
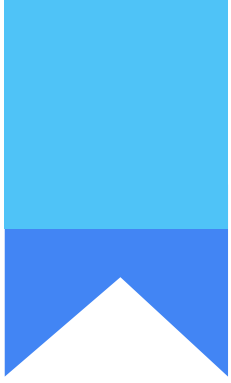


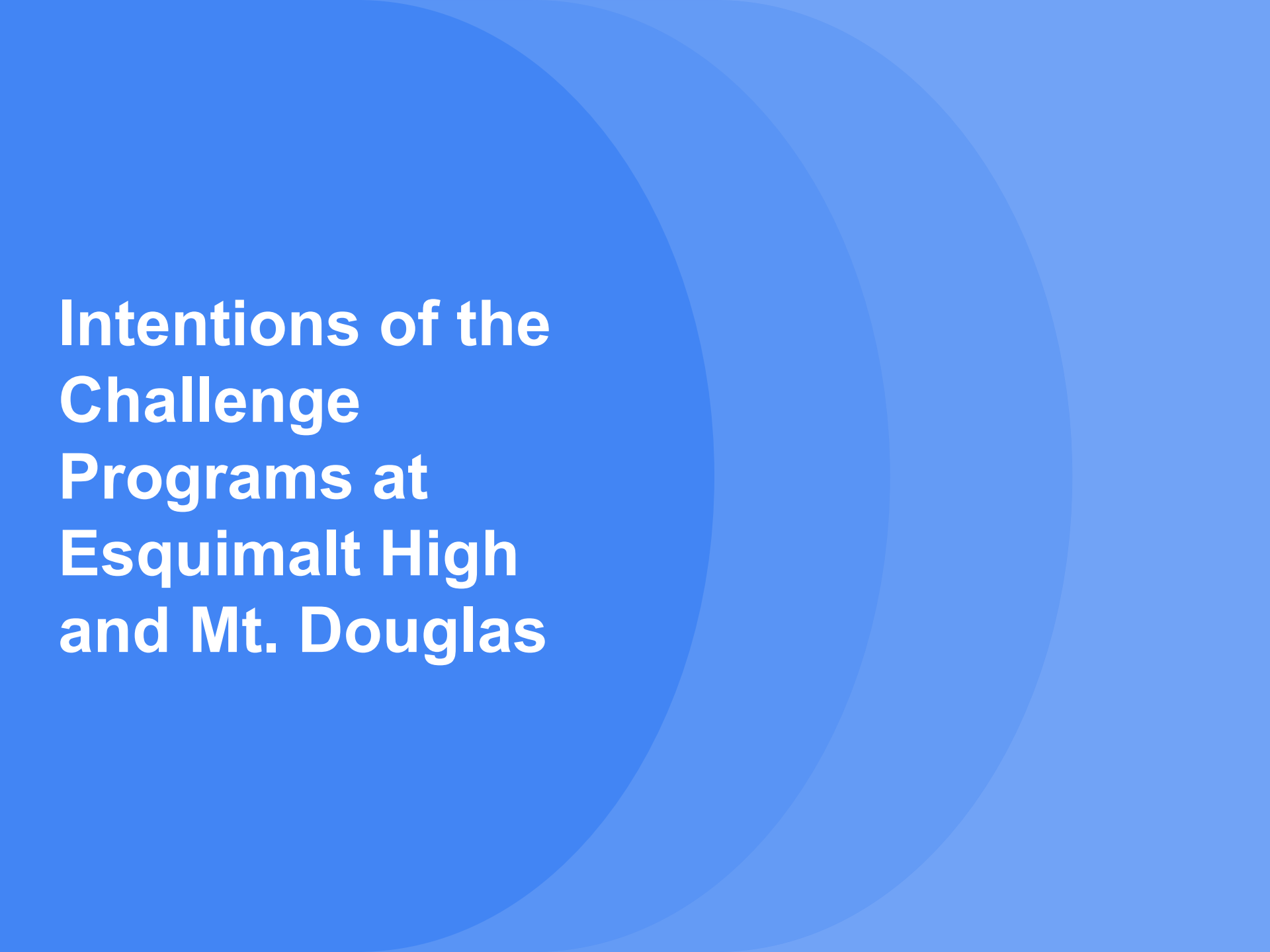
# Greater Victoria School District #61 Challenge Program for Gifted, Creative, and Talented Students



Mount Douglas Secondary  
School and Esquimalt High  
School



# **Territory Acknowledgement**

The background features a blue gradient with three overlapping circles of varying shades of blue, creating a layered effect. The text is positioned on the left side of the image.

