

Support Services and Programs

Library Resource Centre

Library Resource Centre at Queen Mary is an educational center where the emphasis is on encouraging students to develop a love of literature. Conducting research and critically analyzing information is also a focus. The teacher-librarian works to support and enhance teaching the school's Units of Inquiry. The long-term goal is students' development of skills they need to become independent and life-long learners. Students have the opportunity to sign out books from the library for two-week loan periods. Parents can also sign out books from the parent library.

French as a Second Language (FSL)

As an IB PYP school we include French Language instruction in all grades. Although all teachers include some French language in their daily instruction, a French language specialist is employed to support school-wide FSL instruction.

NVSD Band and Strings Program

NVSD offers a band and a strings program open to students in Grades 5,6 and 7, for an annual fee. Band and strings instruction is provided twice a week at various schools and the students perform at school and district functions during the year. To find out more about the band and strings programs, please visit the NVSD website:
<https://www.sd44.ca/ProgramsServices/BandStrings/Pages/default.aspx>

School Based Resource Team

The School Based Resource Team's purpose is to support the academic, social, and emotional well being of Queen Mary's students. The team is comprised of classroom teacher(s), the learning assistance teacher, the English Language Learning teacher, the principal, the vice principal, the counselor, the learning support teacher, the school psychologist, and the speech and language pathologist. Specific concerns about individual students are brought to the team by classroom teachers based on their observations and assessments. Alternatively, parents may request to have their child's learning reviewed by the team. Through the collective expertise of all attending members the team discusses the issues or concerns, and develops strategies and recommendations for the resolution of a student's difficulties.

Learning Support Teachers (LST)

The Learning Support Teacher provides specialized programs for students who experience difficulties primarily in Language Arts and Math. Students receive small group instruction specific to their learning needs, or support in class with assignments. LSTs oversee the support for students who have identified learning needs that require them to have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP). An LST works with classroom teachers and the Special Education Aides (SEA) to develop and monitor the implementation of Individualized Educational Plans (IEP). The Learning support teacher works closely with the classroom teachers, parents, and the students while also acting

as a liaison between other school district programs and support services and family and children's services offered by the North Vancouver District.

English Language Learning - ELL

Children attending Queen Mary whose native or first language is not English are provided with small group instruction or in-class curricular support in the acquisition of English language. Level and kinds of supports are determined based on individual needs and level of English proficiency.

School Counselor

The school counselor works with students, parents, and teachers to support children with social, emotional and/or learning needs. The focus is to assist with the development of positive school experiences and peer relationships, and personal empowerment for positive change. The counselor also works as a liaison between other school district programs and support services and family and children's services offered by the North Vancouver District.

Speech and Language Pathologist - SLP

The speech-language pathologist is a school district employee responsible for working with children in a number of different schools. Children experiencing a wide range of communication issues, including articulation and oral language difficulties, may be eligible for service. Services include assessment, monitoring, and intervention. Services range from working with the classroom teachers to support implementation of programs, consultation with parents and Special Education Aides, and working directly with students in individual and small-group settings.

Learning Support Worker (LSW)

Learning Support Workers (LSW) are teaching assistants who have specialized training and experience to provide intensive remedial support to students with severe reading difficulties. They work under the direction of the Learning Support Teacher (LST) to provide specific interventions using Phono-Graphix, Read Well and/or Orton-Gillingham based strategies. Access to the service is determined through assessment that focuses on reading decoding skills and consideration of interventions already tried by the classroom teacher and LST.

School Psychologist

The school psychologist is a School District employee that provides learning assessment services to several schools. The main role of the school psychologist is to assess students who have been identified as having significant learning challenges. Students are referred to the school psychologist for assessment through the resource team, which is based on teacher/parent referral.

Educational Assistants (EAs)

Educational Assistants (EA) work under the direction of the classroom teacher and the Learning Support Teacher to provide learning support for students. When working in a classroom, the EA works collaboratively with the teacher to provide support for any of the students, as needed. EAs also work with classroom teachers and LSTs to support students with IEPs. More intensive academic support is often provided by an EA in small group or one-to-one settings within the classroom or in an alternate space in the school.

Indigenous Support Workers

In North Vancouver School District, the Indigenous Support Workers provide on-going support and ensure the long-term success of students of Aboriginal ancestry.

<http://www.sd44.ca/ProgramsServices/AboriginalEducation/Pages/default.aspx>

North Vancouver Gifted Programs and Services

The North Vancouver School District supports gifted learners through specific programs offered within the Family of Schools (FOS), in our case, the Carson FOS, and through adaptations to curriculum and learning as per gifted students' Individual Educational Plans (IEPs). Students who have been identified as "Gifted" by the District, through specific standardized tests (e.g., *Insight*), teacher observation, student and parent input, and/or outside assessment, have the opportunity to take part in specific District programs and will have an IEP. Please speak to your child's classroom teacher if interested in learning more.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

North Shore Neighbourhood House – Community Development Project Coordinator

The coordinator works with other community agencies, including John Braithwaite Community Center, to provide programs outside school hours for Queen Mary students. In addition, the coordinator provides information and referrals to community services to parents and guardians who may require additional supports. Luncheons are also scheduled throughout to school year as a way for parents/guardians to connect and build healthy relationships within the community.

Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS)

The primary focus of the Settlement Workers In Schools (SWIS) program is to provide assistance to parents and their children with first-year settlement needs. The program facilitates settlement and integration of newcomer families through referrals and cross-cultural education. More specifically, the SWIS program is intended to:

- Help children adjust to school culture and focus on learning while providing their parents with information and resources on settlement and immigration issues
- Increase parents' understanding of Canadian culture and the BC school system

- Increase parent involvement in the school and community
- Assess the needs of immigrant families and the barriers to successful integration
- Increase access and improve the effectiveness to programs, services, and employment.

Settlement Workers In Schools' services are available in Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Tagalog.

<http://www.sd44.ca/ProgramsServices/SWIS/Pages/default.aspx>

Medical Services

Medical services are available to the Queen Mary community – children and adults – through the Vancouver Coastal Health Unit. A Public Health Nurse is assigned to the school. This service includes: testing hearing and sight, inoculation program, consulting with parents or teachers on request, serving as a resource person, and contact person for other health services.

Foundry North Shore, located at at 211 West 1st St. in North Vancouver offers five core services: primary care, mental health services, substance use services, and youth and family peer support and navigation as well as social supports (e.g. vocational and housing services). Site partners include the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Hollyburn Family Services, YWCA/WorkBC and the Canadian Mental Health Association. This new centre unites VCH North Shore youth mental health and addiction services into one location as well as allow public health and primary care to co-locate at the same site.

R.C.M.P. Youth Intervention Officer

Youth Intervention Officers work with NVSD to support youth as needed, and to provide and model positive aspects of policing, which may include visits to classrooms to talk to students about safety.

North Vancouver School District's Outdoor School Program

The students in Grades 3, 4 and 6 have the opportunity to attend North Vancouver Outdoor School situated in Paradise Valley north of Squamish where they are taught by their teachers and the teachers of the Outdoor School (who are North Vancouver teachers). The Field School Program offers students the opportunity to immerse themselves in educational experiences that are inspired by nature. The Big House Program (Skw'une-was program) is a two day, one night residential experience in which students sleep in the Bighouse and is designed to enrich and support the study of First Nations culture. All of these programs are designed to enhance classroom learning, and are developed based on the BC Ministry of Education Curriculum.