



RICHMOND SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HOME OF THE COLTS - ESTABLISHED IN 1927

Principal:	Ms. Anita Kwon	Address:	7171 Minoru Blvd, Richmond, BC, V6Y 1Z3
Vice Principals:	Ms. Adrienne Goulas & Mr. Lester Leung	Phone:	604-668-6400
PAC:	2 nd Wednesday at 6:30PM	Early Warning:	604-247-2658
Deputy Superintendent:	Mr. Rob Laing	X & Instagram:	@richmondcolts
Trustee Liaison:	Mr. Ken Hamaguchi	Website:	http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca

Principal's Message

Welcome to 2025! The start of a new year is an ideal time for students to revisit goals and make adjustments as necessary to be sure they are on a pathway to achieve personal goals and aspirations. January also marks the mid-way point of the school calendar and students will soon be asked to make course and program selections for the next school year. We urge our returning students and parents to read the course descriptions on the school website and for students to listen and ask questions – your counsellors and teachers, your parents, classmates, older siblings and friends can all help you make the right choices for next year. Our 2025-2026 timetable will be constructed based on student course selections, so choose your courses and alternate selections carefully and thoughtfully – take the time now to plan for your future success. I also remind members of our 2025 graduating class to be fully mindful during these final months of high school and enjoy this busy but memorable time. Please reach out to your counsellor or our career advisor if you need help planning any aspect of your post-secondary life.

Thank you, *Anita Kwon*

Inclement Weather Information



With increased cold and wet weather conditions, RHS families should review the district's [Information of Emergencies & Inclement Weather](#). During an emergency, the district's first priority is to ensure student and staff safety. The district works closely with local municipalities and emergency services to assess the situation, gather accurate information, and implement emergency safety protocols. The district will try to determine closures due to inclement weather by 6:30 AM. Updates will be delivered using social media and school and district websites. Only **school closures** will be announcement by the media. No announcement will be made saying that school are open.

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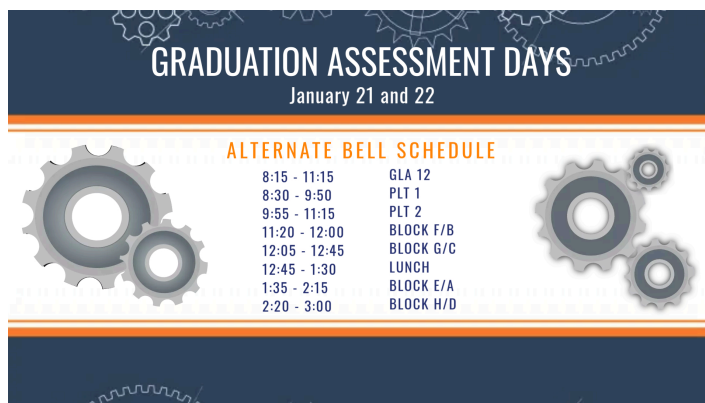


Graduation Assessment Days – Tuesday, January 21 & Wednesday, January 22

On January 21 and 22 we will host the Graduation Literacy 12 Assessment (GLA 12) for grade 12 students. Students must check their assessment date and time and location on the posted schedules. The schedules have been put up around the school and have also been posted on the **Richmond – Grade 12 Students MS Teams**. We will follow an alternate bell schedule on these days.

Please note the following instructions for ALL students on January 21-22:

- Students scheduled for the GLA 12 should **arrive by 8:00 AM** to their assigned location. Bring photo ID.
- **Grade 9s:** Report to the large gym for career education activities on January 22 in PLT 1.
- **Grade 10s:** Report to the Multipurpose room for a career programs presentation on January 21 in PLT 1.
- **Grade 11s:** Report to the Multipurpose room for a career programs presentation on January 22 in PLT 2.
- All other grade 8-12 students sign up for PLT 1 and PLT 2 sessions.