**Intentions of the  
Challenge  
Programs at  
Esquimalt High  
and Mt. Douglas**

- **to broaden students' social and emotional learning through a variety of opportunities**

- To further develop students' critical and creative thinking through an enrichment of subject matter

- **to encourage students to become autonomous learners with a love of learning**

- **to further develop  
the value of hard  
work,  
perseverance,  
and courage**

- to provide a well-rounded educational opportunity that leads to a wide variety of post-graduation options



# Curriculum

The Ministry of Education curriculum, including various aspects of the new curriculum, is followed in all core subject areas. All curriculum is enriched for our gifted, talented, and creative students.

## Challenge Courses at Mt Douglas

- English 9-12 or English Literature 12 Advanced Placement
- Social Studies 9-10
- Social Studies 11 - Understanding our Modern World
- Mathematics 9-10
- Science 9-10

We recommend that in grade 9 or 10, that students take Innovation and Design or Robotics.

French Immersion students will be placed in French 11 during Grade 9 if they wish to continue with French.

# Learning

- Cohort model
- Curriculum is enriched
- Flexible and student centered
- Group and collaborative work
- Knowledge and perspective of First Peoples
- Independent study - opportunities for pursuit of passion and interest
- Extra-curricular experiences

# Assessment

- Teachers use the same assessment criteria for Challenge students as they do for all other students
- Challenge students are required to meet BC Ministry of Education graduation requirements, including any exams or standardized assessments

# Who are the students who thrive in the Challenge Program?

- high intellectual capacity, critical thinker, emotionally intense
- sees the world in unique ways
- sometimes questions authority
- lover of deep learning, avid reader
- high commitment to tasks
- imaginative, insightful

# Opportunities found within Mt. Douglas' Challenge Program

- Grade 9 camping trip - Goldstream Park
- Grade 9 Mentor Program
- Challenge European Trips every two years
- Grade 10 HR MacMillan Space Center
- Movie Nights
- Challenge student lock in night at the school
- Clothing
- Challenge Olympics
- Cross Curriculum integration of courses
- Grade level special events
- Challenge Council (open to all grades)
  - Grade representatives
  - Social committee

# Application Process

## **STEPS:**

**Application Form:** Complete part one online or submit hard-copy to Mount Doug by January ,18th for Mount Douglas and for Esquimalt High.

**Portfolio:** Include work showing student interest, passion, and capability; items student is proud of; student letter of intent; recent report card.

**Testing:** OLSAT (Ottis Lennon School Ability Test), CCAT (Criteria Cognitive Aptitude Test), Writing Sample (Mount Doug Only)

**Interview:** Via Zoom (Esquimalt High Only)

# Application Timeline

- **January 18th: Application Part One**
  - online or hard copy submitted
- **January 22nd: Testing(Mount Doug Only) and Portfolio (Esquimalt Applicants please drop portfolios at main office)**
  - Mount Douglas
  - bring your portfolios to the testing
- **January 25th - 28th: (Esquimalt only)**
  - candidates will be notified of date and time via e-mail
  - Interviews will be conducted via Zoom

**Note:** Parents and students will be informed of application status prior to District Cross Boundary Transfer deadline of Feb. 8-11.



# School Contacts

## **ESQUIMALT HIGH SCHOOL**

- Jamie Burren - Coordinator

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## **MT. DOUGLAS**

- Ted Meldrum - Coordinator

[tmeldrum@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tmeldrum@sd61.bc.ca)

**Margaret Krawciw  
and Ryan  
Anbudaiyan  
From Mount  
Douglas**

# What does Challenge mean to me?

- The atmosphere has pushed me to grow on both an academic and personal level, and the friendships I've developed with my exceptionally talented peers are some of the closest ones I'll ever have.
- Challenge opens my eyes, whether I want to or not.
- A zebra does not feel at home in a herd of horses. Challenge is a group of zebras.
- All colours are able to be mixed from the three primary ones red, yellow, and blue. Challenge reminds me of colours, the less common ones that aren't in the rainbow song like magenta - harder to mix, to create, yet when done right, gives life and vibrancy to a painting of one's life.
- All the Challenge Program teachers know how to teach the Challenge classes in a way that allows us to explore our limits, limits that are not usually explored.