



# Sutherland Secondary School

1860 Sutherland Avenue, North Vancouver, British Columbia V7L 4C2 Tel:604 903-3500 Fax: 604 903-3501

## TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK DAY

Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

To all students in Grade 9 and their parents/guardians,

This year, Wednesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, is designated as **Take Our Kids to Work Day** for grade 9's. This national program started in 1994 and is considered to be the most recognized career exploration event in Canada. More than 250, 000 grade 9 students and at least 75,000 businesses and organizations nationwide participate in this program. This is an optional opportunity where parents/guardians are encouraged to arrange a one-day job shadow of a workday for their Grade 9 child. This initiative was designed by the Learning Partnership ([www.thelearningpartnership.ca](http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca)) and is supported by Sutherland. The initiative is valuable for students to begin to think about careers, to better understand the work world, appreciate parents' careers and roles in supporting their families and to network. The last year we offered this program (before covid), 85% of our Grade 9's participated in **Take Our Kids to Work Day**.

Parents should ensure the work placement is a meaningful and safe one for the student by vetting or researching the place of work or knowing the person who will be shadowed. To be clear, **this is NOT** a Sutherland school field trip so no staff will be involved in organizing, supervising, nor attending any of the workplaces. Parents are responsible for all aspects of their child's work placement/shadow including transportation and safety for this initiative – especially noting and following the covid safety measures of the intended workplace.

The day is most successful when students and their parents find a good work site or person to shadow either through relatives or through family friends. If you are completely stuck but want to participate – contact *Yolanda Nieken-Spence, our Work Experience Facilitator* ([ynieken-spence@sd44.ca](mailto:ynieken-spence@sd44.ca)) and she may be able to assist.

The timing and details of the day are completely up to the parent and the work site/shadowed employee. If the date does not work well, parents are welcome to arrange for another day and contract the school to ensure the student's absence is marked excused. However, planning the job shadow on November 3<sup>rd</sup> works very well as teachers in grade 9 will expect many to be away and will not plan for any tests or work that can't be made up.

The school's role is to be flexible with the day and plan for the students who are unavailable to find a placement or do not wish to take part. PLEASE have your child come to school on the day if you do not wish to partake in this opportunity or if you have arranged for a different day all together. This should NOT be seen simply as a day off school.

**Please have your grade 9 return the consent form to the school's main office by October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021** so that the school can plan for the day and mark the correct attendance. ***If you lose this form***, please visit our school website to print off a copy.

If you have any questions about Take Our Kids to Work day, please start with Jennifer Kinakin, Career Teacher, [jkinakin@sd44.ca](mailto:jkinakin@sd44.ca) – Room C127 (located by counseling offices).

**Some further information about the Take Our Kids to Work Day initiative:**

Student benefits because it is an opportunity for them to explore career options through:

- Understanding the importance of staying in school by learning first hand what skills are required in today's workplace
- Thinking about what aspects of their "work day" they liked and what they didn't
- Exploring career options in a practical way and gain a better understanding of just how many career choices are open to them.
- By spending a day in the life of a working adult, they develop an appreciation of their parents' work and motivation.

Parents benefit because it helps them prepare their children for the future by:

- Discussing work experience with their child
- Beginning a career discussion based on actual experiences
- Enriching their child's experience with discussion before, during and after the workplace visit.
- Learn more about Take Our Kids to Work Day at [www.thelearningpartnership.ca](http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca)

**Important deadlines:**

*Consent forms* due in main office by **Thursday October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

*Student Reflection* due in main office by **Friday November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021** or scan and email reflection to [jkinakin@sd44.ca](mailto:jkinakin@sd44.ca)

Pictures are appreciated!