

PRIVATE SCHOOLS VANCOUVER

Ivy Global

APPLYING TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS

2ND EDITION

WHY PRIVATE SCHOOL?

Over the past few decades, Canadian families have been increasingly exploring education options outside of the public school system. In 1970, only 2.5% of Canadian students attended private school; in 1998, that number had risen to 6%. Parents are increasingly interested in more individualized, specialized curriculum options for their children, and the options available to them are becoming increasingly diverse.

Private schools come in a variety of shapes and sizes—from traditional boarding and day schools to single-gender schools, Montessori programs, French Immersion schools, schools with specific religious affiliations, and schools catering to Special Needs students. These schools have the ability to set their own independent curriculum and to limit enrolment. With smaller average class sizes than most public schools, private schools often put a greater emphasis on individualized instruction and programming.

Admissions to the most selective private schools can be quite competitive. Students

MOST SELECTIVE PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE GREATER VANCOUVER AREA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND

- St. George's School
- Crofton House School
- Vancouver College
- York House School
- Collingwood School
- Meadowridge School
- Brentwood College School
- Shawnigan Lake School

are often required to write the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT) and submit transcripts, reference letters, and personal questionnaires. Students are often asked to come for an interview so the admissions officers can evaluate personality as well as academic potential. Schools look for not only strong grades and test scores, but also passion, commitment, and enthusiasm for the private school program.

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ABOUT IVY GLOBAL

Ivy Global is a pioneering education consulting and test prep firm committed to helping our clients gain admissions to private schools and US universities.

Our team of consultants is uniquely qualified to provide the highest level of expertise in admissions process.

With a location in Toronto, we are committed to maintaining a strong team of instructors who are picked from the best schools. Their high academic achievement and passion for learning enable them to be academic role models for their students.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

INTRODUCTION

“ABOUT
338,000
STUDENTS
ATTEND MORE
THAN 1,900
PRIVATE
SCHOOLS
ACROSS
CANADA”

A 2013 article from The Globe and Mail states that there are more than 1,900 private schools across Canada. For parents trying to find the best fit for their children, the sheer number of options can be daunting.

Families searching for the best match should take into account not only the school’s academic reputation, but also its type or affiliation, size, tuition, extra-curricular programs, and campus environment. Families may want to

consider single-gender vs. co-ed schools and the possibility of boarding programs. There are many different types of private schools, from traditional boarding and day schools to French Immersion schools, Montessori schools, Special Needs schools, and schools with specific religious affiliations. This booklet will introduce families to the various types of private schools available.

PRIVATE VS. INDEPENDENT?

“THE TERM
‘INDEPENDENT’
CLASSIFIES A
NON-PROFIT
PRIVATE
SCHOOL”

The term “private school” is an umbrella term for any school that charges tuition fees and is operated by individuals and groups outside of the public education system. Many private schools are for-profit organizations.

The term “independent” classifies a private school that is run as a non-profit organization and is often overseen by a board of trustees. In many provinces, independent schools receive a certain amount of public funding and are accredited either by a government body or an affiliated organization. Accreditation provides a third-party reference that the school meets certain standards.

Some accreditation organizations for independent and private schools include:

- The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), an organization serving boarding schools in the US, Canada, and abroad
- Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS) is a national organization for inde-

pendent schools in Canada. It was formed in October 2009, as the result of a merger between the Canadian Educational Standards Institute and the Canadian Association of Independent Schools.

- The Round Square, a worldwide association of more than 70 schools in Canada and abroad with a curriculum emphasis on community service and exchange programs
- The Canadian Council of Montessori Administrators (CCMA), an organization of Montessori schools across Canada
- The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), an accrediting organization for Christian schools in Canada, the US, and abroad
- The Independent Schools Association of British Columbia (ISABC) and Catholic Independent Schools (CIS), two organizations serving independent schools in British Columbia

SINGLE-GENDER SCHOOLS

Many private schools offer the opportunity for students to learn in a single-gender environment. All-girls and all-boys schools design their curricula to meet the specific learning needs and different learning styles of growing girls and boys. Students are able to learn in an encouraging environment without the distraction of the opposite sex.

The National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS) is an organization of all-girls schools in Canada, the US, and abroad. NCGS holds its member schools to a high standard in developing curricula that address the specific learning styles of girls— which, the organization argues, may not be well-suited to a traditionally male-based education model. All-girls schools cite their ability to not only boost girls' interest in subjects such as math and science, but also build confidence in public speaking and leader-

ship roles. Some all-girls schools in the Greater Vancouver Regional District include Crofton House School, York House School, Queen Margaret's School, and St. Margaret's School.

The International Boys' School Coalition (IBSC) is an international organization of all-boys schools. IBSC advocates programs that cater to the specific developmental needs of boys, who may mature later when compared to their female peers. All-boys schools offer academic curricula tailored to boys' learning styles, often with strong extracurricular, athletic, and leadership opportunities. Some all-boys schools in the GVRD include St. George's School and Vancouver College.

TOP ALL-GIRLS SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD

- *Crofton House School*
- *York House School*

TOP ALL-BOYS SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD

- *St. George's School*
- *Vancouver College*

BOARDING SCHOOLS

Boarding schools are institutions that provide an on-campus residence for faculty and students. Often referred to as “prep schools,” these were once exclusive, elite college preparatory schools for wealthy families. Today, there are many very affordable options and a wide variety of boarding school types— from traditional college preparatory schools to Military, Special Needs, and International schools.

