

The Greater Victoria School District Challenge Program Esquimalt High School Application 2025-2026

Challenge Coordinator: Omdrea Walker owalker@sd61.bc.ca

Note: Students must choose to apply to either Esquimalt or Mount Doug’s Challenge Program—they may not apply to both programs.

Application Process:

The Challenge Program application includes:

- 1. Part One of the application: Registration - Due January 24th, 2025**
 - This registration page is below and can be hand delivered, emailed, or faxed to Esquimalt High.
- 2. District Testing Session: January 29th, 2025, Esquimalt High School Library**
 - In order for students to be considered for the Challenge Program, they must be tested. The testing is used in conjunction with the student’s application to create a student profile.
 - A test schedule will be sent to each applicant (via e-mail) during the latter part of January. This notice will specify scheduled testing dates and times. The student must come to the testing location, which is to be determined, at the date and time specified.
 - If your child cannot attend on the dates scheduled, please call or e-mail the challenge coordinator to re-schedule your child’s testing session. If your child is ill on the day of his/her test, please call the school in the morning to arrange for an alternative date.
 - If your child has already completed testing within the last three years and has received a Gifted Designation, they may be exempt from the testing process. In order to be exempt from testing, please contact Omdrea Walker by **February 2nd, 2024** at owalker@sd61.bc.ca.
- 3. Part Two of the application: Student Portfolio - Due January 29th, 2025 (please turn in at the testing session)**

PORTFOLIO (Hard Copy or Digital):

Hard copy: Should fit a one-inch binder—please put the name of the applicant on the spine
Or

Digital: Flash drive handed in or website/digital portfolio link emailed to owalker@sd61.bc.ca.

All Portfolios must include the following:

- A letter from the applicant describing why they are applying to the Challenge Program
- Part Two of the application package (found below)
- A copy of the most recent report card

Portfolios may include (but is not limited to) the following:

- Personal pieces of information represented in a variety of ways:
 - Projects, work samples, music samples, sports, creative writing, art pieces, hobbies, evidence of community service or extracurriculars—these should be pieces that reflect the applicant's passions and interests, and give the selection committee a broader sense of the applicant.

4. **Interview: February 3rd – 5th, 2024**

- Our selection committee will let each applicant know their interview time and place.
- Each applicant should be prepared to talk about themselves—their learning, their passions, and their challenges.

Screening:

1. Once all information is received and collated, the screening committee will meet and decisions will be made to:
 - Accept the applicant into the program; or
 - Place the applicant on a waitlist pending available seats in the program; or
 - Notify the applicant of non-acceptance.

2. Esquimalt High School will:

- Hold all student work and materials for two weeks post-screening process for pick up at Esquimalt High School after the selection process is complete. Student work can be collected from Esquimalt High's main office.
- Communicate to parents/guardians regarding the decisions of the screening committee.
- Establish and maintain a roster of recommended students.

3. Appeal Procedure:

- The Committee will discuss the decision with the parents and with the student, if appropriate.
- Upon request of the parents and student, the Screening Committee will consider newly submitted information on a student who has not been placed in the Challenge Program.
- The appeal must be received in writing within two weeks of placement notification.

GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #61 CHALLENGE PROGRAM REGISTRATION
(part one of your application)

FULL Name of Applicant (please print):

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ (YEAR) (MONTH) (DAY)

PRESENT SCHOOL: _____

CURRENT GRADE: _____ CONTACT/TAG TEACHER: _____

WILL YOU ALSO BE APPLYING FOR FRENCH IMMERSION? (circle one) YES NO

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE (if applicable): _____

CELL PHONE (if applicable): _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Parent/Guardian Consent:

I / we give consent for _____ to apply
to Esquimalt High's Challenge Program

• I / we accept responsibility for ensuring that this application is complete and all items listed in the check list are included and submitted by the deadline. (Program personnel will not assume responsibility for calling for missing items.)

•• I / we give consent for group and/or individual intellectual and/or academic tests to be administered. I / We understand that we must assume responsibility for the transportation to / and from Esquimalt High School and the testing location for the purposes of admission testing.

_____ Student Signature

_____ Parent Signature

FAX, MAIL or DELIVER TO ESQUIMALT HIGH SCHOOL
FAX: 250-361-1263 E-MAIL: esquimalt@sd61.bc.ca

Esquimalt High School
847 Colville Road
Victoria, B.C. V9A 4N9

APPLICATION PART TWO Esquimalt Challenge Program

(To be completed by student and submitted in portfolio)

Name: _____

Present School: _____

*please limit responses to each question to 200 words MAXIMUM

1) What is important to you? Describe any hobbies, extra-curricular activities (ex. sports or clubs) or passion projects you are working on. What motivates you to engage in these activities?

2) Describe what you like most about school and why. Describe what you like least about school and why.

3) Tell us about who you are. How would your family, friends, and/or members of your community describe you?

4) What goals are you currently working towards?