GRADUATION ASSESSMENT DAYS
January 21 and 22

ALTERNATE BELL SCHEDULE

8:15 - 11:15	GLA 12
8:30 - 9:50	PLT 1
9:55 - 11:15	PLT 2
11:20 - 12:00	BLOCK F/B
12:05 - 12:45	BLOCK G/C
12:45 - 1:30	LUNCH
1:35 - 2:15	BLOCK E/A
2:20 - 3:00	BLOCK H/D

Graduation Assessment Results

The November 2024 graduation assessment results are now available for students and parents to review. Students can access and view their results on either one of these platforms:

1. **MyEducation BC** - Family top tab > Assessment side tab
2. **Student Transcript Services (STS)** – Sign up for a BCeID at <http://www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca>

Mental Health #LetsTalk – Friday, January 24



The annual “Let’s Talk Day” that will be recognized all across Canada is on **Friday, January 24**. It is important for families and teens to spend time reflecting on what it means to be “healthy”. Many will identify being free of illness, eating well, getting enough sleep and exercising regularly as keys to ‘being healthy’ yet mental and emotional health may be taken for granted, or not talked about at all because of the stigma that may be attached to mental health issues. The truth is, many people wrestle with stress, anxiety, negative thoughts, feeling low or depressed at times in their lives and it is okay to talk about it. More importantly, we need to be ready to listen carefully to our family members and friends. Richmond Secondary School students need to know that we care about them. Our counsellors are always available and parents can get help from their family doctor or learn more on a wide range of excellent online resources. Explore some of these online sites:

<http://letstalk.bell.ca/en/>

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/mental-health>

<https://youthinbc.com>

<https://keltymentalhealth.ca>

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Program Planning & Course Selection for 2025-2026



Richmond Secondary School counsellors will host Grades 8-11 program planning assemblies for RSS students on **Thursday, February 6** and students will receive a personalized course selection form, learn about options for courses, graduation requirements and post-secondary pre-requisites to prepare them for choosing their courses for next year. Our timetable and staffing for 2025-2026 is determined based on student enrollment and course requests, so students must select courses carefully, taking into consideration their summer school and online learning plans. It is difficult to make course changes later in the process. Grades 8-11 students will have an opportunity to check and confirm their course selections later in the spring. Students and parents are encouraged to read the online course descriptions, discuss options with their classmates and current teachers, and choose courses thoughtfully. Please read the 2025-2026 RHS course descriptions online at: <https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/students/program-planning-course-selection> and be sure to carefully enter your course requests on the MyEducation BC Student Portal and get your completed course selection form signed by parents submitted to the office by **Thursday, February 13**. This is important. All student course requests will be checked by RHS counsellors and if students or parents have any questions about the course selection process, please contact your counsellor.

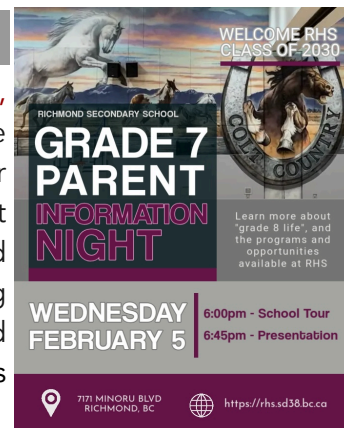


RSS Counselling Website
<https://www.rsscounselling.com>



Grade 7 Parent Information Night – Wednesday, February 5

We will host our Grade 7 Parent Information Night in the school theatre on **Wednesday, February 5** at **6:00 PM**. All parents and guardians of Grade 7 students who live in the Richmond catchment area and those who may apply to attend the school next year are invited to attend. This will be a great opportunity to get to visit the school, meet the principal, vice principals and some other staff, learn more about Richmond Secondary School, and ask any questions you may have. We look forward to meeting members of the RHS grad class of 2030! Parents can find out more by calling Richmond at 604-668-6400 or checking out our website at: <http://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/> and following us @RichmondColts on X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram.