Boarding schools function as educational institutions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and thus offer a vibrant array of extra-curricular and campus activities. Students learn to live away from home and gain the skills and responsibility to assert their own independence. With many teachers also in residence, after-school tutoring is easily accessible. Most schools have on-campus counsellors to help with personal and academic guidance.

The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) oversees and advocates for nearly 300 boarding schools internationally. According to a 2004 survey of more than 2,700 boarding school students, many old myths about boarding schools no longer hold true. Boarding schools are no longer homogenous; many have thriving international student populations. Boarding schools are not for “troubled teens” only; 60% of students enrolled because of the promise of a better education.

St. George's School and Bodwell High School offer a boarding program in Vancouver. Most of the boarding schools in British Columbia are located in Vancouver Island. Some schools offering boarding programs in and around Vancouver Island include Brentwood College, St. Margaret's School, and St. Michael's University school.

TOP BOARDING SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD & VANCOUVER ISLAND

- *Bodwell High School*
- *Brentwood College School*
- *Queen Margaret's School*
- *Shawnigan Lake School*
- *St. George's School*
- *St. Margaret's School*
- *St. Michaels University School*

FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOLS

SOME FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD

- *Henry Hudson School*
- *Jules Quesnel School*
- *L'École Bilingue School*
- *Quilchena School*
- *Queen Elizabeth Annex School*

French language schools offer partial or complete French immersion, allowing students to acquire an understanding of and fluency in the French language from an early age. In full French immersion programs, all courses are taught in French and students interact in French with their classmates and instructors. Many French immersion schools are certified by the Ministry of Education from France, and students have the option to take the Brevet des Collèges, a French National fluency exam.

French immersion schools believe that a bilingual education not only makes available a variety of opportunities for work and further study, but also enhances cognitive development when

studied from a young age. French immersion programs additionally broaden students' cultural perspectives by exposing them to French literature, art, and history.

French immersion programs in the Greater Vancouver Regional District are offered through both the public school system and several private schools, including Queen E. Annex School, Jules Quesnel School, Henry Hudson School, Quilchena School, L'École Bilingue School, Hastings School, Secord School, Douglas Annex School, Kerrisdale School, Trafalgar School, and Tennyson School.

FAITH-BASED SCHOOLS

SOME FAITH-BASED SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD

- *Khalsa School (Sikh)*
- *King David High School (Jewish)*
- *Little Flower Academy (Catholic)*
- *Regent Christian Academy (Christian)*
- *St. Thomas Aquinas High School (Catholic)*
- *Vancouver College (Catholic)*
- *Vancouver Hebrew Academy (Orthodox Jewish)*

Faith-based schools have a specific religious affiliation and offer both an academic and religious education. These schools aim to integrate faith-based principles into everyday education and to give students a more comprehensive understanding of their faith. In many cases, morning prayers, religion classes, and religious services are part of the daily curriculum.

The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), Christian Schools International (CSI), and the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) are three organizations that represent private Christian schools in Canada and abroad. In addition to public Catholic schools, there are numerous private Catholic schools in the Greater Vancouver Regional District, including Vancouver College, Little Flower Academy, Traditional Learning Academy, and Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School. Today, these schools rarely require students or parents to profess the Roman Catholic faith, and students with other religious affiliations are usually able to attend. There are also many private Christian schools in the

Protestant tradition, many with a specific denominational affiliation such as Mennonite, Baptist, or Adventist. Some Christian private schools in the Greater Vancouver Regional District include British Columbia Christian Academy, Regent Christian Academy, and White Rock Christian Academy.

Jewish private schools offer a Jewish curriculum as part of a day school setting, including Hebrew instruction and Judaic study courses. Some schools are cross-denominational, while others are specifically Orthodox, Reform, etc. Some Jewish private schools in the Greater Vancouver Regional District include King David High School, Vancouver Hebrew Academy, and Vancouver Talmud Torah Elementary School.

MONTESSORI SCHOOLS

The Montessori method and philosophy was formed through the research and theories of Maria Montessori in the early 1900s. The Montessori method replaces the traditional lecture-based model with a more hands-on, self-directed approach to education. In the role of “observer” or “guide,” the teacher facilitates the students to direct their own learning within an environment adapted to their developmental needs. The Montessori method does not believe in the traditional method of performance evaluation through letters or numerical grades.

The Canada Council of Montessori Administrators (CCMA) represents Canadian Montessori schools and is responsible for certifying that its member schools meet the standards of an authentic Montessori program. Montessori teachers undergo rigorous training through an accrediting institute such as the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). Montessori schools in the Greater Vancouver Regional District include West Side Montessori Academy, North Star Montessori Elementary School, and Family Montessori School.

SOME MONTESSORI SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD

- *Family Montessori School*
- *North star Montessori Elementary School*
- *Vancouver Montessori School*
- *West Side Montessori Academy*

SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS

Special Needs schools provide alternative education for students with a physical, mental, behavioural, or learning disabilities. A team of teachers and counsellors works with each student to design an individualized curriculum based on the student’s academic and developmental needs. Instructors are trained to address the needs of students with ADHD, dyslexia, autism, Asperger’s Syndrome, and other learning difficulties. They aim to foster both

academic and personal growth, and to provide a strong foundation for further study, work, and community life.

Several Special Needs schools in the GVRD include the Eaton Arrowsmith School, Fraser Academy, and Children’s Hearing and Speech Centre of BC.

