





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



L'école Esquimalt High School and Mount Douglas
Secondary School



**WELCOME TO THE TERRITORY
IN LEKWUNGEN & ENGLISH**

Butch Dick, Songhees Nation



One *Learning* Community



About the ESQ Program



Established in 1979 as a special education program for gifted and talented students.

Working with like-minded students/cohort model- especially in the junior years.

Has shifted over the years to provide a place for unique individuals, with distinct passions and keen intellectual interests, to learn and grow together.

Provides opportunities for in depth study, leadership, and extracurricular activities such as: Robotics, Musical Theatre and competitive & a performed-based Improv troupe.

About the Mt. Doug Program



Established in 2000, the Mount Douglas Gifted Program to date has consisted of implementation of an educational philosophy based on Gifted education research; refinement of the entrance procedure and designation process; and response of the program to suit the specific needs of individual students.

The 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. 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.

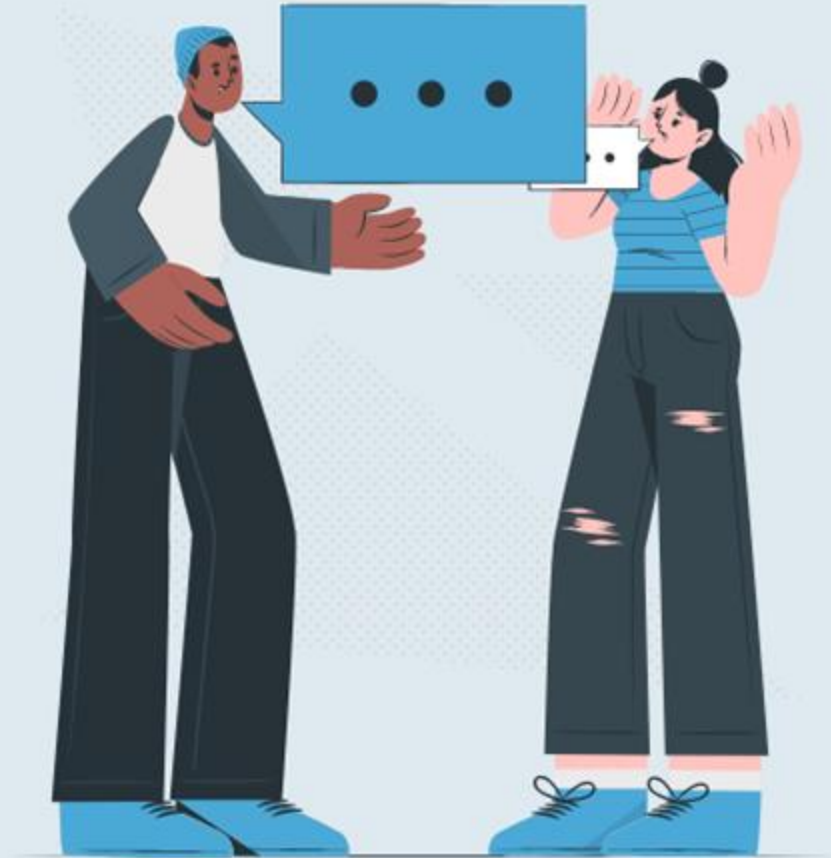
"If anything, these findings affirm that gifted students need to be appropriately challenged so that they experience productive struggle in the learning process. Gifted programming can actually provide the challenging work as an opportunity to develop growth mindset beliefs- positive attitudes toward 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."

**What are the Intentions of
the Challenge Programs at
Esquimalt 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





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

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

to develop the
student's
cognitive
abilities



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



Image credit: Storyset

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.

Big Ideas:

“I understand.”

Curricular Competency Learning Standards:

“I do.”

Content Learning Standards:

“I know.”



Challenge Courses at Esquimalt High

- English 9-11
- Mathematics 9-10
- Science 9-10
- Intercultural Studies 11
(in grade 9)
- Contemporary
Indigenous Studies 12
(in grade 11)
- Integrated Studies (IS)
12 (Psychology A.P.,
Transition Preparation)

Challenge Courses at Mt. Douglas

- English 9-12 (Option of
AP Literature 12 in grade
12)
- Mathematics 9-10
- Science 9-10
- Social Studies 9-10
- Contemporary
Indigenous Studies 12
(in grade 11)
- AP Human Geography
(Exam challenge only in
grade 11)

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

Are the Assessments different for Challenge students?

- 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 Esquimalt's Challenge Program

- Cohort Learning Model
- Mentorship program
- Social Evenings
- Student organized trips and events
- Grade 9 retreat at Caleb Pike Heritage Park
- Grade 10 Caving at Horne Lake
- Grade 11 Mt. Washington
- Grade 12 Ski Trip
- Various community Projects
- Annual Conference
- Leadership opportunities
- Mathematics Competition
- Challenge Grade Representatives

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
- Challenge Olympics in conjunction with Esquimalt
- Challenge student lock-in night at the school
- Cross Curriculum integration of courses
- UVic Symposiums and presentations
- Mathematics competitions
- English and Social Studies competitions
- Challenge Council (open to all grades)

Application Process

Steps:

- Application form
 - Complete online or print a hard copy and submit to Esquimalt High or Mt. Douglas by January 24
- Portfolio - including letters of support, best work samples, items showing students' passions, student letter of intent, items that show students' personality, items students' are proud of, recent report card
- Teacher Evaluation Forms from a current teacher
- Testing
 - Writing sample
 - Aptitude tests
 - Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)
 - Criteria Cognitive Aptitude Test (CCAT)
- For Esquimalt High: Interview process in person or by Zoom
 - Candidates will be notified of date and time

Application Timeline

January
24th

Application

- online or hard copy submitted
- applications found on the school websites

January
29th

Testing and
Portfolio
(ESQ)

January
31st

Testing and
Portfolio
(Mt. Doug)

February
3-6th

Interviews
(ESQ)

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 14. If an out of district student is successful in their application, they must register with SD61 as well.

School Contacts



Esquimalt

Omdrea Walker –
Coordinator
owalker@sd61.bc.ca



Mount Douglas

Ted Meldrum –
Coordinator
tmeldrum@sd61.bc.ca

Student Perspectives



Esquimalt -
Peyton Yip and Tillie
Stanger-Ross

Mount Douglas -
Liam Evans and Ece Akar



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.