

2020-21

Mount Douglas Secondary Challenge Program



Take a tour of
Mount Doug at
[https://mountdoug.sd61
.bc.ca/](https://mountdoug.sd61.bc.ca/)

Challenge Coordinator - Ted Meldrum

EMAIL: tmeldrum@sd61.bc.ca

2020-2021



Mount Douglas Secondary School Challenge Program Faculty

Ted Meldrum – Challenge Coordinator – Mount Douglas



Ted Meldrum attained his Bachelor of Arts in Geography and History in 1994, finishing his degree during the evenings while working full time as a land surveyor assistant. Five years after graduating from the University of Victoria, Mr. Meldrum returned there and completed his post degree program, earning his teacher certification, finishing in the top 5% of his classes. Wherever Mr. Meldrum has taught, he has created innovative programs and revitalized existing ones. Mr. Meldrum has continued to hone all aspects of his teaching practices, connecting with youth at risk, improving student connections to learning, and enhancing interactions with gifted students. He is a co-winner of the Government of Canada History Awards for 2016. Ted has developed a holistic approach to

teaching, with an emphasis on students' skills, cognition, and mental well-being.

Neal Johnson – Science & Math – Mount Douglas



Neal Johnson received a Bachelor of Education in General Sciences (Expanded) with Distinction in 1996 from the University of Victoria. This specialized degree allowed him to focus on Physics integration with Biology, Chemistry, Astronomy and Earth Sciences. Mr. Johnson has been teaching Challenge since 1998 and coordinated the Challenge Program from 1999-2009. Recently, Mr. Johnson won an Outstanding Educator award from the University of Chicago. Mr. Johnson was himself designated “Gifted” as a child, and now has one of his own children with this designation. His interests outside school include construction and renovation work. Mr. Johnson teaches Science, Mathematics and Physics.

Ben Greene – English & Ideas – Mount Douglas



At the age of 23, Ben Greene received his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has published original work in International Poetry Review, The Denver Quarterly, Prism International, The Southern Reader and several other literary journals. He is a member and principal songwriter for the semi-popular, quasi-legendary band, The Near Myths, whose third CD should be available in 2013. Mr. Greene is the Head of the English Department. Among the classes he teaches are English Challenge 10, Writing 12, Ideas 11, English 12 Challenge and Advanced Placement English Literature.

Amelita Kucher – Science – Mount Douglas



After a decade spent exploring the world and its cultures, Amelita Kucher immersed herself at the University of Victoria earning a Co-op degree in Biology with a minor in Environmental Studies. Her work as a university TA and as a Parks naturalist and interpreter led her into a teaching career. Now head of the Science Department, Ms. Kucher brings experiential learning into her Science, Biology and Earth Science classes with explorations, yoga stretches and hands-on laboratory work. Fluent in French, she takes Mount Douglas students to France every two years as the coordinator of our France Exchange. Ms. Kucher documents many of the school’s activities as an experienced photographer. She spends her leisure hours hiking, biking and enjoying Victoria’s culture.

Carrie Ann Taylor - Social Studies - Mount Douglas



Carrie Ann Taylor received her Bachelor of History from the University of Victoria in 2001 and then moved to Toronto to study at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto where she completed her Bachelor of Education in 2003. In her education studies, she was part of a cohort focused on a model of teaching that fostered both global and community citizenship. After a few years in Toronto, Ms. Taylor returned home to Victoria. In addition to her role as a classroom teacher, she has worked for a national non-profit organization developing innovative educational resources in the areas of citizenship, multiculturalism and diversity, global and environmental issues, and peace/conflict studies. In 2016, she was a co-winner of the Government of Canada History Award for a curriculum project created in collaboration with Mr. Ted Meldrum and Mr. Adrian French that guides students to explore and assess Canada's role in international peace-keeping in the 20th century. Ms. Taylor is also active in her

community and has actively coordinated her neighbourhood association for many years. She has been teaching Social Studies and English in Victoria since 2007, and recently started teaching this is her first year in the Mount Doug Challenge program. Known to her students as "Ms. T.", she loves to teach, loves to learn, and says the students are the best part of coming to work every day.

