



Aboriginal Education Graduation Guide

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territories of Snaw Naw As, Snuneymuxw, and Stz'uminus First Nations.

There are 2,445 Aboriginal students in Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools. Aboriginal students are First Nation, Métis and Inuit. The purpose of this graduation guide is to support students on the path to graduation with purpose dignity and options.

Many Aboriginal Education services are available to students to support them on their path to graduation. Please visit your school's Aboriginal Education Assistants or Aboriginal Support Teachers to learn about school, community and district student supports.

NLPS Syeyutsus Policy:

Syeyutsus (walking together) is a hul'q'umi'num expression for "walking in two worlds" and living and honouring the teachings of the land and First Peoples. Ancestral knowledge has taught us that by learning to walk in two worlds, we will create a resilient vital school system and an improved living and learning environment for all of our children and families. NLPS and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers are committed to continue to work together on our journey of reconciliation.



Dogwood Diploma

Required Courses (80 Credits minimum)

13 Core (52 Credits) 7 Electives (28 Credits minimum)

* some courses may be subject to change over time

Grade 10

- English Language Arts 10
- Math 10
- Science 10
- Social Studies 10
- Physical Health Education 10
- 2 Electives

Grade 10 ,11, 12

- Arts Education 10, 11 or 12
- Applied Design, Skills and Technologies (ADST) 10, 11, or 12
- Career Life Education
- Career Life Connections

Grade 11

- English Language Arts 11
- 3 Electives

Grade 11 or 12

- Math 11 or Math 12
- Science 11 or Science 12
- Social Studies 11 or Social Studies 12

Grade 12

- English Language Arts 12 (or) English First Peoples 12
- 3 Electives

Provincial Graduation Assessments

- Numeracy 10
- Literacy 10
- Literacy 12 (2020/2021)

Did you know?

All students who have attended school until the end of grade 12 will have the opportunity to participate in the Cap and Gown Commencement Ceremony?

Students who have not acquired all credits for Dogwood Diploma will participate in the Cap and Gown Commencement Ceremony and they will be informed of post-secondary transition supports.

Aboriginal Education Supports for all students



Two Special Events

2020 Secondary Graduation

Learning Alternatives Cedar	June 12, Woodlands Secondary June 23, Cedar Secondary
Island Connect	June 24, VIU Theatre
Dover Bay	June 25, Vancouver Is. Conf. Centre
Ladysmith	June 25, Ladysmith Secondary
John Barsby	June 25, Port Theatre
NDSS	June 25, Nanaimo Convention Centre
Wellington	June 25, Port Theatre
Dry Grad	June 19, Beban Park



Aboriginal Graduation - May 21, 2020

Each year NLPS honours Aboriginal Graduates at the Stl un'uq Gathering of Celebration.

Diplomas:

- ▶ Dogwood Diploma
- ▶ Adult Dogwood Diploma
- ▶ Evergreen Certificate

Talk with an Aboriginal Support staff or school counsellor to learn about your teen's diploma program.



Help Your Teen Succeed in High School - How You Can Help

Send Your Teen to School Ready

to Learn. Eat breakfast. Teens who eat breakfast have more energy and do better in school. Teens need about 8-9 hours of sleep each night to be alert and ready to learn. Teens should try to go to bed at the same time every night and wake up at the same time every morning. Remind your teen to turn off phones, video games, and TV.

Take Attendance Seriously. Catching up on assignments can be stressful and challenging. Talk with your teen if they are missing classes. Talk to school counsellors, Aboriginal Support Teachers or Aboriginal Education Assistants for advice and support.

Help Your Teen Stay Organized

Help teens keep assignments and class information together in binders, notebooks, or folders. Keep a calendar in the kitchen. If needed, remind your teen to check it daily for assignment deadlines and help them plan their time accordingly. Work in an environment free of distractions (TV, phone, internet)

Offer to Help with Studying

Most teens still require help with organization and studying. Offer to read aloud or review course material. If you are unsure how to help with course content, encourage your teen to seek help from a classmate or teacher. All high schools have after school homework clubs.

Support Homework Expectations

Help your teen create a homework schedule. Create a quiet, well lit, place to work free from distraction (TV, phone, text, internet). Encourage your teen to ask for help when needed.

Make Time to Talk About School

Talk to your teen about what is going on at school every day. When teens know that parents are interested in their academic lives, they will take school more seriously. Communication is a two way street. "Talk" with your teen and "listen" to your teen.

Ask open ended questions that go beyond "yes" or "no" answers.

For example: "What was the best part of your day today?"

Adapted from KidsHealth.



Did you know that all schools have a Code of Conduct, Inclusion Policy, and Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI) procedure that address behaviors such as harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination. NLPS strives to develop safe, caring, inclusive and welcoming schools. You can request resources from the school office or www.sd68.bc.ca



Did you know that there are volunteer opportunities at all schools such as fundraising, chaperoning, or being a guest speaker. Volunteering at your teen's school has a positive impact on your child's path to graduation. Attending school concerts, plays and athletic events shows support too.



We look forward to seeing you at Meet the Teacher and Parent Conferences. You can also request meetings with principals, counsellors, teachers, or other school staff throughout the school year by phoning the school or accessing the district websites.



Visit our district website. www.sd68.bc.ca To learn about school calendar, staff directory, report card dates, extracurricular activities, special events, and much more.

Contact Information

Director of Instruction & Indigenous Education:

Ted Cadwallader
ted.cadwallader@sd68.bc.ca | (250) 741-5318

District Assistant Aboriginal Education:

Patti McCarthy
pmccarthy@sd68.bc.ca | (250) 741-5318

Aboriginal Graduation Success Coordinators: Secondary

Miranda Chitze
miranda.chitze@sd68.bc.ca | (250) 268-4576

Elementary

Marilyn Maychak
marilyn.maychak@sd68.bc.ca | (250) 268-5477

Parents May Also Contact

- ▶ Aboriginal Support Teachers
- ▶ Aboriginal Education Assistants
- ▶ Classroom Teachers
- ▶ Guidance Counsellors
- ▶ Vice Principals
- ▶ Principals

Syeyutsus Reconciliation Policy and Framework

www.sd68.bc.ca/board/syeyutsus-reconciliation-framework

Additional Resources - www.sd68.bc.ca

- ▶ [Handbook of Procedures for the Grad Program](#)
- ▶ [Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation - Scholarships & Awards](#)

Website: www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca

- ▶ [B.C. Graduation Program Policy Guide](#)
- ▶ [BC Ministry of Education Graduation Assessment Schedule](#)
- ▶ [Ministry of Education Graduation Requirements \(2018\)](#)
- ▶ [Provincial Assessments](#)
- ▶ [Numeracy Assessment Information](#)
- ▶ [Literacy Assessment Information](#)
- ▶ [Provincial Scholarships and Awards](#)



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PUBLIC SCHOOLS