



David Oppenheimer Elementary School

2421 Scarboro Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 2L5

Tel: 604-713-4570 Safe Arrival 604-713-5159 ext. 62

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/david-oppenheimer>

Principal: Ms. Hope Sterling

Office Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Deborah Pollastretti

OPPENHEIMER STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

***Please Note: Due to the Pandemic many of our activities and programs are on hold for the 2020/2021 School year.**

School Mission Statement

David Oppenheimer School community is committed to provide a caring community that encourages each child to become a socially responsible, life-long learner.

School Code of Conduct

“O.R.C.A.S.” was developed by our students, staff and parents over a decade ago, and it stands for **Oppenheimer is a Respectful, Caring And Safe School. We as staff, students and parents demonstrate and model respectful behaviour as outlined in our School Code of Conduct. We appreciate your support in helping to promote these ideals at home.**

School History

David Oppenheimer Elementary is proud to be a neighbourhood school serving the Fraserview South Slope and River District communities since 1959. The school is attached to Bobolink Park offering open soccer fields, treed areas, and a variety of adventure playgrounds. The school was named after David Oppenheimer who was a successful Vancouver entrepreneur, the second mayor of Vancouver, as well as a National Historic Person of Canada.

School Population

The school enrolls just under 400 students, organized into 17 divisions, ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 7 with over 40 teaching and support staff. The students reflect the multi-ethnic nature of the community with a total of 29 different languages spoken. The top four language groups are English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Punjabi.

School Schedule

***Please Note: For the 2020/2021 School Year, due to the pandemic we have divided the school in half. We now have two - 30 minute outside recess play times and two - 32 minute outside lunch play times. Students eat their recess and snacks under the supervision of their classroom teachers, either before or after their outside play times.**

Regular School Year Schedule

Supervision starts	8:40 a.m.	Lunch break	12:00 Noon
Classes begin	9:00 a.m.	Classes begin	12:47 p.m.
Recess/Snack break	10:35 a.m.	Classes end	03.00 p.m.
Classes begin	10:50 a.m.	Supervision ends	03:20 p.m.

*Unless they have a special event to attend, students should not arrive any earlier than 8:40 a.m. and are encouraged to go straight home after the 3:00 bell.

Food Allergy Alert!

Oppenheimer is a **nut and shellfish** aware school. We have students and staff who can have anaphylactic responses when in contact with airborne particles of peanuts and shellfish. Please help keep our community safe by not bringing any nuts, nut products or shellfish to school. Your cooperation in this is greatly appreciated.

Attendance – Absences, Lates, Leaving Early

If your child will be arriving late or will not be attending school, please leave a message on our Safe Arrival phone number: 604-713-5159 extension 62. Alerting the teacher of the absence is not enough. Any child who is ill must be picked up by a parent or designate on file as soon as possible. If your child arrives late or, you are picking them before 3 PM, please ensure they check out at the office and use the main door to enter or exit the school.

Electronic Policy

All electronics will be “out of sight” and not used between 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, unless teachers request the device be used for educational purposes. If a child needs to make an important call this be accommodated at the school office.

Common Area Expectations

We want to ensure the hallways, lunchroom, library and all other common areas are safe places. This means students must walk, speak at an appropriate level and always be aware of their surroundings. In the hallways we expect students to walk on the right-hand side.

Dress Code

During recess and lunch students are expected to be outside for fresh air and exercise; therefore, it is important that students come prepared for the weather. This means that when it is raining, students come with rain gear and as it cools down, students should arrive with a warm jacket. All year long students are expected to wear school appropriate clothing, i.e. appropriate images and language on clothing, no bare midriffs. Please check the Lost and Found regularly.

Healthy Lifestyle

We are in partnership with the B.C. Fruits, Vegetables, & Milk+ program. Each month our students are given the opportunities to sample and taste different types of seasonal B.C. grown vegetables & fruits. * As well, our PAC offers an optional paid weekly hot lunch program, monthly popcorn and frozen yogurt. For more information, please visit the Much-a-lunch website.

School Goals

We have two school goals:

- To support our students in developing self-regulation skills to cope with the challenges of daily life.
- To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Indigenous histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

Extra-Curricular, Athletic & Music Programs

Oppenheimer boasts both Music and Physical Education specialist teachers. Also, many of our staff members volunteer before and after school to coach sports teams and run extra-curricular clubs. We usually offer the following sports: Cross-country, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Track and Field and Ultimate. We often offer the following clubs: Chess Club and Crochet Club. Also, to instill the importance of service, our staff offer students involvement in our Green Team, Peer Helpers, Library Monitors, Tech Club and Student Council.

Community Services

Oppenheimer staff and students are also involved in community service. Staff facilitate events such as, Terry Fox Run for Cancer and Remembrance Day for the veterans in order to instill empathy and build awareness of the needs around us. These activities build the skills laid out in our Core Competency curriculum and encourage our students to be active contributing members within and beyond our school community.

Outside Times

Before School

Starting at 8:40 a.m., students are welcome to arrive on the school grounds, play with their peers and get some exercise and fresh air to start their day. At the 8:55 bell, they are to line up in their designated locations and await their teacher, who will bring them into the school.

At Recess

All students go outside to get some fresh air and play with their friends for the 15-minute break. Students are reminded to dress appropriately for the Vancouver seasonal weather. For example, with rainy, windy weather, students should come to school in rain-proof jackets, hats/hoods and rubber boots.

At Lunch

Students are to eat lunches in their classrooms. At 12:20, if they are finished, they may go outside to play. If not, they have another 10 minutes to finish their lunch. Upon bell dismissal, students dress for the weather and play outside on school grounds with their peers.