SOME SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD

- *Children’s Hearing and Speech Centre of BC*
- *Eaton Arrowsmith School*
- *Fraser Academy*

GIFTED PROGRAMS

A unique trait for British Columbia’s education system is the Gifted Program. This is offered mostly to students from grades 1 to 7 and is a program that focuses on intellectually stimulating students that are gifted learners.

A student’s school teacher will fill out a recommendation form if he or she decides a particular student is gifted. According to the Vancouver School Board (VSB), a gifted learner profile involves collaboration among classroom teachers, school-based team, district gifted education staff with input from students and parents.

Here is a list of programs and services that the VSB offers:

- Challenge Centre Programs
- Mentorship
- Twice Exceptional Learners (GLD/GEF)
- Multi-Age Cluster Classes
- Future Problem Solving (FPS)
- Gifted Learner Summer Program

HOW TO APPLY

PARTS OF THE APPLICATION

ENTRY YEAR

- Grade 8

Most schools accept the majority of their students into Grade 8. Admissions rates into other grades depend on each school but generally are lower and depend on spaces available.

Application Form and Fee

Most schools require families to complete an application form either in print or online through the individual school's website. Families will need to provide information about the student's living situation, citizenship, current school, and family members. In many cases, an application fee is required as part of the admissions process. These range from \$50—\$200.

Academic Information

Parents will need to submit their child's most recent report card or transcript. Some schools require additional end-of-year report cards or from the past one or two years. If the child has taken a standardized test or educational assessment in his or her current school, he or she may also be required to submit those results.

Reference Letters

Most schools require one or more reference letters from teachers, counsellors, or principals at the student's current school. The Confidential School Report is a standard form that some schools require instead of reference letters. This form must be completed by the student's principal or teacher, who will send it directly to the private school admissions office.

Personal Questionnaire

Some schools require that the students complete a personal questionnaire. Questions may involve students' interests, hobbies, goals, strengths and weaknesses, and reasons for applying to the particular private school. Students should write these in their own words and pro-

vide as much detail as possible, editing carefully for spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

Admissions Test

Most schools require students to write an admissions test as part of their application to assess their academic strengths and weaknesses. Many schools design their own admissions tests and schedule these individually with each applicant; others require students to write the SSAT (Secondary School Admissions Test), a standardized exam for grades 5-11 administered world-wide. Detailed information about preparing and registering for this test can be found in the SSAT section of this booklet.

Interview

Many schools require students to conduct a formal campus visit and an interview with the admissions officer. This gives the school and opportunity to meet each prospective applicant face-to-face. Interviewers often ask about the student's current school, extra-curricular activities, goals, and reasons for applying to the specific private school. Students should dress neatly, conduct themselves politely, and be prepared to elaborate upon their answers.

Supplementary Documents

Families may be required to submit other supplementary documents as part of the application, including copies of birth certificates, passports, or other proof of citizenship. International students may be required to submit a copy of their Canadian study visa. Some schools additionally ask students to submit a writing sample or a school assignment of which they are particularly proud.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Steps

- Arrange a school visit or attend an Open House.
- Submit a completed application form, application fee, student profile, and required documents by the deadline.
- Contact a principal/teacher for reference letters or a Confidential School Report.
- Arrange to write an admissions test or the SSAT.
- Arrange an interview and/or campus tour with the admissions office.

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary with each individual school. Confirm these dates with the school's admissions office or website.

Most of the top private schools in the Greater Vancouver Regional District have application deadlines in December. The deadline for Crofton House School and York House School is December 1st, however some schools like St. George's have rolling admissions and February deadlines.

In most cases, SSAT scores do not need to be submitted by the application deadline. Contact the individual school admissions office or website for the last SSAT test date for which students may register and still be considered for.

DEADLINES

December 1

- *Crofton House School*
- *York House School*

Rolling/Late Deadline

- *Brentwood College School*
- *Collingwood School*
- *St. George's School*
- *Vancouver College*
- *Shawnigan Lake School*

INTERVIEW TIPS

Probably one of the biggest questions parents have about the application process is the importance of the interview. Besides a student's SSAT score and written application, the interview is the most realistic way for a school to gauge whether or not a student is a good fit to their school. Schools want students who they feel will adapt and contribute to their respective schools and they look to the interview process to determine whether a particular applicant will be such an existence to his or her school.

The question is then, how do applicants let schools know that they are the best possible fit to the school that they are applying to?

One huge attribute to display during the interview is confidence. This may be displayed in a variety of ways including a firm handshake at the beginning and end of the interview, constant eye contact with the interviewer during the interview, and maintaining an appropriate volume of speech while answering questions.

Another key thing to remember is that the interview starts as soon as the interviewer comes into view. It does not start with the first question, but rather, as soon as the applicant walks into the office of the interviewer. Always assuming a confident but not arrogant attitude even while striding in to take a seat will help tremendously.

Some other tips:

- Always upon elaborate answers. Answers that are short and to the point are not helpful for the interview process.
- Ask good questions. Interviewers want to see genuine interest in their respective schools.
- Stay clam and still during the interview process. Fidgety hands or moving around in the chair displays nervousness and restlessness, two things that interviewers will not like to see.

HOW TO PAY

THE COST

Tuition for private schools varies greatly based on school type, location, and reputation. The oldest and most selective schools in the centre of a metropolitan area like Vancouver, and particularly those offering boarding options, tend to have the highest tuition fees. However, many smaller private schools, particularly faith

-based schools in suburban locations, have tuition close to or under \$10,000. Families should consider not only the yearly tuition rate but also any additional fees for student services, books, uniforms, or building upkeep.