Allan Williams – English – Mount Douglas



A graduate of the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University, Alan Williams moved to Victoria for love, and began teaching at Mount Douglas in 2003. His first experience working with gifted students was when he helped create the Mini School at Killarney Secondary in Vancouver. He has taught French, ESL, PE and Social Studies, but for the last five years has focused on teaching English in the Challenge Program, as well as Drama. An accomplished field hockey player, he played on the Canadian Men's National Squad for three years, and coached the UVic Vikes for six years. Denying a mid-life crisis, Alan has morphed into the loud singer of a teacher rock band, hoping to tour portables everywhere.

Sean Lansdell – English – Mount Douglas



Sean Lansdell graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Arts in English Lit. During his undergraduate studies, he spent many of his nights working as a cook in various restaurants throughout Victoria. Despite a passion for cooking that led him to consider a culinary career he ultimately began a post-degree teaching internship and earned his certification in 2007. Now in his 12th year of teaching, Mr. Lansdell has been at Mt. Doug since 2012. He became a teacher because of his love of storytelling and his appreciation of the constructs of language; he aims to pass on this enthusiasm to his students. Outside the classroom, Mr. Lansdell is a dedicated sports fan, an avid reader of fiction, and a devoted father of two young children.

GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #61 SECONDARY CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Re: Greater Victoria School District #61 Secondary Challenge Program

The Greater Victoria School District provides district programs catering to the needs of gifted and talented students in two schools:

Mount Douglas Secondary School (Grades 9-12)
Challenge Coordinator: **Mr. Ted Meldrum** - tmeldrum@sd61.bc.ca
and
Esquimalt Community School (Grades 9-12)
Challenge Coordinator: **Jamie Burren** - jburren@sd61.bc.ca

THE GIFTED LEARNER

A talented and gifted learner possesses a variety of characteristics that may include high task commitment, social and emotional intensity, creative and/or productive thinking and above average intelligence. This individual has a thirst for knowledge, has a passion for learning and requires differentiated educational opportunities and services.

In keeping with the Ministry's definition of giftedness, the selection process used to identify such students gives heavy weighting to high intellectual ability as reflected in test scores and academic performance; and high task commitment, as indicated in written presentations, documentation and interviews, and highly creative assignments and hobbies.

DISTRICT CHALLENGE TESTING PROGRAM

In order for students to be considered for the Challenge Program they must be tested. The testing is used in conjunction with the student's application to create a student profile. The information below is intended to help you understand District Program's testing process.

A test schedule will be sent to each applicant (via e-mail or phone) and the information will be sent to his/her current school during the latter part of January. This notice will specify the scheduled testing date and time. The student is to come to SJ Willis for testing on the day and time specified. If your child cannot attend on the date scheduled, please call or e-mail the school to re-schedule your child's testing session. If your child is ill on the day of his/her test, please call the school in the morning to arrange for an alternative date.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

1. The School Based Teacher or Principal may select students who they consider eligible for consideration. Selections may be based upon identification materials contained in the District #61 Resource Book for teachers of Challenge students. Parents may also refer their children for consideration by applying through Mount Douglas Secondary School.
2. **Part 1 of the application form can be filled in the night of the information meeting or returned to Mount Douglas Secondary School at 3970 Gordon Head Road in person to the main office or by mail, fax or email (FAX: 250-477-0277 Email mtdouginfo@sd61.bc.ca) by Friday, January 24, 2020**
3. **Part 2 of the application package should be delivered to SJ Willis at your assigned testing session time on Friday, January 31st, 2020.**
4. Upon receipt of the Challenge Application, an evaluation form will be sent to the student's current teacher(s).
5. **Testing:** Parents and students will be provided with more information about the testing session via e-mail.

SCREENING

1. **Once all information is received and collated, the Screening Committee will meet and decisions will be made to**
 - i) accept the applicant into the District Program; or
 - ii) place the applicant on a wait list pending available seats in the District Program; or
 - iii) notify the applicant that he/she has not been accepted into the District Program.

2. **Mount Douglas will**
 - i) establish and maintain a roster of recommended students;
 - ii) communicate in writing the status of the student to the recommending school and parents; and
 - iii) hold all student work and materials for pick up at Mount Douglas Secondary after the selection process is complete.

