers, support staff and grade 8 counselor to discuss ongoing and emergent issues within the program. The courses cover the regular Grade 8 curriculum with the only adaptation being a smaller class size (17 students instead of 30). The intention is for students from Tracks to enter the regular Grade 9 program in their Grade 9 year. This program does not support students who require externalized behaviour support or who have attendance issues.

The **Core** program is designed for students who struggle academically, are not meeting grade level expectations and who do not have significant attendance or behaviour difficulties. The program includes the core subjects of English, Social Studies and Science and students move together as a pod to these classes. In addition to the academic courses, the students will also be enrolled in a Tutorial block together which will focus on additional literacy and numeracy skills. Students have the option of being in regular Math 8 or Math 8 Core. Students can be enrolled only in Math 8 Core. The teachers of these courses are selected for their skill in working with this population and monthly meetings are held with all four teachers, tutorial teachers, support staff and grade 8 counsellor to discuss ongoing and emergent issues within the program. The courses survey the Prescribed Learning Outcomes of the regular grade 8 curriculum and are adapted to meet the needs of the students within the class. The size of the classes will also be smaller (18 students instead of 30). Students from the Core program will most likely move onto Core 9 courses but there is opportunity for movement into other academic courses.

Students are requested for the **Tracks / Core program through recommendations from elementary school staff, the Community Schools Team, Youth and Family Worker and counsellors** during the articulation process. Students may or may not have a ministry designation.

TUTORIAL (Instead of French 8)

Tutorial provides subject support and intensive remediation to students in Grades 8, 9, and 10 who are struggling academically. Students are grouped by grade and class size is generally between 10 and 15 students. These students may or may not be ministry designated. The goal of the course is to strengthen basic skills, fill in the gaps they may have missed along the way and to increase overall academic confidence so that they can continue in the regular stream of secondary education. If necessary, students can pick up language credits in later years. **Students are requested for Tutorial through recommendations from elementary school and counselors during the articulation process.**



ELL PROGRAM

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)

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

Students who are English Language Learners with strong language, reading and writing skills are placed in regular classes. They may receive a language support block in the English Language Centre.

Killarney Mini School



Always Faithful



PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of the Mini School is to provide an enriched academic program for students in Grades 8-10 in English, Social Studies, Project Innovation, Math and Science. Students in the Mini are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning through integrated cooperative projects. The teaching styles employed throughout the program will appeal to motivated, independent, critical thinkers. A strong emphasis is placed on outdoor education, leadership, character development, project based inquiry and learning. Students must enrol in all four courses and may not elect to opt out of any class.



STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

This is a District Program open to all Vancouver students. Demonstrated initiative, independence in learning and involvement outside the classroom are behaviours characteristic of students most likely to achieve success in the Mini School. Applicants should be risk takers who love a challenge and who are motivated to explore new interests with like-minded peers.

All candidates must be willing to learn cooperatively as well as independently and to explore a wide range of media to express their learning both in and outside of the school.



APPLICATIONS

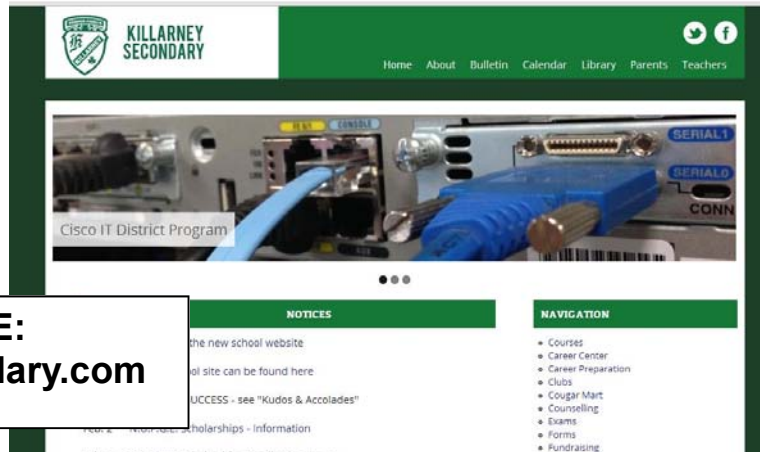
All applications for Grade 8 Mini are completed online when students are in Grade 7. These are available at the VSB website for alternate programs at www.vsb.bc.ca. Information brochures with a timeline are available in December to January from the Principal in each of the [catchment area elementary schools](#) or at the VSB website. Students who are attending other schools may obtain an information brochure from the Killarney school office. In addition to the on-line application, some information will need to be submitted to the school directly. Please be advised that deadlines for applications vary each year. Check the Killarney website for updates: killarneysecondary.com under Mini School.