Richmond School Transfer Process

Richmond students who want to apply for a transfer to a school that is outside of their catchment area **MUST APPLY TO TRANSFER**. This includes out-of-catchment students with a brother or sister currently at a secondary school and students currently in Grade 7 who attend a feeder school but live in another catchment area. Students who are already attending a secondary school out of their catchment area and want to stay, do not have to reapply. The Round 1 Transfer period will be from **February 3-28, 2025** and these applications are for the 2025-2026 school year. Transfer forms must be submitted to the school you are applying to, on or before **February 28**. Out-of-catchment students in grade 10 applying to the IB Diploma Programme **do not** have to submit a school transfer form. (IB applications were due Friday, January 10.)

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Governor General's Academic Bronze Medal

Congratulations to **Ethan Li** for being awarded the Governor General's academic bronze medal as the top student in Richmond Secondary School's graduating class of 2024. Ethan earned the highest combined grade 11 and 12 scholastic average out of 264 students in the graduating class.

"For more than 125 years, the Governor General's Academic Medals have recognized the outstanding scholastic achievements of students in Canada. They are awarded to the student graduating with the highest average from a high school, as well as from approved college or university programs. Pierre Trudeau, Tommy Douglas, Kim Campbell, Robert Bourassa, Robert Stanfield and Gabrielle Roy are just some of the more than 50 000 people who have received the Governor General's Academic Medal as the start of a life of accomplishment." *(SOURCE: Governor General of Canada Website)*



Richmond Reading Riot Returns



The 10th Annual Richmond Reading Riot has begun in the Richmond Secondary School Library Learning Commons! There are 12 titles from a diverse group of genres and authors. Read as many of the books as you want. Rate each book on the blue ballot and put it into the box in the LLC. The more you read, the more chances you have at winning weekly prizes and the grand prize giveaway. Happy Reading! 📖

Follow the school on X and Instagram and check our website regularly. All links can be found at <https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca>.



Parents and Caregivers Welcome at RHS!

The next Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting is on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 PM in-person in the Library Learning Commons (LLC). We have a special presentation from the RHS Counselling Department on program and career planning. We look forward to seeing new and returning parents and caregivers. Contact the RHS PAC at rhsbcpac@gmail.com.

The next Dry After Grad (DAG) meeting is on Thursday, January 16 at 6:00 PM in-person in the Library Learning Commons (LLC). DAG is looking for grade 11 and 12 parents and caregivers to help in organizing this fabulous end-of-the-year celebration for the RHS Grads of 2025. Contact the DAG at rhs2025dag@gmail.com.

erase Website



The **erase** (expect respect and a safe education) website is an excellent resource for parents and caregivers, as well as students and educators for valuable information and resources on topics such as mental health, SOGI, racism, bullying, consent, gender-based violence, on-line safety, and more:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

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Student Digital Personal Device Policy

This is a reminder that *Student Personal Digital Devices* should not be used unless permission has been granted. Students are expected to adhere to the Acceptable Use Guidelines and District Code of Conduct. Read the full policy at sd38.bc.ca/devices.

- Students should not use Personal Digital Devices during instructional time, unless permission is granted by the supervising staff for educational purposes.
- When not permitted, personal digital devices should be powered off, secured inside a student's backpack, locker or secured location.
- Personal digital devices are not to be used in areas where privacy is expected or required.
- Access to social media platforms from personal digital devices may be restricted on the school wireless network during instructional time

Note: Headphones/Air Pods/Ear Buds are personal digital devices and are subject to the policy.



Grade 12 News and Reminders – RHS Grads of 2025

The **PSI** portal on the Ministry of Education Student Secure Web Login is open and Grade 12s are urged to complete this task so post-secondary schools can access your grades – go to StudentTranscripts at: <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/welcome.jsp>

The **2025 Winter Formal** is on **Thursday, February 13** at the Riverside Banquet Hall's Grand Ballroom.

