



SCHOOL: Dover Bay Secondary

YEAR: 2024-2025

PRINCIPAL: Geoff Steel



OUR SCHOOL

Dover Bay Secondary School is located on the traditional lands of the snaw'naw'as peoples. As of September, 2024 Dover Bay is the second largest secondary school in the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public School District (68) with an enrollment of 1610 students. We officially opened our doors in 1992 and have been a fixture in our community for 32 years. Dover Bay has a large number of teaching and support staff to guide our students from Grade 8 through to Grade 12 graduation. Dover has five elementary feeder schools: Frank J Ney, McGirr, Pleasant Valley, Randerson Ridge, and Seaview, with Rutherford Elementary slated to re-open as the sixth in September of 2025. Dover Bay is a diverse school with students from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds.

Our school is known for its academic excellence and personalized programming. Dover Bay is fortunate to offer a wide variety of courses for our students to choose from. We have a talented staff that offer a variety of options and a beautiful facility that can compliment these programs. Our many elective offerings include Auto-Tech, Band, Cafeteria, Ceramics, Carpentry, Dance, Foods, Physical Health and Education, Robotics, Theatre, Weight Room, Yoga, as well as a comprehensive slate of academic programming.

What truly sets Dover Bay apart is our ability to support students on multiple pathways to success. Throughout their five-year journey from Grade 8 to Grade 12, students have access to both strong trades programming and exceptional academic opportunities. For example, many students choose to complete all available science courses in Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. These ambitious learners often supplement their studies by taking additional social studies

OUR SCHOOL GOALS

Student Success

Increase graduation rates for students: who identify as Indigenous, who have disabilities, and/or are Children and Youth in Care

Priority Strategy: Implement a multi-tiered system of supports that combines data-driven academic interventions with

Student and Employee Wellness

Increase the number of Students who feel welcome, safe and have a sense of belonging in their school

Priority Strategy: Foster an inclusive school culture that prioritizes mental health awareness, positive

Truth and Reconciliation

Increase awareness of and access to resources available to support hul'q'umi'num language learning

Priority Strategy: Integrate hul'q'umi'num language learning and Indigenous ways of knowing throughout school culture



OUR CELEBRATION STORY

Dover Bay Secondary School had a tremendous 2023/2024 year with so much to celebrate and be thankful for. This celebration story will focus on a few inspirational examples of the good work happening at our school: Student Voice, School Visioning, School Spirit, and our journey towards Truth and Reconciliation.

Student Voice and Street Data - Our Dover Bay Learning Leader Team took inspiration from the Shane Safir and Jamila Dugan's book: Street Data. Taking guidance from this book, our Learning Leaders led this movement to capture street data over the course of the school year. This work became very important to deeply listen to our students and to capture their wisdom. Among other initiatives, this method helped guide our work around improving our school culture. We also were guided in this work with our district's connection to Dr. Dustin Louie from UBC who inspired our learning leaders with his approach to education with a focus on Indigenous Education and creating equitable schools for our youth. The work we were doing with Street Data went hand in hand with Dr. Louie's messaging. Dr. Louie spoke of embedding Indigenous knowledge into our practice, and he takes inspiration from his students on a daily basis. This work deeply impacted our learning leaders and will continue to guide us into the current school year.

School Visioning -Dover Bay embarked on a mission to revise our school goals in 2023/2024 school year. The previous school goals had been in place since the Spring of 2020, and were due to be updated. Our school determined to keep our Dover Bay Vision Statement for the near future as it seems to be guiding us quite well with the three key components of kind, connected and resilient. It took several months to review the feedback from student, family and staff surveys. We then distilled the information through a variety of staff and student teams to hone down the wealth of feedback that we received. The key feedback on our previous goals was to streamline them and make them more student friendly. The next step was to take the guiding principles supplied by our community and distill them into school goals that we could then share with our community. We moved from having four school goals with four bullets for each, to seven school goals that had stand alone statements. We are pleased to see how these goals align with our new strategic plan and look forward to working towards them each day.

School Spirit - One element of our school that is immediately noticeable when you come through our school doors is the amazing school spirit that exists within our community. This spirit is created through the tireless work of our staff and student leaders. A shining example of this school spirit is our Student Council's commitment each year to the Relay for Life fundraiser for cancer research. Our staff and students commit to this one day 24 hour event with much gusto and we are continually shocked at how generous our Dover Bay Community is. Our students generated over \$72,000.00 for cancer research, making this event one of the largest in Western Canada each year.

Truth and Reconciliation - Dover Bay has a deep commitment to our journey towards Truth and Reconciliation. Our school needs to continue to improve our commitment to Indigenous students and their families to ensure they have a safe place to learn. Dover is committed to honour the three territories that our school district resides upon: the Sna-Naw-As, Snunymuxw and Stz'uminus First Nations. Dover Bay is located in close proximity to the Nanoose Nation and our relationship with the snunwnuwus people is very important to us, as well as respecting all Indigenous Peoples. In 2023/2024 our Truth and Reconciliation Team worked closely with students to guide our school. Our team successfully hosted three major events with an Indigenous Focus: **National Truth and Reconciliation Day (September), Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (May), Indigenous People's Day (June)**. Our National Truth and Reconciliation Assembly was the first Dover Bay assembly held outdoors for the entire school.