

GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT # 6 1
SECONDARY CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Re: Greater Victoria School District #61 Secondary Challenge Program

The Greater Victoria School District provides district programs catering to the needs of gifted and talented students in two schools:

Mount Douglas Secondary School (Grades 9-12)

Challenge Coordinator: **Mr. Adrian French - afrench@sd61.bc.ca**

and

Esquimalt Community School (Grades 9-12)

Challenge Coordinator: **Mrs. Anita Roberts – aroberts@sd61.bc.ca**

THE GIFTED LEARNER

A talented and gifted learner possesses a variety of characteristics that may include high task commitment, social and emotional intensity, creative and/or productive thinking and above average intelligence. This individual has a thirst for knowledge, has a passion for learning and requires differentiated educational opportunities and services.

In keeping with the Ministry's definition of giftedness, the selection process used to identify such students gives heavy weighting to high intellectual ability as reflected in test scores and academic performance; and high task commitment, as indicated in written presentations, documentation and interviews, and highly creative assignments and hobbies.

DISTRICT CHALLENGE TESTING PROGRAM

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. The information below is intended to help you understand District Program's testing process.

A test schedule will be sent to each applicant (via e-mail or phone) and sent to his/her current school during the latter part of January. This notice will specify scheduled testing dates and times. The student must come to Mount Douglas Secondary or Esquimalt High School on the days and times specified. If your child cannot attend on the dates scheduled, please call or e-mail the school 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.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE :

1. The School Based Teacher or Principal may select students who they consider eligible for consideration. Selections may be based upon identification materials contained in the District #61 Resource Book for teachers of Challenge students. Parents may also refer their children for consideration by applying through Mount Douglas Secondary School.
2. **Part 1 of the application form can be filled in the night of the information meeting or returned to Mount Douglas Secondary School at 3970 Gordon Head Road in person to the main office or by mail or fax (250-477-0277) December 14th, 2009 to January 15th, 2010.**
3. **Part 2 of the application package should be delivered to Mount Douglas Secondary main office on your assigned testing session date from January 26th - January 30th**
4. Upon receipt of the Challenge Application, an evaluation form will be sent to the student's current teacher(s).
5. **Testing:** Parents and students will be notified of the assigned testing session (via e-mail) and the schedule will be sent to the student's school during the latter part of January.
Testing time is 12:00 pm – 3:00pm.

Screening

1. **Once all information is received and collated, the Screening Committee will meet and decisions will be made to**
 - i) accept the applicant into the District Program; or
 - ii) place the applicant on a wait list pending available seats in the District Program; or
 - iii) notify the applicant that he/she has not been accepted into the District Program.

2. **Mount Douglas will**
 - i) establish and maintain a roster of recommended students;
 - ii) communicate in writing the status of the student to the recommending school and parents; and
 - iii) hold all student work and materials for pick up at Mount Douglas Secondary after the selection process is complete.

3. **Appeal Procedure**
 - a. The Committee will discuss the decision with the parents and with the student, if appropriate.
 - b. Upon request of the parents and student, the District Committee will reconsider previously and newly submitted information on a student who has not been placed in a gifted program.
 - c. The appeal must be received in writing within two weeks of placement notification.

The information on the attached forms is collected under the authority of the School Act and will be used solely for the purpose of establishing eligibility for the District Challenge Program. It will be kept secure and confidential in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Any questions concerning the collection or use of this information may be directed to your School Principal.

MOUNT DOUGLAS SECONDARY CHALLENGE PROGRAM

VISION STATEMENT

The Mount Douglas Secondary Challenge Program serves the unique needs of gifted, creative, and talented learners by creating a community which seeks to maximize student opportunities for enrichment, self-direction, independence, synergetic interaction and emotional well being in a secure, mentoring atmosphere. The program will foster the development of individual excellence through differentiated educational experiences.

The Mount Douglas Secondary Challenge Program offers gifted, creative, and talented students an educational program consistent with their abilities which aims to prepare them for post secondary education and the world at large. The program makes every attempt to ensure that students become knowledgeable and skilled in "core areas" of instruction. Acquisition of knowledge is seen as a cornerstone of the program; however, students do not learn in a rote manner but are expected, instead, to develop an understanding of relationships within knowledge, one of the hallmarks of an educated individual. Methods of instruction are also aimed at the development of higher order thinking skills. Activities and assignments routinely require students to analyze, synthesize or evaluate material covered. Similarly, students are asked to make logical extensions or to establish and justify conclusions.

Skill development is seen as a second cornerstone of the Challenge Program at Mount Douglas Secondary. A concerted attempt is made to ensure that students develop necessary research, organization and presentation skills. These skills flow naturally into independent study projects, which further hone individual skills while offering opportunities to develop creativity and skills in long term planning, time management and group dynamics.