3. **Appeal Procedure**
 - a. The Committee will discuss the decision with the parents and with the student, if appropriate.
 - b. Upon request of the parents and student, the District Committee will reconsider previously and newly submitted information on a student who has not been placed in a gifted program.
 - c. The appeal must be received in writing within two weeks of placement notification.

The information on the attached forms is collected under the authority of the School Act and will be used solely for the purpose of establishing eligibility for the District Challenge Program. It will be kept secure and confidential in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Any questions concerning the collection or use of this information may be directed to your School Principal.

VIDEO AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM

AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

<https://moundoug.sd61.bc.ca>

MOUNT DOUGLAS SECONDARY CHALLENGE PROGRAM

VISION STATEMENT

The Mount Douglas Secondary Challenge Program serves the unique needs of gifted, creative, and talented learners by creating a community which seeks to maximize student opportunities for enrichment, self-direction, independence, synergetic interaction and emotional well-being in a secure, mentoring atmosphere. The program will foster the development of individual excellence through differentiated educational experiences.

The Mount Douglas Secondary Challenge Program offers gifted, creative, and talented students an educational program consistent with their abilities which aims to prepare them for post-secondary education and the world at large. The program makes every attempt to ensure that students become knowledgeable and skilled in "core areas" of instruction. Acquisition of knowledge is seen as a cornerstone of the program; however, students do not learn in a rote manner but are expected, instead, to develop an understanding of relationships within knowledge, one of the hallmarks of an educated individual. Methods of instruction are also aimed at the development of higher order thinking skills. Activities and assignments routinely require students to analyze, synthesize or evaluate material covered. Similarly, students are asked to make logical extensions or to establish and justify conclusions.

Skill development is seen as a second cornerstone of the Challenge Program at Mount Douglas Secondary. A concerted attempt is made to ensure that students develop necessary research, organization and presentation skills. These skills flow naturally into independent study projects, which further hone individual skills while offering opportunities to develop creativity and skills in long term planning, time management and group dynamics.

Within the program, Grade 9 and 10 Challenge students stay together for the core subjects of Social Studies, English, Science and Mathematics. In Grade 11 and 12, Challenge students maintain the grouping in Social Studies, English and Mathematics and choose the appropriate Science courses. An Interdisciplinary Studies course is typically taken in Grade 11 or 12 as well. The core subject grouping offers an environment and a peer group where interest in learning and facing intellectual challenges is seen as the norm and not as something unusual or undesirable. This constructive peer atmosphere is a tremendous advantage to the academically gifted student. On the other hand, the elective program provides the advantages of mixing challenge students with the rest of the student body and ensuring that they are well integrated into the school's broader culture.

The Mount Douglas Secondary Challenge Program offers students opportunities for enrichment in education, skill development, performance and accomplishment. It asks for keen intellectual interest and a commitment to shared goals.

We, in the program, look forward to working with new students towards these shared goals.

Principal,

Donna Thompson

Challenge Coordinator'

Ted Meldrum

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BEFORE FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020

APPLICATION - PART 1

FAX, MAIL, EMAIL or DELIVER TO MOUNT DOUGLAS SECONDARY SCHOOL

FAX: 250-477-0277 E-MAIL: mtdouginfo@sd61.bc.ca

Mount Douglas Secondary School
3970 Gordon Head Road, Victoria, B.C. V8N 3X3

**GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #61
CHALLENGE PROGRAM REGISTRATION
STUDENT INFORMATION (Please print)**

SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ Male Female
(YEAR) (MONTH) (DAY)

PRESENT SCHOOL: _____

CURRENT GRADE: _____ CONTACT/TAG TEACHER: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT NAME: (Mr. Mrs. Ms.) _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE (if applicable): _____

CELL PHONE (if applicable): _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please indicate which program you are applying for (choose only one):

___ Mt. Douglas _____ Esquimalt

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONSENT:

I / we give consent for _____ to apply to the District Gifted and Talented Program at

- I / we accept responsibility for ensuring that this application is complete and all items listed in the check list are included and submitted by the deadline. (Program personnel will not assume responsibility for calling for missing items.)
- I / we give consent for group and/or individual intellectual and/or academic tests to be administered.
- I / We understand that we must assume responsibility for the transportation to / and from SJ Willis Schools for the purposes of admission testing.

