

Burnaby South Secondary School Plan 2025-2026

Our Story

Who we are?

Our school is a vibrant and dynamic learning community home to approximately 1,765 students. With 70 languages spoken and students representing 79 different countries we are proud to be a very diverse school community.

Among our student body, we welcome 144 International students and support 273 English Language Learners, 214 students with diverse abilities, and 30 Indigenous students, ensuring that every learner is valued and supported in reaching their full potential.

At the heart of our school is a strong sense of community. We strive to create an environment where every student feels seen, heard, and empowered to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

What are we doing well?

At Burnaby South, we take pride in offering a dynamic and inclusive environment where students thrive. From robust athletics and inspiring student leadership to a wide variety of clubs and creative opportunities in visual and performance arts, we foster engagement and personal growth.

Our broad selection of electives, along with Honours and AP programs, ensures academic challenge and choice for every learner. Together, these elements reflect our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals prepared for success both in and beyond the classroom.

How do we know?

The success of our school community is reflected in the achievements of our students both in and beyond the classroom. Academically, our students consistently excel, with strong performance in core subjects, high rates of Honour Roll recognition, and outstanding results in Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Student participation in clubs is exceptionally high, showcasing a culture of curiosity, leadership, and engagement. We have 67 clubs and councils for students to participate in.

Our students thrive in the Visual and Performing Arts. With a full compliment of Music, Dance and Drama/Theatre courses our students showcase their incredible talents in a multitude of performances and competitions throughout the year.

In athletics, we field a full complement of teams across every season of sport. Our teams have achieved notable success at both the district and provincial levels in sports such as basketball, volleyball, and ultimate. These achievements reflect not only athletic talent, but also teamwork, perseverance, and school spirit.

Our school community also has excellent participation of families, students, and community members in performances, athletic events, and school-wide activities. Our school events are always well attended and supported by our community.

Our academic, athletic, and community accomplishments foster a well-rounded school culture where every student has the opportunity to succeed and be celebrated.

Our focus

Inclusive Practice for Student Success

Objectives:

- Building Capacity with Inclusive Practice
- Ensure Student Voice Guides our Practice
- Anti-Racism Work
- Wellness Initiatives

Literacy and Numeracy for Student Success

Objectives:

- Improve Literacy Skills with all students with a special focus on our priority learners
- Improve Numeracy Skills with all students with a special focus on our priority learners
- Amplify Student Voice in Learning

STRATEGIES: (to support Focus)

Building Capacity with Inclusive Practice

- *Building Learning Teams*: Team of teachers learning together about inclusive practice and sharing strategies.
- *Redesigning our Learning Support Model* to provide more flexibility and opportunities for our students with diverse abilities
- *Building capacity with our teachers* by providing professional development opportunities (school/district pro-d days, staff meetings, collaboration groups)

Ensure Student Voice Guides our Practice

- *Student Voice Forum (Town Hall)*: Twice a year, a randomly selected group of students representing grades 8 through 12, meet to discuss school related issues and provide feedback regarding their experience in school.
- *School Based Surveys*: Conduct student surveys with priority learners/specialty groups (ELL, BIPOC, International, and Diverse learners) to learn more about school climate, inclusivity, wellness, and learning experiences.
- *COMPASS Survey Data* conducted annually
- *Student Voice Data shared with Staff*: Results are shared with staff and help shape our school focus areas and priorities. We will report back to students our plans for action.
- *Student-Led Panels*: During Assessment and Health week, students lead wellness workshops that highlight student experiences, ideas, and strategies on equity, wellness, and learning.

Anti-Racism Work

- *Deepen staff understanding of racism*, including systemic racism and equip them with tools to create anti-racist classrooms through professional learning at Pro-D sessions, staff meetings, department head meetings, and other learning teams.
- *Book/Article Learning Groups*: Facilitate staff discussions on books and articles focused on anti-racism learning
- *Making anti-racism work and learning a focus at our department head meetings*.
- *Create a joint student/staff committee focusing on student experience and voice with anti-racism* and collaboratively create action plans

Promoting a Culture of Student and Staff Wellness

- *Wellness Committees:* Create student and staff wellness teams to plan monthly activities (e.g., mindfulness sessions, gratitude walls, wellness challenges).
- *SEL Instruction:* Embed social-emotional learning strategies into opening week classroom activities and provide opportunities to continue the learning throughout the year.
- *Wellness Workshops:* Offer sessions to staff on stress management, digital wellness, and work-life balance during Pro-D's and staff meetings.
- *Check-In Systems:* Implement regular check-ins (e.g., mood meters, anonymous feedback boxes) to monitor well-being.

Improve Literacy Skills

- *Literacy lead will work with all staff* to create cross-curricular literacy support strategies
- *Use diagnostic tools* to identify specific skill gaps
- *Targeted Literacy Intervention* to address skill gaps at different levels (Home Base Literacy, Foundations Literacy, and Literacy Clinic)

Improve Numeracy Skills

- *Numeracy lead will work with all staff* to create cross-curricular numeracy support strategies
- *Use diagnostic tools* to identify specific skill gaps
- *Targeted Numeracy Support* to address skill gaps at different levels (Numeracy 8, Home Base Numeracy, Foundations Numeracy, and Math Clinic)

Amplify Student Voice in Learning

- *Continue to facilitate* student/teacher conferencing, peer feedback, and student self-assessment activities in classrooms.
- *Support students in setting personal learning goals* throughout the year.
- *Students will engage in meaningful core competency activities* throughout the year for personal and academic development.
- *Continued work with inclusive practice* to foster student choice in learning and flexible learning environments.