



Greetings From the Staff of Georges P. Vanier Secondary School

TOPICS IN THIS EMAIL

Welcome to the new school year

Bus registration & bus routes

Home rooms and where to find them

Vanier's school day, and lunch times

Counsellor & Admin teams to support students

Student Fees for 2023-2024, Locks and Lockers

Supplies Lists for Vanier students

MyEducationBC accounts for parents and students

Timetables and Course Changes

Flex Days

Cell phone use

SOME IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

September 6th – Opening Day for new students, dismissal at 12:15 pm

September 7th – First full day of school for all grades

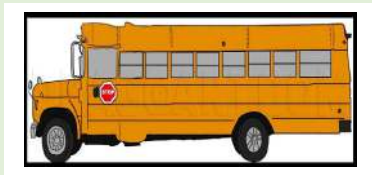
September 12th – Photo Day

September 13th – Presentation for Parents – Thriving at High School, 6:30 pm MPR

September 19th – September PAC Meeting



We would like to take this time to welcome all our students, both new and returning, to the new school year, as well as let parents and students know what next week and the new school year will look like for them. Wed, September 6th will be a shortened day specifically for new students to Vanier only, regardless of grade. As we have more than 450 students new to Vanier, this will allow them to tour the building with their homeroom teachers, find their classes, and meet our staff and their teachers on a day that is a little quieter than normal. Our information package can be found [HERE](#) for grade 8 students and parents and [HERE](#) for grade 9-12 student and parents.



Buses will pick up students at their regular morning times and start leaving Vanier at 12:25. Students should have registered for a bus pass and received their route information already. Registration for a bus pass can be found [HERE](#). After Monday, Sept 11th, students will require their bus pass to ride the bus or have a temporary pass from the school office. **Please take a picture of your bus pass, as this will be sufficient to show your bus driver.** Students will receive bus passes in the first week of school during their homeroom class.

HOMEROOM

Home rooms for each student and a map of the school will be posted in a number of locations around our school. When students get to their homeroom, they will receive their timetable, a map of the school and demographics (to be verified by parents, signed and returned). To be prepared for the day, students should have a pen, paper, and binder – anything else, the teachers will let them know about.

SOME INFORMATION YOU MAY FIND USEFUL

Vanier's school day will be 9:05 – 3:10, every day. Lunch will be from 11:50 – 12:35. Students will have four classes a day. Vanier will be incorporating Flex Days into our calendar, which will occur on some Wednesdays. More information will follow on the calendar.





Counsellors and administrators work as a team to support students. If you have any questions regarding your child that we can help you with, please refer your questions to the appropriate team members. Students are assigned to teams based on last names – last names A-G admin David Mayert, counsellor Katherine Brach, last names H-N admin Jennifer Fritzsche, counsellor Stephanie Morris, last names O-Z admin Lee McKillican, counsellor Jocelyn Schultz. Email addresses can be found on our website [HERE](#)



School fees for the 2023-2024 school year have been covered by the student and family affordability funds, a one-time funding that has been provided by the ministry to help offset costs to families due to global inflation. Vanier also purchased a large amount of paper, pens, pencils, subject dividers, etc. to support families with some of these back to school costs. These supplies will be in classrooms and available to all students that need them.

An optional 2023–2024 yearbook is available for purchase which is \$55 this year – with a special discount for September set at \$50. Click [HERE](#) for online payment process through MYED if you are interested.

A lock and locker will be issued through homeroom. Students **will not need** to purchase a lock unless they wish to have one to use in the PE changerooms, which is recommended.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



The school has purchased a large amount of supplies (pens, pencils, paper, subject dividers) to support families at this time with the student and family affordability funds. These supplies will be available in homeroom and subject teacher's classrooms.

School supply lists are not available from the office, as any extra supplies beyond the basics will be communicated by each subject teacher. Basic supplies such as pens, pencils, paper and a binder will get students through the first few days of school. Many classes are moving to blended learning, utilizing technology inside the classroom. A Bluetooth keyboard paired with an electronic device would be beneficial for them, and students are allowed to bring laptops to school if they wish to use their own.

