



VASHON ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL
9600 SW 204TH ST
VASHON ISLAND, WA 98070
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SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-2024

Vashon Island High School has a student population of approximately 520 students in Grades 9 through 12. We are accredited by the Association of Educational Service Districts. We are committed to a rigorous college preparatory curriculum with high expectations and grading standards. Approximately 82% of the graduates from the class of 2023 elected to further their studies after high school: 66% of graduates opted to attend four-year colleges, 10% to community colleges and 6% to vocational schools. Our goal is to help students become more deliberate, active learners who are aware of the importance of their academic and vocational goals. We continually strive to help students develop a clear sense of direction.

School and Community Qualities

Vashon Island is a rural community of approximately 12,000 residents located west of Seattle in the Puget Sound between Seattle and Tacoma. Short ferry routes make these cities and the Kitsap Peninsula easily accessible. The population represents a higher-than-average education and income level. The community's residents demonstrate strong support for the school system and high interest in academics and the arts. Vashon Island School District is the only public school system that serves Island youth and accepts off-island students at the district's discretion.

Vashon Island High School and Staff

Vashon Island High School has attracted a dedicated and highly trained instructional staff, all with degrees in their fields of teaching. The high school values its 18:1 student/faculty ratio.

The certificated staff includes two administrators, twenty-eight teachers and two full-time counselors. 78% of the staff have earned Master's Degrees, one has earned a Doctorate Degree and six teachers are National Board Certified.

Curriculum

English courses include 9th grade English, 10th grade English, 11th grade English, 12th grade English & AP English Literature & Composition. Honors designation available for 9th, 10th & 11th grade English.

Mathematics courses include Algebra, Advanced Algebra, Precalculus, Financial Algebra, AP Statistics, and AP Calculus.

Science courses include Biology, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics and electives in AP Environmental Science, Marine Science and Forensics.

Social Studies courses include AP US Government and Politics, US Government, AP US History, US History, World History, Honors World History, AP Human Geography, Human Geography and elective AP Comparative Government.

World Language Three years of Spanish

Vocational, Performing & Visual Art and Physical Education departments offer a wide variety of courses.

John Erickson, Principal, jerickson@vashonsd.org
Sabrina Kovacs, Assistant Principal, skovacs@vashonsd.org
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Tara Vanselow, Counselor L- Z, tvanselow@vashonsd.org



Academic Requirements

The high school has a 6 period day with a homeroom four days a week. Students earn .25 credit a year for homeroom.

Students can earn up to 26 credits; the state requirement for graduation is 24 credits.

- 4.0 English Credits
- 3.0 Mathematics Credits
- 3.0 Social Studies Credits
- 3.0 Science Credits
- 1.5 Physical Education Credits (unless waived)
- 1.0 Career & Technical Education Credits
- 2.0 Fine Arts Credits
- 0.5 Family Health Credit
- 2.0 World Language credits
- 4.0 Elective Credits

College Board Advanced Placement Program

Calculus AB	Statistics
U.S. Government and Politics	Comparative Government
U.S. History	Chemistry
Human Geography	Environmental Science
Studio Art	
English Literature	

Career & Life Skills Opportunities

Art
Applied Computer Science
Carpentry
Ceramics
Publishing
Environmental Science
Family Health
Financial Algebra
Forensics
Graphic Design
Marine Science
Metals & Jewelry Design
Photography
Theater Tech
Video Production
Woodworking

Grading System

GPA's and class ranks are not weighted.

A	4.0	C+	2.3
A-	3.7	C	2.0
B+	3.3	C-	1.7
B	3.0	D+	1.3
B-	2.7	D	1.0

State Testing Information

2023 VHS/State High School Percentages for Smarter Balanced Assessments.

- English Language Arts: 145 tested and 82.1% met standard (State 60.3%)
- Math: 145 tested and 56.8% met standard (State 30.0%)

ACT 2022-2023

- 3 students tested
- Average ACT composite score = 29.3

Scholastic Aptitude Test 2022-2023

Spring 2023

- 33 students tested
- Reading/writing mean 638
- Math mean 605

Fall 2022

- 15 students tested
- Reading/writing mean 641
- Math mean 591

AP Testing 2023

- 155 students took a combined 251 exams
- 70% of all VHS AP scores were 3 or higher

Community Service — All students are required to devote at least 25 hours to community service during their time at VHS.

Foreign Exchange Student Opportunities — We extend opportunities to add to our cultural diversity and host an average of five foreign exchange students per year. Vashon students are encouraged to study abroad through recognized student exchange programs. The High School has a sister school in Himeji, Japan, with exchange visits every other year.

Link Programs — FamilyLink is an alternative education program that partners with parents of approximately 90 K-12 students. StudentLink is an independent study-based program serving approximately 40 high school students.

Running Start – This dual enrollment program allows students to attend a community or technical college while still in high school. They are granted both high school and community college credits.

Seal of Biliteracy

Vashon Island School District began the program in 2017.

Students may earn up to 4.0 competency-based credits for each language other than English (students are only awarded credits if they haven't already earned credit through classes taken).

Requirements:

Open to any student in grades 7 through 12 who knows a language other than English either through their families, through independent study and/or study in school.

Pass a world language test at the intermediate mid level in speaking, reading and writing.

Pass the state test for high school English language arts.

Meet all graduation credit requirements.

In the first seven years of our program, we've had students test in the following languages:

Spanish

Japanese

Russian

German

Polish

French

American Sign Language

Arabic

Italian

Korean

Graduation Year Students Earning Seal of Biliteracy

2017	11
2018	14
2019	20
2020	8
2021	14
2022	23
2023	8

Recognition

VHS students have been recognized as Washington State Scholars, Presidential Scholars and National Merit Commended Students.

VHS athletic teams regularly compete at the highest levels and many teams have been recognized as WIAA Academic State Champions including Boys Soccer (2019) and Boys Tennis (2022).

The VHS debate team has won six WIAA State Championships and finished 1st in state in 2014.

The VHS Theater Department produces 3 shows a year in our state-of-the-art performance space, including a multigenerational spring musical.

VHS Wind Ensemble has consistently received top marks at the Large Ensemble Contests in Tacoma.

VHS Band members regularly participate in Regional Solo and Ensemble contest, and members have performed at the state level the last 4 years.

MacConnell Award Finalist, Council of Educational Facility Planners International (2015)

Pinnacle Award, Council of Educational Facility Planners International (2015)

Civic Design Awards: Honor Award, American Institute of Architects Washington Council (2015)

Washington Achievement Award (2013)

Blue Ribbon School, Federal Department of Education (2008)

School of Distinction, Washington's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (2008)

Level One Green School, King County

Clubs, Affinity Groups, Advocacy Groups and Athletics

American Exchange Project	Robotics	Support/Recovery Club
Associated Student Body	Science	Teen Council
Chess Club	Spanish Club	Teens Leading Change
Debate Club	Ultimate Frisbee Club	
Drama Club	Yearbook	Baseball
French		Basketball
Great Volunteers	Black Student Union	Cheer
Green School	Disability Advocacy	Cross Country
Guide Dogs	Genderqueer Affinity Group	Football
Amnesty International	Girls to Girls	Golf
Japan Club	Journeyman	Soccer
Music and Band	La Chispa	Softball
National Honor Society	Multi Racial Group	Tennis
Outdoor Club	Queer Spectrum Alliance	Track and Field
Production Club	Racial Equity Pact	Volleyball
RPG Club	Sisterhood	Wrestling