Most students stay at school to eat lunch. However, if your child is ***going home for lunch***, please notify the classroom teacher on the day. If this will be a regular occurrence, please send a signed letter to the office and it will be kept on file. Thank you.

After School

Parents are expected to arrive just after 3 p.m. to pick up their children. There will be staff available to supervise students from 3:00 to 3:20 p.m. If you have an emergency, and you are unable to pick up your child until after 3:15, please call the office and we will collect your child and have them wait safely in the office for pick up.

Snow Closure Plan - www.vsb.bc.ca

In the event of a serious snowfall in the winter months, the Vancouver Board of Education may decide to close the schools. If this is the case, an announcement will be made no later than 6:00 a.m. on the VSB website and all local radio stations (CBC Radio 690 AM, 105.7 FM; CKNW 98 AM, KISS 96.9 FM, CKWX 1130 AM, Fairchild Radio CJVB 1470 AM & CKHG 96.1 FM). When all schools are closed, the assumption is that other programs such as night school and committee meetings will also be cancelled.

If you are unsure of our school status, please listen to local radio stations or visit our VSB website (www.vsb.bc.ca) for announcements regarding closures. In case of inevitable closure, please have your emergency childcare arrangements in place.

When schools are closed, roads are often in poor condition and transit is slow, so school staff may have difficulty getting to work or many may not get there at all. Please do not assume that someone will be at the school to look after your child if the schools are closed due to a heavy snow fall.

Student Leadership

Our Principal, along with our Counsellor and Supervision Aides lead a team of **Peer Helpers** to help our younger students play respectfully and safely during recess and lunch times. The students receive training in skills such as problem solving, active listening and empathy. They offer problem solving strategies from the **WITS** program: **W**alk Away, **I**gnore, **T**alk it Out or **S**eek Help.

Library Monitors are trained by our teacher-librarian and they serve our students before and after school. We look forward to their smiley face at the 'check out' counter or shelving books in our school library.

We are very fortunate to have Ms. Werboweski, who organizes our **PA Announcers**. They deliver daily morning messages to us. Students, parents and staff immensely enjoy their leadership ability!

Two of our teachers, Ms. Gutkowski and Ms. Patel, works with a group of **Student Council** members to provide fun-filled spirit days such as 'crazy hair day', 'twin day', 'jersey day' etc.

Oppenheimer Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Our School has a very active and heavily involved Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and School Planning Council (SPC). Parent volunteers are welcome to assist with special school-wide events such as Book Fair, Clothing Drive, October dressed-up Movie Night, February Potluck dinner, May Spring Fair, & Sports Day food concession. To support these community-based programs, our PAC spent months in planning and organization. Kudos to PAC!

PAC Supported Enriched Education Program

Yearly, students are given the opportunities to enhance their learning by participating in weeklong programs such as dance or gymnastics, Project Chef & Growing Chefs, ice skating 2 Killarney Community Centre, and grade 7 camp & Grad, to name a few.

Our school staff and students greatly appreciate the financial support given by our PAC. The sources of finance are derived from the annual direct donation and various types of annual fundraising events like gift cards.

Community Partners

For years, our school is partnered with the following organizations to offer an enriched educational and community programs to our students and their families.

David Thompson Community School - Under the leadership of the program coordinator, after school programs such as Run and Read, Art Attack, and Cooking are offered to our students Thursdays after school. As well, our students benefit from the DT leadership students in program training such as soccer referees.

South Vancouver Family Places - Oppenheimer has been recognized as a partner with the SVFP for its long-standing support. All program initiatives are designed to help our pre-schoolers to be ready for formal school education.

Spare Time Bobolink Before/After School Care - Oppenheimer is extremely fortunate to have a dedicated and energetic team of daycare staff who look after our 60+ students. Their program is top-notch & enjoyed by all! As a part of our school community, the staff there also helped with 'DJ' the grade 6/7 dance twice yearly. As a bonus, they also helped with photography of school events.

Vancouver Fraserview Chinese School - Since 1980, this Chinese School rents our facility to offer 6 to 8 Cantonese & Mandarin language classes to our daytime students every Monday and Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Oppenheimer promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code respecting the rights of all individuals, prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital or family status, physical or mental disability, gender or sexual orientation.

CALENDAR 2020-21

Oppenheimer Important Dates

Tuesday, September 8	School Opening Day – All Staff Attend
Monday, September 14	First full day of school for students (K Gradual Entry begins)
Friday, September 25	Professional Development Day – school not in session
Monday, October 12	Thanksgiving Day – school closed
Wednesday, October 21	Parent Conferences 2 PM Early dismissal
Thursday, October 22	Parent Conferences 2 PM Early dismissal
Friday, October 23	Professional Development Day – school not in session
Wednesday, November 11	Remembrance Day – school closed
Friday, November 27	Professional Development Day – school not in session
Friday, December 18	Last Day of instruction before Winter Break
Monday, December 21- Friday, January 1	Winter Break
Monday, January 4	School re-opens after winter break
Monday, January 18	Professional Development Day – school not in session
Wednesday, February 10	Parent Conferences 2 PM Early dismissal
Thursday, February 11	Parent Conferences 2 PM Early dismissal
Friday, February 12	Professional Development Day – school not in session
Monday, February 15	Family Day – school closed
Friday, March 12	Last day of instruction before Spring Break
Monday, March 15 – Friday, March 26	Spring Break
Monday, March 29	School re-opens after Spring Break
Friday, April 2	Good Friday – school closed
Monday, April 5	Easter Monday – school closed
Monday, April 26	Professional Development Day – school not in session
Monday, May 24	Victoria Day – school closed
Tuesday, June 29	Last full day of school for students
Wednesday, June 30	Administrative Day – school not in session