Each year there may be spots available in Grade 9 and Grade 10 Mini. Current Killarney students can apply for these spots by submitting their names to the Mini School Coordinator in April.

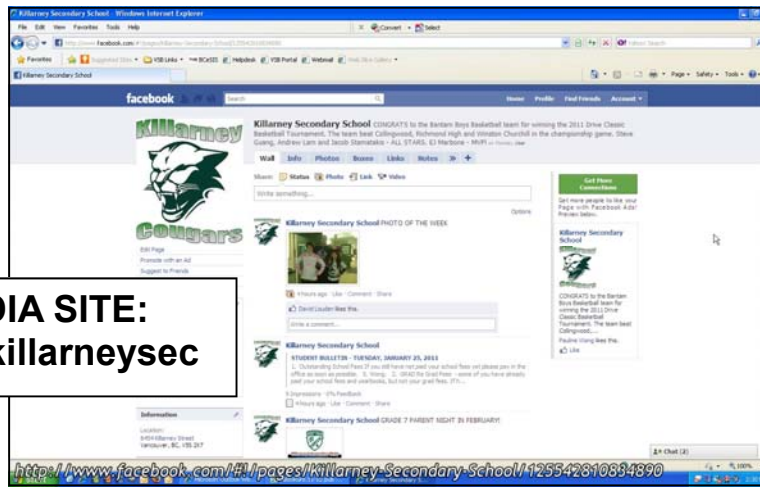


PROJECT INNOVATION

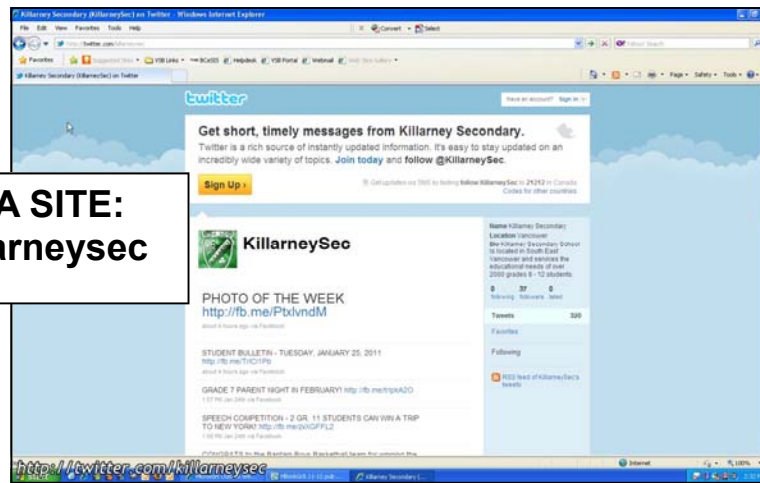
Mini School—Grade 8 students will be given opportunities to pursue their intellectual curiosity during an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. The year will be divided into a series of large projects based around the subject areas of Science, the Arts, English, Social Studies, Digital Media and Community Involvement. While allowing students some degree of choice, these rigorous projects will lead to heightened student motivation while helping students learn key academic content, improve critical thinking skills and enhance their abilities to appropriately use digital media.



WEBSITE:
killarneysecondary.com



SOCIAL MEDIA SITE:
facebook.com/killarneysec



SOCIAL MEDIA SITE:
twitter.com/killarneysec

This booklet has been formatted for viewing on the website at killarneysecondary.com

The paper version may appear slightly smaller.

We **strongly suggest** that you look at the Killarney website for updates on a continual basis.

- Bulletin
- Calendar
- Courses
- Career Centre
- Career Prep
- Clubs
- Cougar Mart
- Counselling
- Exams
- Forms
- Fundraising
- Graduates
- Kudos & Accolades
- Library
- Mini School
- Newsletter
- Parents
- Sports
- Teachers

This booklet is for your reference - please retain for your first year at Killarney - September 2015