(Parent / Guardian Signature)

(Student Signature)

PLEASE DELIVER PART 2 ON YOUR ASSIGNED TESTING DATE (Friday, January 31st, 2020)

APPLICATION - PART 2 – Page 1 of 3

GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #61

MOUNT DOUGLAS CHALLENGE PROGRAM APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST TO ENSURE THAT ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION IN THE ORDER THAT IS PRINTED OUT BELOW, AND SUBMIT ON THE **JANUARY 31ST, 2020** TEST DATE.

(PROGRAM PERSONNEL WILL NOT ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CALLING FOR MISSING ITEMS.)

PARENT / GUARDIAN:

Please fill out the following form:

- REGISTRATION FORM**

Please include the following correspondence:

- PARENT LETTER OF SUPPORT**
Write a letter of support for your child's application to the "Challenge Program Committee"
- State why you think your child is a good candidate for the program.
 - Please limit your letter to two pages (written) or one page (typed).
- COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S MOST RECENT REPORT CARD.**
-

STUDENT:

Please include the following:

- LETTER OF APPLICATION**
Write a letter of application to the Challenge Program Committee outlining what inspires you to explore new ideas, develop further understanding of what you learn in the classroom or drives your curiosity.
- Tell them why you would want to be part of the program.
 - Tell them why you think you are suited for this program.
 - Please limit your letter to two pages (written) or one page (typed).
- STUDENT INTEREST AND ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY**
To be completed by the student. Parents and teachers are encouraged to assist the student.
- WORK SAMPLES**
Please provide examples that represent your best work.
Work samples are critical to our selection process.
- All work needs to be organized in a 1" binder or 1" portfolio organizer. Provide photographs of any material that does not fit in the binder. Please show multiple angles/perspectives.**

Examples of work could include the following:

- Creative Writing
- Long term research or investigative project
- Math work or Test
- Sample of other creative work (e.g. art, photograph, drama, cartooning, etc.)

Please sign and date each sample. All work samples will be available for pick up after the evaluation process February 27th – March 6th, 2020 from the school library.

**EVALUATION FORMS WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOUR CONTACT
TEACHER UPON RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION**

APPLICATION - PART 2 – Page 2 of 3

GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #61
CHALLENGE PROGRAM
REGISTRATION FORM

STUDENT INFORMATION: PLEASE PRINT

Surname: _____ **First name:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Male Female
Year / Month / Day

Present School: _____

Gr. 8 Contact Teacher : _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact Parent/Guardian (Mr. Mrs. Ms.) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone : _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address : _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONSENT:

(Date)

I / we give consent for _____ to apply to the Mount Douglas Secondary School District Challenge Program for Gifted, Creative and Talented students.

- I / we accept responsibility for ensuring that this application is complete and all items listed in the check list are included and submitted by the deadline. (Program personnel will not assume responsibility for calling for missing items.)
- I / we give consent for group and/or individual intellectual and/or academic tests to be administered.
- I / we understand that we must assume responsibility for student transportation to and from Mount Douglas Secondary School or Esquimalt Secondary School.

(Parent / Guardian Signature)

(Student Signature)

APPLICATION PART 2 – Page 3 of 3

**DISTRICT CHALLENGE PROGRAM
STUDENT INTEREST AND ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY
(To be completed by student)**

Name: _____

Present School: _____

1. List your past and present involvement with **clubs and organizations** and/or extra-curricular activities. Include length of involvement, positions held, and recognition received.

Length of Time	CLUB / ORGANIZATION	POSITION / AWARD

2. List **hobbies and interests** including sports, family activities, collections, games, traveling, etc. Outline the extent and duration of your involvement.

Length of time	HOBBIES / INTERESTS	INVOLVEMENT

3. Describe what you like **most** about school and subjects and why.

4. Describe what you like **least** about school and subjects and why.

5. Are you an **expert or specialist in some area(s)**? Please explain.

EXPERT IN:	EXPLANATION



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