

Thriving at High School

Vanier 2023/24



A Parent's Guide



Introductions

Welcome to High School

- How do you ensure your child is doing well at high school? Keep lines of communication open!
 - Email individual teachers - [website](#)





What does it
mean to be a
Vanier student?

A FOCUS ON SUCCESS: In everything we do, we're focused first on the success of our students.

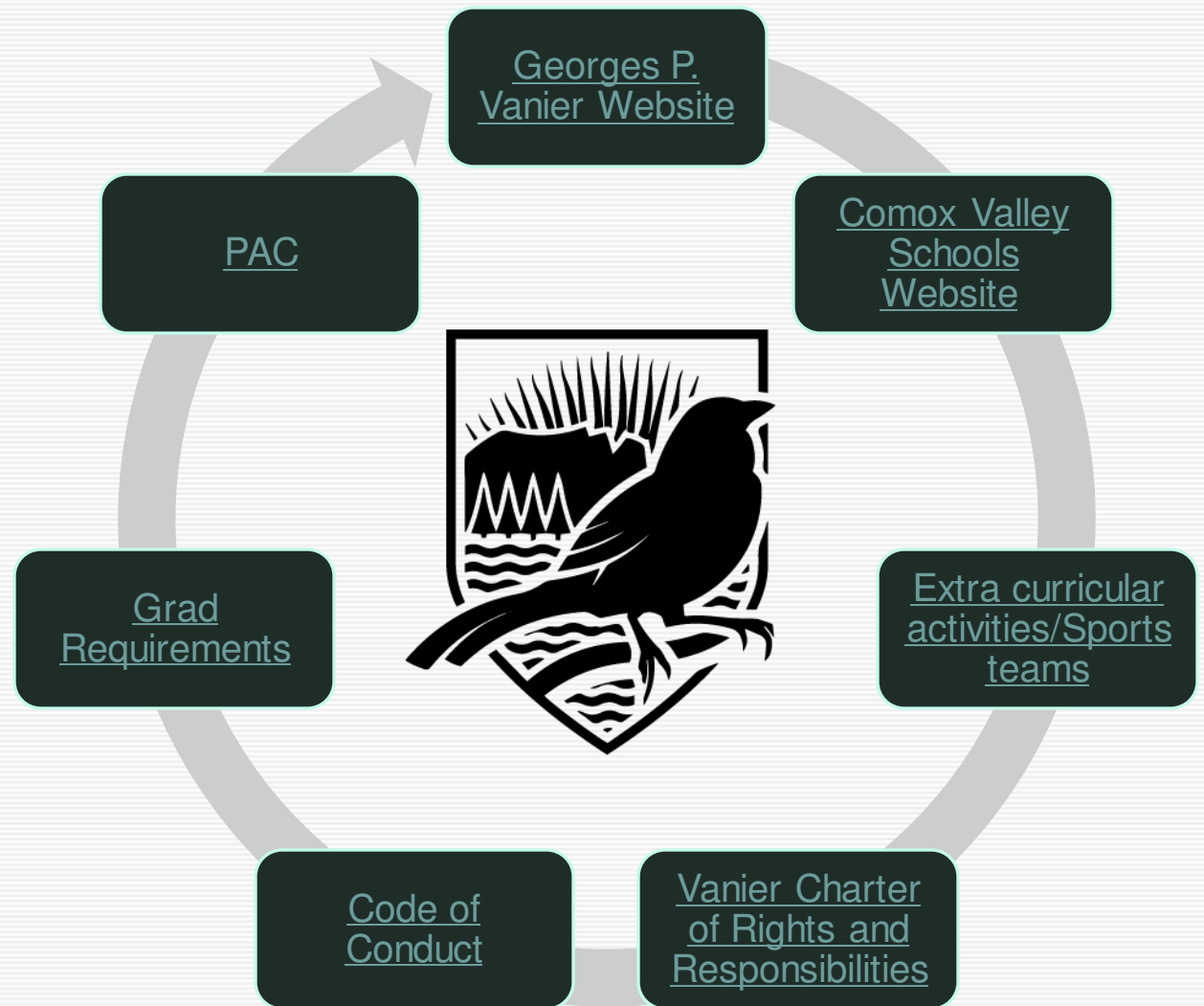
EACH STUDENT IS IMPORTANT: We want each student to know we care, we're here to prepare them for their career and life goals

POSITIVE SCHOOL SPIRIT: Assemblies, theme days, special events create a sense of teamwork and strong identity with Vanier. There is a tremendous sense of student pride in our school.