TUITION FOR SELECT PRIVATE BOARDING SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD AND VANCOUVER ISLAND

<i>School</i>	<i>Day Tuition</i>	<i>Boarding Tuition</i>
St. George's School	\$19,389—\$32,120	\$44,300—\$58,275
Brentwood College School	\$23,800	\$44,500—\$60,500
Queen Margaret's School	\$4,800—\$13,500	\$36,700—\$59,200
St. Michael's University	\$16,610—\$34,655	\$45,375—\$69,590
Shawnigan Lake School	\$23,800	\$44,200—\$58,300
St. Margaret's School	\$12,800—\$24,000	\$38,600—\$49,300

TUITION FOR SELECT PRIVATE DAY SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD

<i>School</i>	<i>Tuition</i>
Collingwood School	\$9,300—\$21,900
Crofton House School	\$18,960
York House School	\$18,200—\$18,900
Vancouver College	\$6,950—\$18,700
Meadowridge School	\$18,600—\$25,100
West Point Grey Academy	\$16,400—\$19,900
Stratford Hall	\$17,090—\$19,960
Mulgrave School	\$16,550—\$20,570

FINANCIAL AID

Private school tuition can be a significant expense, but most schools offer financial aid packages to help families who would not otherwise be able to afford their school. Financial aid packages can take many forms, including need-based bursaries and loans, merit-based scholarships, and tuition payment plans and discounts. Applying for financial aid will not affect a student's chance of getting into a school, as admissions are based on merit alone.

Need-Based Aid

Families may qualify for need-based financial aid based on income and expenses. Need-based aid can take the form of loans, which need to be repaid, and bursaries, which do not. In order to be considered, most schools require families to complete an application detailing the family's income, assets, investments, debts, and expenses. Families should bring to the school's attention any unusual circumstances, such as health issues or another child attending university, as most schools will take these considerations into account when making financial aid decisions.

Merit-Based Aid

Many schools offer merit scholarships to deserving students. These are awarded based on academic or extra-curricular achievement, and can take into account the student's involvement in the arts, athletics, or community service. Most schools require students to submit a personal essay demonstrating why they should receive the award. Students applying to academic scholarships may also be required to submit transcripts, report cards, samples of academic work, and entrance exam results. Students applying to arts or athletics scholarships may be required to complete an audition or try-out.

Tuition Payment Plans and Discounts

Many schools offer tuition payment plans to spread the cost of tuition over the year. Families may pay tuition in several instalments over the school year rather than one lump sum. Often, schools offer further tuition discounts for families with multiple children attending the school, or families with parents who volunteer or work at the school.

OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS

Families should research external foundations, charitable organizations, and religious groups in their communities that may offer tuition aid based on financial need.

There are numerous tax benefits available to families with children in private school. A portion of private school fees for children under 16 may be deducted as a child care expense, based on the portion of the school day devoted to child care supervision (such as lunch hours and recess) rather than academic instruction. Faith-based schools or schools that teach religion and are registered as charitable organiza-

tions may be able to issue tax receipts to be claimed as a charitable donation tax credit. Finally, tuition for a Special Needs school may be eligible for a medical expense tax credit if a doctor certifies that the facilities, equipment, or personnel are required for the student's mental or physical needs.

THE SSAT

SSAT (SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST)

ABOUT THE SSAT

- *Length: 2 hours, 35 min*
- *Elementary Level: Grades 3-4*
- *Middle Level: Grades 5-7*
- *Upper Level: Grades 8-11*
- *Middle Level (formerly Lower Level) scores from 1320-2130, Upper Level scores from 1500-2400*
- *Multiple test dates each year*
- *Register at www.ssat.org*

The SSAT is a standardized test administered to students in grades 3-11 to help determine placement into certain private and independent schools. The SSAT is owned, published, and developed by the Secondary School Admission Test Board.

The SSAT is administered nationally eight times during the academic year; however, students should not take the test more than once in a given year. Regional private schools and organizations also have the option of adminis-

tering the test independently, and these “Flex” test dates by region can be found on the SSAT website at www.ssat.org. This website is also used for registration via an online form.

There are three SSAT tests depending on grade level. The Elementary Level test is administered for students in grades 3-4, Middle Level for students currently in grades 5-7, and Upper Level for students in grades 8-11. The Middle and Upper Level exam share similar formats.

SSAT SCORING

Scores for each section on the SSAT (Math, Verbal, and Reading) are scaled based on the performance of students for each separate exam. The Middle Level (formerly Lower Level) exam is scaled from 440-710 points per section, or 1320-2130 total. The Upper Level exam is scaled from 500-800 points per section, or 1500-2400 total. Students in lower grades for their test are expected to receive lower scaled scores.

The SSAT score report also provides SSAT percentile rankings for each category, compar-

ing each student’s performance to that of others in the same grade who have taken the test in the past three years. These percentile rankings provide a more accurate way of evaluating student performance at each grade level. However, the SSAT percentiles are a comparison against only other students who have taken the SSAT, and these tend to be a very high-achievers. Students should not be discouraged if their percentile rankings appear low. The SSAT also publishes an Estimated National Percentile ranking for test takers in grades 5-10.

MEDIAN SCORES (50TH PERCENTILE)				
	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Verbal</i>	<i>Math</i>
Middle Level	5	569	584	563
	6	593	614	593
	7	611	638	614
Upper Level	8	629	662	647
	9	644	683	668
	10	656	695	686

WHAT IS COVERED?

