

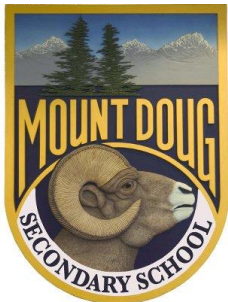


Greater Victoria School District #61

Challenge Program for Gifted, Creative, and Talented Students

**L'école Esquimalt High School
and**

Mount Douglas Secondary



"If anything, these findings affirm that gifted students need to be appropriately challenged so that they experience productive struggle in the learning process. Gifted programming can actually provide the challenging work as an opportunity to develop growth mindset beliefs- positive attitudes toward effort and making mistakes. In fact, when their needs are not being met and they are not challenged, this could set the stage for fixed mindset beliefs to develop; students are not used to hard work, and they may avoid persevering through difficult tasks and intellectual risk-taking when they are finally faced with such challenges."

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

- ❑ to further develop students' critical and creative thinking through an enrichment of subject matter**

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

creative

- ❑ **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**

□ **to develop the student's
cognitive abilities**



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 Esquimalt High

- **English 9-12**
- **Mathematics 9-10**
- **Science 9-10**
- **Careers 11**
- **Integrated Studies (IS) 12**
- **Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12**

Challenge Courses at Mt Douglas

- **English 9-12 (Option of AP Literature 12)**
- **Mathematics 9-10**
- **Science 9-10** (w/ for 2019)
- **Social Studies 9-10**
- **Social Studies 11 - Understanding our Modern World**
- **AP Human Geography (Exam challenge only)**

Learning

- ☐ Cohort model
- ☐ Curriculum is enriched and, within classes, accelerated - academic rigour is facilitated
- ☐ Student centered and flexible
- ☐ Group and collaborative work
- ☐ Knowledge and perspective of First Peoples applied
- ☐ 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**

What makes a student a good fit for the program?

- **high intellectual capacity**
- **lover of learning - motivated**
- **avid reader**
- **committed to tasks**
- **creative and critical thinker**
- **talented**

Opportunities found within Mt. Douglas' Challenge Program

☐ **Grade 9 camping trip - Goldstream Park**

☐ **Grade 9 and 11/12 Mentor Program**

☐ **Grade 9 HR MacMillan Space Center**

☐ **Grade 10 UBC trip**

☐ **European trips every two years**

☐ **Movie Nights**

☐ **Fall and Spring Dance**

☐ **Challenge Olympics (new this year)**

☐ **Challenge student lock-in night at the school**

☐ **Cross Curriculum integration of courses**

☐ **UVic Symposiums and presentations**

☐ **Mathematics competitions**

☐ **Challenge Council (open to all grades)**

- ☐ **Grade representatives**

- ☐ **Social committee**

- ☐ **Clothing**

- ☐ **Fundraising**

- ☐ **Curriculum**

Application Process

Steps:

- **Application form**
 - **Complete online or print a hard copy and submit to Esquimalt High or Mt. Douglas**
- **Portfolio** - including letters of support, best work samples, items that show students' personality, items students' are proud of, recent report card
- **Testing**
 - **Writing sample**
 - **Aptitude tests**
 - **Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)**
 - **Criteria Cognitive Aptitude Test (CCAT)**
- **For Esquimalt High: Interview process**

Application Timeline

- **January 12th: Application (Mt. Douglas)**
- **January 17th: Application (Esquimalt)**
 - **online or hard copy submitted**
 - **applications found on the school websites**
- **January 21st: Testing and Portfolio**
 - **held at either Esquimalt or Mount Douglas**
 - **bring your portfolios to the testing**
- **January 31st - February 2nd: Interviews for Esquimalt High applicants**
 - **candidates will be notified of date and time**

Note:

- **Parents and students will be informed of application status prior to District Cross Boundary Transfer deadline of February 4.**

School Contacts

ESQUIMALT HIGH SCHOOL

- **Jamie Burren- Coordinator**

jburren@sd61.bc.ca

MT. DOUGLAS

- **Ted Meldrum - Coordinator**

tmeldrum@sd61.bc.ca

Student Perspectives Mount Douglas

**Owen Marcovitz and
Adrianne Milley**

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.