CITIZENSHIP AND VOLUNTEERISM: Terry Fox Run, Christmas Hamper Program, Leadership classes

Be Informed & Stay Informed

(Websites
and links)





Teacher:

Jeannine Walker

Support Workers:

Jacqueline Morgan (A-G)

Savannah Seigler (H-N)

Brittany Bjornson (O-Z)

Indigenous Education



Counsellors:

Katherine Brach (A – G)

Stephanie Morris (H – N)

Jocelyn Schultz (O – Z)

Sherry Patterson (Youth
and Family Support
Worker)

Counselling



What We Do

- Personal and mental health counselling
- Family consultation and support – help for parents around their child’s wellbeing or educational needs
- Referrals – help for students, parents and families to find the resources they need in the community
- Academic support, course selection, career and post-secondary planning
- Scholarship/Bursary information
- Help with study skills, organizational skills, time management, goal setting
- Support for concerns around substance use/addictions



Confidentiality for Personal Counselling

All conversations between students and counsellors are confidential; that means that they do not share information with parents, teachers, other students or school administrators without permission from the student.

Limits to Confidentiality:

- When the student tells the counsellor that they (the student) or another person is at serious risk of being hurt or killed.
- When the student tells the counsellor that they (the student) or another person has been hurt, abused or assaulted.
- In the rare event that a judge or court order requires a release of a student's file.

GP Vanier Counselling Website



G.P. Vanier 'Counselling Department'
Website



<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/gp-vanier-secondary/counselling-department/>



Book a Counselling Appointment



Scan QR Code



Come to the
Counselling
Office





Work Experience
Coordinators:

Kelly Giorgianni

Dawn Stevens

Work experience
Teachers:

Dawnn Thorson

Whitney Murphy

Careers Department



Teacher Librarian

Ken Errico

ken.errico@sd71.bc.ca

Library/Learning Commons



Learning Support Teachers:

Toril Turner

Laura Veary

Monica Strimbold

Lee McCall (behaviour
resource)

Learning Support

Terms/Semester/Yearlong

Report cards

Homework Club

[Parent Portal](#)

[Flex Days](#)

Academics



Cell Phone Policy

GP Vanier Cell Phone Policy (From Vanier Charter Rights and Responsibilities):

- I have the right to a learning environment free from distractions such as cameras, cell phones, or other personal electronic devices.
- I have the responsibility to keep my personal electronic devices at home or, if I bring them to school, off and secured in my locker or a bag during school hours. Phones should be put away before you enter the classroom and kept away until after you are dismissed. The only exception to this is when I have teacher permission during the class period to use my device for educational, health or safety reasons.



Cell Phone Policy

Why?

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, I will ensure that my electronic device is turned off and out of sight during class time unless I have been given permission to use it for educational, health or safety purposes. I may use them during non-class time (before school, recess, lunch, after school, etc.) unless directed otherwise by a staff member.



Progressive Discipline Cycle for Cell Phone Policy Violations

If a student has their phone out in class, without the explicit permission or invitation from a teacher, in violation of the code of conduct, the following steps will take place:

1. Verbal reminder and referral to policy and procedure.
2. Phone taken for the class, and email sent home to parents. Education package #1 provided to student.
3. 3. Phone taken to admin for the remainder of the day. Returned after a conversation with admin team. Email or phone call to parents. Education package #2. Meet with Youth and Family support worker.
4. 4. Phone taken to admin to communicate with parents. Students to be provided with a cell phone contract where the phone must be dropped off at office at the beginning of each day before school begins.
5. 5. Phone taken to admin who will follow up with disciplinary action. Phone will no longer be allowed at school. Recommendation that phone be left at home.

Attendance

- Call office or use the link on the website to report an absence
- Lates – check in at office
- Email end of day for absences
- 15/15 – students stay in class for first and last 15 mins
- Attendance policy revision



Flex Days

Beginning Wednesday, September 27th, students may have the opportunity to work from home for 5 Wednesdays per semester (See Calendar)

- Students will have the opportunity to pursue / maintain personal and educational growth in alignment with the core competencies.
 1. Students may choose to work at school and access supports available on site, or teachers may request the presence of some students in order to receive support.
 2. Students may choose to work from home if they have not been requested to come to school on Flex days.
 3. Parents may also request their child to be present at school on Flex days





CLUBS and Co-curricular

Dungeons and
Dragons –
Dave Randall

Ultimate
Frisbee–
Graeme Barber

Book Club –
Ken Errico

Student
Government –
Tim Krutzmann

GSA – Kristie
Keyworth

Rotary
Interact– Tracy
Rebitt

Environment
Club – Kristin
MacKinnon

Weight Lifting –
Ed LafLeur

Games – Jason
Arsenault

Destination
Imagination –
Dave Merrick

Improv – Lori
Mazey

Book Club –
Megan Haut

Jack.org –
Jocelyn Schultz

Robotics -
Dawson Ross

And MORE!

Athletics

Fall

Volleyball

Cross Country

Boys Soccer

Winter

- Basketball
- Wrestling
- Ski and Snowboard

Spring

- Track and Field
- Mountain biking
- Girls Soccer
- Rugby
- Golf
- Ultimate





Helping Your Child Succeed

Academic goals

Place to study

Attend parent programs

1 school success factor = attending daily

Help with time management

Listen

Monitor social media use