The SSAT's five sections are divided into three main subjects (Math, Verbal, and Reading) plus one writing sample. Each of these sections test the student's ability to think logically, organize ideas, and solve problems systematically. The Math, Verbal, and Reading scores are scaled and combined to give the student's total SSAT score. The writing sample is not scored, but is sent to the admissions officers of the private schools to which the student is applying.

Math

The test contains two 30-minute Math sections with 25 multiple-choice questions each. These sections test knowledge of arithmetic, geometry, word problems, and basic algebra. Students will need to apply their knowledge of these subjects efficiently in order to solve multi-step problems within a strict time limit. No calculator is allowed, so students should be proficient in mental math and long division and multiplication.

Verbal

The Verbal section is 30 minutes long with 60 questions. The first half is comprised of synonym questions, which test students' knowledge of word meanings. The second half is com-

prised of analogies, which test students' ability to recognize relationships between words.

These questions require a thorough knowledge of advanced English vocabulary.

Reading

The Reading section is 40 minutes long and comprises 7-8 short passages with questions. The passages may be drawn from history, science, editorial essays, short stories, or poems. The questions test students' ability to understand advanced reading material, to summarize main ideas, and to make inferences based on what they have read within a strict time limit.

Writing Sample

The SSAT writing sample takes the form of a 25-minute, one-page essay in which students must support or disprove a topic statement by using examples from personal experience, history, literature, and current events. These topics take the form of common sayings and proverbs, such as "No pain, no gain." Although this section is not scored, it will be evaluated by the admissions officers of the school to which the student is applying. Students should aim to write a well-structured essay free from spelling, punctuation, and grammar mistakes.

SSAT STUDY TIPS

- *Commit to long-term, diligent study to build vocabulary and review key concepts*
- *Read and analyze high-level material: books, short stories, poems, newspapers*
- *Write practice essays and have a parent or teacher edit for structure, logic, and mechanics*
- *Drill math concepts, and practice applying them quickly and accurately in multi-step problems*
- *Speed is key: practice with a time limit*

FORMAT OF THE SSAT

Writing Sample:	- One 25-minute essay	} 5 sections (2 hrs, 35 min)
Verbal:	- One 30-minute section (multiple choice)	
Reading:	- One 40-minute section (multiple choice)	
Math:	- Two 30-minute sections (multiple choice)	

AP AND IB PROGRAMS

AP (ADVANCED PLACEMENT)

SOME AP SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD

- *Brentwood College School*
- *Collingwood School*
- *Shawnigan Lake School*
- *St. George's School*
- *St. John's School*
- *St. Margaret's School*
- *St. Michael's University School*

Many schools take part in enrichment learning programs that offer university-level courses as a part of the high school curriculum. The Advanced Placement program (AP) is administered by the College Board and consists of a year-long course of enriched study in a specific subject, followed by an exam in May. There is a fee of \$91 per exam. 37 AP courses are offered across 22 subject areas, including calculus, statistics, physics, biology, chemistry, history, literature, and languages. Over 700 schools in Canada offer AP courses, and over 1 million students write AP exams each year. Registration is conducted through the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com.

Most AP exams involve multiple-choice questions and a free-response section in either essay or problem-solving format. The exams are graded on a 5-point scaled system, where 5 means “extremely qualified” and 1 means “not recommended.” High schools rarely use AP exam scores as a part of the students’ final mark for the course, as exam scores are published in mid-July after most schools have already issued their final grades. AP exams are used by many Canadian and US universities to exempt students from entry level courses, though the amount and type of credit granted varies. It is important to contact each university to determine its AP recognition policy.

IB (INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE)

SOME IB SCHOOLS IN THE GVRD

- *Glenlyon Norfolk School*
- *Mulgrave School*
- *Pattison High School*
- *St. John's School*
- *Stratford Hall*

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is one of the most widely recognized enrichment programs internationally. The IB is administered by the International Baccalaureate Organization based in Switzerland, which has authorized over 4,000 IB schools around the world and 350 in Canada. The IBO offers a Primary Year Program (PYP), a Middle Year Program (MYP), and an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP).

The Primary Year Program is geared toward 3-12 year olds and focuses in the development of the child in the classroom and the world outside. There is no testing in the PYP so that students can focus on “how to learn” rather than “what to learn.” The Middle Year Program is geared toward 11-16 year olds and focuses on challenging academics and the development of life skills. Both PYP and MYP curricula consist of languages, humanities, sciences, math, arts, physical education and technology.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is geared toward students in the penultimate and final years of high school. The curriculum consists of study in six subject areas: English, a second language, individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics and computer science, and an elective. In addition, the IBDP requires students to write an Extended Essay, study epistemology in a course called Theory of Knowledge, and complete 150 hours of Creative, Action and Service requirements. Standardized exams are administered at the end of the 2-year program, with marks from 1 to 7 awarded in each subject. In order to receive the IB Diploma, students must earn a minimum of 24 out of 45 possible points. Many universities recognize IB courses as first-year equivalent, and the IBDP can qualify students for scholarships or even guaranteed admission at some universities.

ARTS AND ATHLETICS

ARTS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Many private schools offer extensive courses and extra-curricular programs in the arts, from music to drama and dance to visual arts. Studies have shown numerous benefits for students engaging in creative programs while in school. Students involved in the arts tend to demonstrate higher academic achievement and greater motivation to learn. Additionally, participation in visual and performing arts enhances creative thinking, spatial reasoning, writing skills, and reading comprehension. Parents interested in a school's arts program should plan to attend a

student production or art exhibit, or ask for a tour of facilities during a school visit.