Within the program, Grade 9 and 10 Challenge students stay together for the core subjects of Social Studies, English, Science and Mathematics. In Grade 11 and 12, Challenge students maintain the grouping in Social Studies, English and Mathematics and choose the appropriate Science courses. An Interdisciplinary Studies course is typically taken in Grade 11 or 12 as well. The core subject grouping offers an environment and a peer group where interest in learning and facing intellectual challenges is seen as the norm and not as something unusual or undesirable. This constructive peer atmosphere is a tremendous advantage to the academically gifted student. On the other hand, the elective program provides the advantages of mixing challenge students with the rest of the student body and ensuring that they are well integrated into the school's broader culture.

The Mount Douglas Secondary Challenge Program offers students opportunities for enrichment in education, skill development, performance and accomplishment. It asks for keen intellectual interest and a commitment to shared goals.

We, in the program, look forward to working with new students towards these shared goals.

John Fawcett
Principal

Adrian French
Challenge Co-ordinator

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BEFORE JANUARY 15th, 2010

PART 1

FAX, MAIL or DELIVER TO MOUNT DOUGLAS SECONDARY SCHOOL

FAX: 250-477-0277

E-MAIL: mtdouginfo@sd61.bc.ca

**Mount Douglas Secondary School
3970 Gordon Head Road
Victoria, B.C. V8N 3X3**

GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #61

CHALLENGE PROGRAM REGISTRATION

STUDENT INFORMATION (Please print)

SURNAME: _____

FIRST NAME: _____

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

Male

Female

PRESENT SCHOOL: _____

CURRENT GRADE: _____

CONTACT/TAG TEACHER: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT NAME: (Mr. Mrs. Ms.) _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ **WORK PHONE (if applicable):** _____

CELL PHONE (if applicable): _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE DELIVER PART 2 ON YOUR ASSIGNED TESTING DATE (January 26th- 29th, 2010)

GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #61

MOUNT DOUGLAS CHALLENGE PROGRAM APPLICATION

I N S T R U C T I O N S

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST TO ENSURE THAT ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION IN THE ORDER THAT IS PRINTED OUT BELOW, AND SUBMIT TO MOUNT DOUGLAS SECONDARY.

(PROGRAM PERSONNEL WILL NOT ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CALLING FOR MISSING ITEMS.)

PARENT / GUARDIAN:

Please fill out the following form:

- REGISTRATION FORM**

Please include the following correspondence:

- PARENT LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Write a letter of support for your child's application to the "Challenge Program Committee"

- State why you think your child is a good candidate for the program.
- Please limit your letter to two pages (written) or one page (typed).

- COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S MOST RECENT REPORT CARD.**
-

STUDENT:

Please include the following:

- LETTER OF APPLICATION**

Write a letter of application to the Challenge Program Committee outlining what inspires you to explore new ideas, develop further understanding of what you learn in the classroom or drives your curiosity.

- Tell them why you would want to be part of the program.
- Tell them why you think you are suited for this program.
- Please limit your letter to two pages (written) or one page (typed).

- STUDENT INTEREST AND ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY**

To be completed by the student. Parents and teachers are encouraged to assist the student.

- WORK SAMPLES**

Please provide examples that represent your best work.
Work samples are critical to our selection process.

All work needs to be organized in a 2" binder or 2" portfolio organizer. Provide photographs of any material that does not fit in the binder. Please show multiple angles/perspectives.

Examples of work could include the following:

- Creative Writing
- Long term research or investigative project
- Math work or Test
- Sample of other creative work (e.g. art, photograph, drama, cartooning, etc.)

Please sign and date each sample. All work samples will be available for pick after the evaluation process. Dates T.B.A

**EVALUATION FORMS WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOUR CONTACT
TEACHER UPON RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION**

**GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #61
CHALLENGE PROGRAM
REGISTRATION FORM**

STUDENT INFORMATION: PLEASE PRINT

Surname: _____ **First name:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Male Female
Year / Month / Day

Present School: _____

Gr. 8 Contact Teacher : _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact Parent/Guardian (Mr. Mrs. Ms.) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone : _____ Work Phone: _____

E-Mail Address : _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONSENT:

(Date)

I / we give consent for _____ to apply to the Mount Douglas Secondary School District Challenge Program for Gifted, Creative and Talented students.

- 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 student transportation to and from Mount Douglas Secondary School or Esquimalt Secondary School.

(Parent / Guardian Signature)

(Student Signature)

**DISTRICT CHALLENGE PROGRAM
STUDENT INTEREST AND ACHIEVEMENT SURVEY
(To be completed by student)**

Name: _____

Present School: _____

1. List your past and present involvement with **clubs and organizations** and/or extra-curricular activities. Include length of involvement, positions held, and recognition received.

Length of Time	CLUB / ORGANIZATION	POSITION / AWARD

2. List **hobbies and interests** including sports, family activities, collections, games, traveling, etc. Outline the extent and duration of your involvement.

Length of time	HOBBIES / INTERESTS	INVOLVEMENT

3. Describe what you like **most** about school and subjects and why.

4. Describe what you like **least** about school and subjects and why.

5. Are you an **expert or specialist in some area(s)**? Please explain.

EXPERT IN:	EXPLANATION