

The Greater Victoria School District Challenge Program

Esquimalt High School Application 2026-2027

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: For incoming Grade 9's only

The Challenge Program application includes:

1. Application - **Due January 14th, 2026**
 - The application page is below and can be hand delivered, emailed, or faxed to Esquimalt High School.
2. **District Testing Session: January 23rd, 2026, 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) by January 19. 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. They will be scheduled in a morning session or afternoon session.
 - 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.
3. **Student Portfolio** - Due prior to January 30th, 2026 (recommended to turn in at the testing session)

PORFOLIO (Hard Copy or Digital):

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

Or,

Digital: Flash drive handed in or website/digital portfolio link emailed to owalker@sd61.bc.ca. If on a flash drive, it should be submitted in a binder with the student's name on the front and spine of the binder.

All Portfolios must include the following:

- A letter from the applicant describing why they are applying to the Challenge Program
- Answers to four response questions (found below)
- A copy of the most recent report card, with student photo

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. Photos or videos of the examples will suffice.

4. Interview: January 29–February 3, 2026

- Interviews will be held on **January 29–30 and February 2–3**. Each applicant will be scheduled for **one interview time within these dates**.
- 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.
- Please note that **only shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview**.

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 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

RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

(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?

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