There are many private schools in the GVRD known for particularly strong arts programs. Collingwood School has a wide range of visual, music, dance, and dramatic arts programs. Bodwell High School and the Mulgrave School are two schools that have a very strong performing arts program for students looking to take part in musical or theatrical programs.

ATHLETICS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Top private schools frequently offer athletic programs of a quality that rival those of college and universities. Believing in the motto *mens sana in corpore sano* ("a healthy mind in a healthy body"), private schools frequently require some sort of athletic participation as part of their curriculum.

The Greater Vancouver Independent Schools Athletic Association (GVISAA) is a sports conference of private schools in the Greater Vancouver Regional District. There are currently 30 member schools within the GVISAA. Within the GVISAA, there are many private schools in the GVRD known for particularly strong athletic programs. These include West Point Grey Academy, Stratford Hall, Mulgrave School, and St. John's, to name just a few.

Some private schools are designed specifically to meet the academic and athletic needs of high-performing student athletes. In addition to providing a full academic curriculum, athletic academies provide nutritional counselling, conditioning, and strength training geared toward specific sports. Students work closely with teachers, coaches, nutritionists and counsellors to create an individual curriculum that will optimize both academic and athletic performance, and allow them to balance both school and sports commitments. Athletic academies frequently offer boarding options that allow students to live on campus and take advantage of the academy resources and facilities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

IVY GLOBAL SERVICES

PRIVATE SCHOOL CONSULTING

Finding the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll make. We work one-on-one with each client to provide expert advice and strategies on the private school admissions process.

We offer consulting services to maximize each student's application, interview, resume and overall self-presentation to the admissions committees. With Ivy Global's expertise and unique relationships with admissions officers, we will increase your chances of gaining admission to the school of your choice.

Full Consulting

Our consulting service will guide you step-by-step through the entire admissions process.

From choosing a school that is the right fit for your child to preparing applications that will set your child apart, we will provide a full game plan for getting your son or daughter into his or her dream school.

Hourly Consulting

We provide parents with hourly consulting to guide them through the process of applying to private schools and answer any questions they might have about their child's education and development.

SSAT Diagnostic

We administer a 2.5 hour SSAT diagnostic exam, provide a detailed score report, and outline a strategic plan for improving SSAT scores.

SSAT PREPARATION

SSAT Courses

Our SSAT prep classes have been uniquely designed to prepare students to maximize their scores on the SSAT. All our sessions take place at a convenient location in Toronto, and they are taught by highly qualified instructors dedicated to delivering the most comprehensive, effective and engaging SSAT preparation program in the country.

Our SSAT prep courses cover essay writing, vocabulary building, reading comprehension, and mathematics. Students will also learn time management and key test taking strategies. Class sizes are limited to 7 students to ensure individual attention. Please note that all of our SSAT classes are designed for either Middle or Upper Level exams.

30 hr course - \$1350+HST

24 hr course - \$1200+HST

18 hr course - \$900+HST

SSAT Tutoring

Our tutoring program is a unique, full customized approach to SSAT preparation. Our program combines material from some of the best SSAT prep programs available with the guidance of a dedicated instructor.

The private tutoring sessions are held at our convenient location in Toronto or at the student's home. Sessions are customized to the individual learning needs of our students and are designed to maximize test-taking techniques and scores. Tutoring is offered for both the Middle Level and Upper Level exams.

26 hour program - \$2100+HST

- 10 x 2 hour tutoring sessions
- 2 x 3 hour diagnostic tests
- Set of SSAT books and materials

Tutoring is also available on a per session basis at \$180+HST for each 2-hour session.

For the latest class schedule, please visit www.ivyglobal.ca.

OTHER SERVICES

Private Tutoring

Ivy Global offers a full range of tutoring services, allowing students to supplement their education with effective, long-term one-on-one instruction. We offer tutoring in a wide range of subjects for students in grades 5-12.

SAT/ACT Prep

Our SAT prep classes and private tutoring have been uniquely designed to help students maximize their scores on the SAT/ACT, the ad-

missions exam for universities and colleges in the United States.

LSAT Prep

Our LSAT preparation helps students develop the necessary techniques and strategies to crack every section of the LSAT and get into law school. We offer both classes and private tutoring for the LSAT.

For more information, please visit our website at www.ivyglobal.ca.

GVRD PRIVATE SCHOOLS

CITY OF VANCOUVER

(VANCOUVER, NORTH VANCOUVER, WEST VANCOUVER, BURNABY, RICHMOND)

