

King George Secondary School is a comprehensive high school situated in the heart of the West End – the most densely populated community in Vancouver. It offers a wide variety of course offerings including, I.B. Middle Years, a Technology Immersion program, an on-campus district Alternate Enrichment program – City School, as well as strong academics, fine arts, applied skills and athletics. King George is classified as an Inner-City school and has a population of 500 students. A significant number of these students have learning needs associated with ESL learners. King George has an authorized International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program and has made a commitment to work collaboratively with partner schools, Lord Roberts and Elsie Roy Elementary, on this grade 6 to 10 program.

The King George **MISSION STATEMENT** is:

King George Secondary school is dedicated to providing a safe, caring environment that promotes the intellectual, cultural, physical and social development of all students. Our School community encourages its members to be life-long learners through an on-going commitment to improvement.

The **HISTORY** of King George is the longest of any school in the district. The current King George Secondary School was officially opened on November 20, 1963, with Mr. N. H. Brown as its first principal. The original King George School, named after British monarch George V, and located at Burrard and Nelson, was built in 1892 as an elementary school and became King George High in 1914, with Mr. Thomas Pattison as its first principal.

The school colours are green, black and white and the school teams are known as the Dragons. The school motto is **Magni Animo (Great in Spirit)**. This motto was truly well chosen, as King George students throughout the years have demonstrated scholarship and athleticism with spirit and dedication. King George is often referred to as "Little School: Big Heart", this tradition continues, and is one that the students of King George are proud to maintain.

Currently, King George Secondary School has an enrolment of 500 students. King George is a very special school where all students know each other and the staff knows every student. Throughout its entire history, King George Secondary has always had a highly committed and dedicated teaching staff, and King George graduates have achieved personal success in their adult lives.



The Downtown Vancouver International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme includes all Grades 6 and 7 at Lord Roberts and Elsie Roy and all Grades 8, 9 and 10 at King George. The MYP is designed for students between the ages of 11 and 16, encompassing early puberty and mid-adolescence. This is a particularly critical phase in personal and intellectual development where student uncertainty, sensitivity, susceptibility, resistance and questioning are addressed by the MYP. The aim of the MYP is to develop in young people the skills, attitudes and knowledge needed to participate in an increasingly global society.

The MYP has three guiding philosophies: *Holistic Learning*, where a holistic view of learning is promoted, *Intercultural Awareness*, where students develop attitudes, knowledge and skills as they learn about their own cultures and the culture of others, and *Communication*, where inquiry, understanding, student reflection and multiple forms of expression are supported.

Five *Areas of Interaction* provide a framework for learning and allow connections amongst the subjects. *Approaches to Learning* provides students with the tools to enable them to take responsibility for their own learning by developing the discipline, attitudes, strategies and skills needed to be critical, coherent, and independent thinkers. *Community and Service* starts in the classroom and extends beyond it, encouraging responsible, caring participation locally and worldwide. *Human Ingenuity* explores, in multiple ways, the processes and products of human creativity and considers their impact on society and the mind. *Environments* makes students aware of their interdependence with their environments so that they can accept responsibility for the future. *Social and Health Education* prepares students for a physically and mentally healthy life by informing of potential hazards and reinforcing informed choices based on respect for their bodies and minds.

The **Technology Immersion** program was developed in 2000 to address the growing need to educate students in the integration of technology, education, learning and communicating. The program utilizes an integrated approach to technology in the core curriculum areas: English, Social Studies, Math, and Science. Students gain skills in computer applications, visual and audio technologies, web and data base research skills and the creative use of technology in communication. The program is limited to a single class of Grade 8 and 9 students with a keen interest in this approach to learning.

King George also utilizes the community as our classroom. The educational and learning opportunities of the West End, the Downtown Business District, Coal Harbour and Yaletown are greater than any neighbourhood in Vancouver. Partnerships with the Vancouver Art Gallery, Science World, The Vancouver Public

Library main branch, Stanley Park, The Aquarium, Pacific Cinemateque, Simon Fraser University (Downtown Campus), the University of British Columbia (Downtown campus), Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Carnegie Centre, Three Bridges Health Centre, The West End Community Centre, Coal Harbour Community Centre, and The Roundhouse Community Centre, all expand the learning opportunities for our students and are within walking distance of the school. Field trips are an ongoing and weekly occurrence. As well, the community comes to King George as service providers (nurse, doctor, psychiatrist, drug and alcohol counselling, mental health worker, student connectedness programming (SASY), community centre youth programming) and educators (Green Bricks sustainability education, Engineers without Borders, TD Waterhouse sponsored Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, silver and Gold Awards, Scientist in your Community Program, Compassionate Canada through SFU, Benchmarks through UBC, Creative Writing). King George is also extremely well served by our Community Schools Team. Youth leadership training, volunteer opportunities, recreation activities and support for immigrant and at risk students is the focus of their programming. This vibrancy in learning opportunities carries directly into our attitude as a learning community – ***Now that we can do anything, what will we do?*** (a quote by Bruce Mau creator of the design exhibition *Massive Change*).

Through our connection with International Baccalaureate British Columbia we also enjoy the opportunity of hosting a three day international conference/workshop three times per year. 350 – 400 delegates register from around the world to attend along with highly trained workshop presenters. This gives our staff access to learning opportunities that are otherwise unattainable. The focus of the workshops is to build competence in teaching the IB and forming connections with professionals from around the world who share the same common sense of purpose as King George.

Our sense of connectedness and community as a school, with our elementary partner schools, within our community and internationally, defines our purpose and our success as an institution of learning.