A mobile photo studio from Artona will be at Richmond Secondary School from **February 28 – March 9** and all Grade 12s who want their name and photo to be included on the **"RHS Grad 2025" composite** must book a sitting and have their photo taken by Artona: <http://www.artonagroup.com>

Grade 12s interested in applying for any of the internal Richmond Secondary **scholarships** must complete the "RSS Scholarship Form" available on the school website on or before **April 12** – remember, students must apply to be considered for any scholarships. Look on the RHS website under STUDENTS > Grade 12 Information.

The 30-word **Valedictory write-ups** are due by **April 11** – look on the RHS website under STUDENTS > Grade 12 Information.

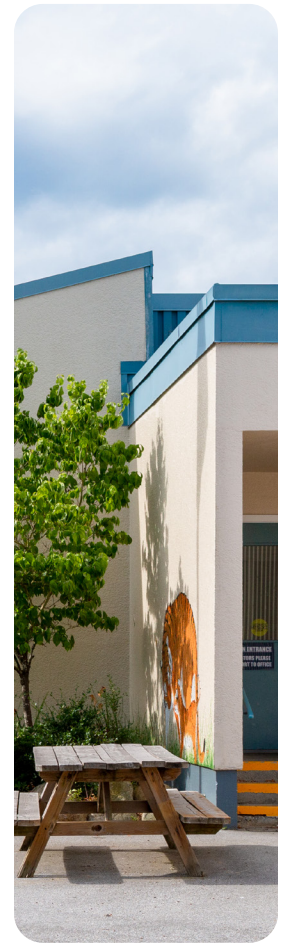
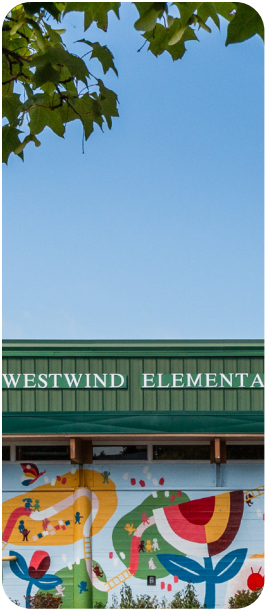
Grade 12s should also be checking the bulletin board by the Counselling Centre and the Career Information website at <https://rhs.sd38.bc.ca/students/rss-career-centre> for post-secondary and scholarship information and application deadlines and other news.

UPCOMING SCHOOL DATES

January 15	PAC Meeting 6:30 PM	February 11	Collaboration Day
January 16	DAG Meeting 6:00 PM	February 12	PAC Meeting 6:30 PM
January 21-22	Graduation Assessment Days	February 13	Course Selection Forms & Online Entry DUE
January 24	#LetsTalk Mental Health Day	February 13	Grade 12 Winter Formal
January 24	Pro-D Day	February 14	Valentine's Day ♥
January 29	Lunar Chinese New Year of the Dragon	February 14	Pro-D Day
February	Black History Month	February 15	Canada Flag Day! 🇨🇦
February 5	Grade 7 Parent Info Night at 6 PM	February 17	Family Day Holiday
February 6	Program Planning Assemblies	February 26	Pink Shirt Day at RHS
February 6	Informal Learning Update #2 Published	February 28-March 9	Formal Grad Photos by Artona

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Date: January 14, 2025

Time: 6-8 p.m.

Where: Zoom

Register: QR code below

ONLINE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLAN

The Richmond School District invites community members to participate in an Online Public Open House.

This virtual event offers a convenient opportunity to learn about the 2025 Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) and provide input that will help shape the district's long-term facilities strategy.

If you are unable to attend, you can still contribute. Email your questions or feedback to the Richmond Project Team at planning@sd38.bc.ca.

Scan QR code to register:





BECOME HOMESTAY at the RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Be a host for an international student for a month, semester or year. Richmond International Education (RIE) Homestay Program is looking for local families to offer a welcoming home.

Contact us to find out more about this enriching opportunity.

study@sd38.bc.ca

604-668-6217



RICHMOND
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ENRICHING GLOBAL MINDS