

VCS Info Night: FAQ

Dear Parents,

The following answers may be subject to change in the coming months as we get clarity on enrolment numbers and parent, student, and staff input. We will be hosting more information meetings in the new year.

What about uniforms?

There will be no uniforms for K-8, with the exception of Grade 8 next year, and then only for one year. Next year will be a transition for all Grade 8-12s at VCS and they will be required to wear a uniform. They can wear either their Carver uniforms or order the new VCS uniform. The new uniform for Grades 8-12 will be a more casual one and will be determined by a focus group of parents, Carver students and staff in the coming months.

What about languages the current Grade 7s at Carver and their transition?

Next year, we will continue with 3 languages for Grade 8 to accommodate Grade 7 students coming from Carver. The following school year, 2019/20, 3 language choices will begin in Grade 9. Our Grade 8 class next year will be a transitional year in several ways.

What about the Wings Program?

- We are not going ahead with the Wings program in middle school for now.
- We will be approaching enrichment for the middle school in another way. There will be plenty of opportunities for highly-motivated students to be challenged within the curriculum and the program that we've designed for the middle school.
- The new BC Ed program allows for much more enrichment learning opportunities within the regular curriculum.
- VCS already has a reputation for going beyond expectations in academics and challenging students.
- We are considering core math and enrichment math options in Grade 8. Also, we have a transition plan for current students in Wings 8: it is the Honours 9 courses.

Honours and AP

VCS will be providing opportunities for this in the 9-12 grades.

Our Honours program includes individual honours courses tailored for highly-motivated learners who display strong aptitude and motivation in a particular course, with the purpose of encouraging them to further develop their God-given talents in a certain area of study.

We are planning to offer two types of Honours courses.

Courses that are accelerated:

Mathematics 9/10: Honours Accelerated

Science 9/10: Honours Accelerated

Courses that go deeper:

Foundations of Mathematics and Pre-Calculus 10: Honours

Pre-Calculus 11: Honours

English 9: Honours

Science 10: Honours

Social Studies 10: Honours

These Honours courses are in place for the grade 9/10 students, preparing them for AP courses in grade 12 as well as allowing them to balance their senior course load better (especially for students who need to take Calculus AP in grade 12).

Advanced Placement benefits students in a number of ways:

- AP provides students with both acceleration and enrichment.
- AP provides students with opportunities to participate in rigorous and academically challenging courses.
- Students gain invaluable experience with first year university courses while attending high school.
- Many universities offer first year university course credit towards a Bachelor's degree or advanced placement (allowing students to skip introductory level courses) for students who are successful on the end-of-course AP Exam.

Vancouver Christian School will consider offering a few of the following AP courses for the 2018-2019 year based on student enrolment: AP Calculus, AP Psychology, AP Chinese, AP Studio Art...to name a few. There will be more details given out in Dec/Jan.

Boundaries between K-12 students?

Our goal is to have all students see themselves as part of a K-12 community and so we will look for ways to bring them together. At the same time, MS school and HS will be on a different timetable, have their own areas, and enter the school through different doors.

How will special needs students be served?

VCS and Carver currently have a very strong and successful Special needs program. As always, a student's individual needs and IEP will serve to direct his or her path. We look forward to having our elementary, MS and HS build stronger connections as students transition through the grades.

Will there be busing?

We are looking at two key areas to pick up and drop off students. Through the link provided online, you can give us valuable information about your location.

Traffic

We will have a very specific plan to address traffic. We hope to hire a traffic supervisor who will monitor this. We really encourage students to sky train and bus to school. The bus stop is less than a 5 minute walk. We will also stagger hours of operation just like we have always done in the past.

Can we do it all?

No, we can't do it all. We are a small school and we believe there is great value in being a small educational community. We know that we will have some growing pains and we will need time to fully integrate and realize our goals.