PAC INFORMATION

Please check our website [HERE](#) for events and updates, as well as PAC meetings and minutes. PAC meetings are held regularly on the third Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 pm. All parents of a Vanier student are welcome to attend. PAC is always looking for interested parents to fill executive roles and is a wonderful way to stay connected and know what is going on at the school. September's PAC meeting will be held on September 19th. Agendas (and invitations if meetings are held electronically) will be communicated through our website, and Week-At-A-Glance that we send home to parents.

MyEducationBC



The Parent Portal and Student Portal of MyEducationBC will be reactivated soon, so that this year's schedules can be viewed. The student portal and parent portals are identical, except a parent account can be linked to several student accounts, allowing you to log in once for all your children. MyEd is a great tool for knowing if your son or daughter is falling behind or has work yet to be handed in to the teacher. Report cards are sent home electronically through MyEd. Students can check their transcripts, and parents can check which class a student was marked absent. We can send you some resources that will help navigate the program if you wish to receive them. Susan Quinton, our clerical team member, can help reset your password if you are having any trouble with your account. Her email is Susan.Quinton@sd71.bc.ca.



COURSE CHANGES

G.P. Vanier Course Change Request Guidelines

Due to the complexity and volume of course change requests, **we will not be able to process change requests via email or over the phone.** Thanks for your understanding.

Course changes will take place over the first few days of school. Students needing course changes should listen to the announcements and come to the counselling office when their grade is called.

Schedule for Course Change Requests (Approximate)

September 6 Wednesday – **New Students (without timetables)**

September 7 Thursday – **Grade 12's**

September 7 Thursday – **Grade 11's**

September 8 Friday – **Grade 10's**

September 11 Monday – **Grade 9's**

September 12 Tuesday – Last day for semester 1. **Any remaining (All Grades 9 – 12)**

International Students – wanting a course change must see Ms. Baron in room 124 during C block.

Students MUST attend all classes, even the classes they hope to change until the change has been made. If students do not have a class in a block, they should report to the library.



Schedule changes are extremely limited. We will try to accommodate course change requests for the following reasons:

- * I am missing a graduation requirement
- * I have a serious unbalanced academic load
- * I need to reschedule a failed course
- * I am missing a course that is needed for post-secondary
- * I have a semester 1 "See Counsellor" block

Course changes will NOT be granted for the following reasons:

- * I want a different teacher
- * I want to be with friends

Study blocks are granted for Grade 12's only. Grade 12's can request ONE Study Block for Semester 1. Study blocks for Semester 2 will not be granted at this time but can be applied for. Students can pick up a Study Block request form at the counselling office or print off the form from the G.P. Vanier website under Quick Links.

Teaching Assistant and **Independent Directed Study (IDS)** forms will be available on the table outside the counselling office.

FLEX DAYS

Sept 27, Nov 1, Dec 6, Jan 17, Jan 24 (Assessments)

COVID SPECIFIC INFORMATION

We will continue to follow all recommended COVID protocols from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and Local Health Authority. As such, this information may change if a new protocol or recommendation is made.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Electronic devices can be distracting to student learning. There is a significant body of research showing that increased technology use is linked to problems with mental health, focus, and the development of relationships and academic skills. Therefore, we will ensure that electronic devices are turned off and out of sight during class time unless students have been given permission to use them for educational, health or safety purposes. Students may use them during non-class time (before school, recess, lunch, after school, etc.) unless directed otherwise by a staff member.





If you are planning on volunteering for field trips or sporting events, **drivers** must complete the following:

Volunteer Driver Form Click [Here](#)

Criminal Record Check Click [Here](#)

Driver's Abstract

Copy of Driver's License

Proof of Insurance (1 million 3rd party liability)

If you are planning on volunteering as a **coach** or **chaperone**, you must complete a Criminal Record Check – Click [Here](#)

*Code of Conduct forms must be signed before participating in any sport.

*Criminal Record Checks are held for 3 years in our database and may be accessed by other schools in the district.



How do schools prepare for emergencies in SD#71?

What should parents/guardians do during emergencies?

How are emergencies at schools communicated to parents?

Learn about SD71's School Emergency Program [Here](#).





If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the administrators at Vanier – Julie Shields (principal), Lee McKillican, Jennifer Fritzsche, & Dave Mayert (vice principals). We very much look forward to working with your child and making this a great school year.

Julie Shields

Principal, Georges P. Vanier