🏠 = boarding available

✍ = SSAT required

\$ = day tuition over \$20,000

◆ = founded before 1950

	Name	City	Grades	School Type	Tuition	Size	Year Founded	Uniforms
	Ecole Saint-Sacrement http://ecolesaintsacrement.ca/moodle2/	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	French Immersion	Day: varies	200	1954	Yes
🏠	Bodwell High School www.bodwell.edu	North Vancouver	8-12 co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$14,615-\$19,675 Boarding: \$28,215-32,875	250	1991	Yes
	Brockton School www.brocktonschool.com	North Vancouver	K-9 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$15,600-\$20,500	115	2004	Yes
◆	Carver Christian High School www.carverchristian.org	Burnaby	K-9 Co-ed	Interdenominational	Day: \$6,100-\$7,500	400	2005	Yes
	Century High School www.centuryhighschool.ca	Vancouver	8-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$4,975-\$20,090	153	1997	No
	Children's Hearing and Speech Centre of BC http://childrenshearing.ca/	Vancouver	K-12 Co-ed	Special Needs	Day: \$5,500-\$7,350	70	1963	No
\$	Collingwood School www.collingwood.org	West Vancouver	JK-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$9,300-\$21,900	1200	1984	Yes
◆	Corpus Christi Elementary www.corpuschristi-school.ca	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	Roman Catholic	Day: varies	260	1957	Yes
✍◆	Crofton House School www.croftonhouse.ca	Vancouver	1-12 Girls	Traditional	Day: \$18,960	708	1898	Yes
\$	Eaton Arrowsmith School www.eatonarrowsmithschool.com	Vancouver	1-12 Co-ed	Special Needs	Day: \$8,120-\$30,480	95	1980	Yes
	Ecole Francaise Internationale de Vancouver www.efiv.org	North Vancouver	PS-9 Co-ed	Bi-lingual	Day: \$9,400-\$12,250	125	1997	No
	Family Mont. School Society www.familymontessori.com	Vancouver	PS-K Co-ed	Montessori	Day: varies	Varies	1980	No
\$	Fraser Academy www.fraseracademy.ca	Vancouver	1-12 Co-ed	Special Needs	Day: varies	200	1982	Yes
◆	John Knox Christian School www.johnknoxbc.org	Burnaby	K-12 Co-ed	Interdenominational	Day: \$6,360-\$16,700	313	1955	No
\$	Khalsa School www.khalsaschoolcanada.com	Vancouver	K-10 Co-ed	Sikh	Day: varies	151	N/A	Yes
	King David High School www.kdhs.org	Vancouver	8-12 Co-ed	Jewish	Day: \$16,475	155	2005	Yes

= boarding available = SSAT required \$ = day tuition over \$20,000 = founded before 1950								
	Name	City	Grades	School Type	Tuition	Size	Year Founded	Uniforms
	Little Flower Academy <i>www.lfabc.org</i>	Vancouver	8-12 Girls	Catholic	Day: \$6,800	476	1927	Yes
	Madrona School Society <i>www.madronaschool.com</i>	Vancouver	4-7 Co-Ed	Gifted	Day: \$16,000	14	1994	No
	Meadowridge Independent School <i>www.meadowridge.bc.ca</i>	Vancouver	JK-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$18,600-\$25,100	500	1985	Yes
	Mulgrave School <i>www.mulgrave.com</i>	West Vancouver	JK-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$16,550-\$20,570	750	1993	Yes
	North Star Montessori Elementary School <i>www.northstarmontessori.ca</i>	North Vancouver	PS-6 Co-ed	Montessori	Day: \$5,800-\$12,880	71	1996	Yes
	Notre Dame Regional Secondary School <i>www.ndrs.ca</i>	Vancouver	8-12 Co-ed	Roman Catholic	Day: varies	600	1953	Yes
	Our Lady of Sorrows Elementary School <i>www.ourladyofsorrows.ca</i>	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: varies	385	1926	Yes
	Pacific Spirit School <i>www.pacificspiritschool.org</i>	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$6,250	Varies	1991	No
	Pattison High School <i>www.pattisonhighschool.ca</i>	Vancouver	8-12 Co-ed	Alternative	Day: \$15,860-\$21,380	150	2003	No
	St. Patrick Regional Secondary School <i>www.stpats.bc.ca</i>	Vancouver	9-12 Co-ed	Roman Catholic	Day: \$3,250-\$13,950	500	1923	Yes
	St. Patrick's Elementary School <i>www.spev.ca</i>	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: \$2,550-\$6,200	236	1922	No
	St. Andrew's Catholic School <i>www.standrewsschool.ca</i>	Vancouver	1-7 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: varies	226	1946	Yes
	St. Anthony of Padua School <i>www.stanthonyofpaduaschool.ca</i>	Vancouver	PS-7 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: varies	202	1997	Yes
	St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School <i>www.sfaschool.ca</i>	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: varies	186	1946	Yes
\$	St. Francis Xavier Elementary School <i>www.sfxschool.ca</i>	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: varies	396	1933	Yes
	St. George's School <i>www.stgeorges.bc.ca</i>	Vancouver	1-12 Boys	Traditional	Day: \$19,389-\$32,120 Boarding: \$44,300-58,275	1100	1930	Yes
	St. John's International School <i>www.stjohnsis.com</i>	Vancouver	8-12 Co-ed	International	Day: \$16,300	Varies	N/A	Yes

🍷 = boarding available ✍ = SSAT required \$ = day tuition over \$20,000 ♦ = founded before 1950								
	Name	City	Grades	School Type	Tuition	Size	Year Founded	Uniforms
	St. John's School www.stjohns.bc.ca	Vancouver	K-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$8,100-\$20,750	360	1986	Yes
	St. Joseph the Worker School www.stjosephtheworker.ca	Richmond	K-7 Co-ed	Christian	Day: \$2,660	222	1988	Yes
	St. Jude School www.stjude.ca	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: \$2,376.50-\$2,861.50	230	1955	Yes
♦	St. Mary's Elementary School www.stmary.bc.ca	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: \$2,750-\$3,550	226	1931	Yes
	St. Paul School www.stpaulschool.ca	Richmond	K-7 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: \$2,400-\$3,100	Varies	1961	Yes
	St. Thomas Aquinas High School www.aquinas.org	North Vancouver	8-12 Co-ed	Roman Catholic	Day: varies	580	N/A	Yes
\$	St. Thomas More Collegiate www.stthomasmorecollegiate.ca	Burnaby	8-12 Co-ed	Roman Catholic	Day: \$4,755	660	1960	Yes
	Stratford Hall www.stratfordhall.ca	Vancouver	K-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$17,090-\$19,960	347	2000	Yes
♦	Vancouver College www.vc.bc.ca	Vancouver	K-12 Boys	Catholic	Day: \$6,950-\$18,700	Varies	1922	Yes
♦	Vancouver Christian School www.vancouverchristian.org	Vancouver	K-8 Co-ed	Protestant	Day: \$6,400-\$16,700	353	1949	No
🍷	Vancouver Formosa Academy www.vfa.bc.ca	Vancouver	8-12 Co-ed	Traditional (Emphasis on ESL)	Day: \$13,800	20	1989	Yes
	Vancouver Hebrew Academy www.vhebrewacademy.com	Vancouver	PK-7 Co-ed	Orthodox Jewish	Day: varies	varies	N/A	Yes
	Vancouver Montessori School www.vancouvermontessorischool.com	Vancouver	PS-6 Co-ed	Montessori	Day: \$5,900-\$8,700	250	1972	No
	Vancouver Waldorf School www.vws.ca	North Vancouver	PS-12 Co-ed	Alternative	Day: \$1,036-\$14,120	315	1969	No
	West Point Grey Academy www.wpga.ca	Vancouver	PS-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$16,400-\$19,900	880	1996	Yes
	The Westside School http://www.thewestideschools.ca	Vancouver	K-7 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$8,200	200	2004	Yes
	West Side Montessori Academy www.westsidemontessoriacademy.ca	Vancouver	PS-5 Co-ed	Montessori	Day: \$4,800	85	2008	Yes
♦	York House School www.yorkhouse.ca	Vancouver	JK-12 Girls	Traditional	Boarding: \$18,200-18,900	600	1932	Yes

SURROUNDING REGIONS

(VANCOUVER ISLAND, KELOWNA, LANTZVILLE, SHAWNIGAN LAKE, COQUITLAM, SURREY)

= boarding available
 = SSAT required
 \$ = day tuition over \$20,000
 = founded before 1950

	Name	City	Grades	School Type	Tuition	Size	Year Founded	Uniforms
	Aberdeen Hall Preparatory <i>www.aberdeenhall.com</i>	Kelowna	PS-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$4,330-\$14,250	173	2004	Yes
	Archbishop Carney Regional Secondary School <i>www.acrss.org</i>	Port Coquitlam	8-12 Co-ed	Roman Catholic	Day: \$3,29-\$5,99	750	1995	Yes
	Aspengrove School <i>www.aspengroveschool.ca</i>	Lantzville	JK-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$5,305-\$15,620	190	2003	Yes
	Brentwood College School <i>www.brentwood.bc.ca</i>	Mill Bay	9-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$23,800 Boarding: \$44,500-60,500	430	1923	Yes
	BC Christian Academy <i>www.bcchristianacademy.ca</i>	Port Coquitlam	PK-12 Co-ed	Christian	Day: \$9,260	Varies	1992	Yes
	Dwight International School <i>www.dwightcanada.org</i>	Shawnigan Lake	9-12 Co-ed	International	Day: \$9,500-\$12,500 Boarding: \$35,900-54,500	104	2010	No
	Fraser Valley Adventist Academy <i>www.fvaa.ca</i>	Aldergrove	K-12 Co-ed	Christian	Day: \$3,000-\$13,500	Varies	N/A	No
	Glenlyon Norfolk School <i>www.mygns.ca</i>	Victoria	JK-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$15,480-\$39,910	679	1932	Yes
	Island Pacific School <i>www.islandpacific.org</i>	Bowen Island	6-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$13,000-\$18,500	48	1995	Yes
	Pacific Academy <i>www.pacificacademy.net</i>	Surrey	PS-12 Co-ed	Pentecostal	Day: \$5,050-\$6,610	500	1985	Yes
	Queen Margaret's School <i>www.qms.bc.ca</i>	Duncan	K-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$4,800-\$13,500 Boarding: \$36,700-59,200	330	1921	Yes
	Regent Christian Academy <i>www.regent.bc.ca</i>	Surrey	K-12 Co-ed	Christian	Day: \$2,500-3,960	550	1978	Yes
	Shawnigan Lake School <i>www.shawnigan.ca</i>	Shawnigan Lake	8-12 Co-ed	Boarding	Day: \$23,800 Boarding: \$44,200-58,300	430	1916	Yes
	Southridge Secondary School <i>www.southridge.bc.ca</i>	Surrey	K-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$14,750-\$25,250	650	1995	Yes
	St. Margaret's School <i>www.stmarg.ca</i>	Victoria	PS-12 Girls	Traditional	Day: \$12,800-\$24,000 Boarding: \$38,600-49,300	400	1908	Yes

● = boarding available ✍ = SSAT required \$ = day tuition over \$20,000 ◆ = founded before 1950								
	Name	City	Grades	School Type	Tuition	Size	Year Founded	Uniforms
\$●◆	St. Michael's University <i>www.smus.ca</i>	Victoria	K-12 Co-ed	Traditional	Day: \$16,610-\$34,655 Boarding: \$45,375-69,590	Varies	1906	Yes
	Surrey Christian School <i>www.surreychristian.com</i>	Surrey	PS-12 Co-ed	Christian	Day: \$2,700-\$6,750	530	1964	No
	Traditional Learning Academy <i>www.traditionalllearning.com</i>	Coquitlam	K-12 Co-ed	Catholic	Day: \$3,950-\$4,425	150	1993	Yes

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