

GRADE 12 SURVIVAL GUIDE

MONTHLY CHECKLIST

DR. CHARLES BEST SECONDARY SCHOOL
CLASS of 2023



Counsellors:

Last names A-G

Mrs. Rachel John
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Last names H-O

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Post-Secondary & Career Advisor: Mrs. Silke Kaufmann skaufmann@sd43.bc.ca

The Charles Best Career Centre provides resources and support to get you started on your post-secondary journey.

[Charles Best Career Centre website](#)

Charles Best Career Centre Team: [Join with team code gvrymg1](#).

Instagram: [bestcarecentre](#)

OCTOBER

- You must complete **Career Life Connections** in order to graduate! CLC assignments are online, and the Capstone project is done in monthly announcements. Get more information at: [http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/charlesbest/ProgramsServices/CLC/Pages/default.aspx#/="](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/charlesbest/ProgramsServices/CLC/Pages/default.aspx#/=) or contact Ms. Abercrombie, kabercrombie@sd43.bc.ca.
- Thinking of going to a university/college in the US?** If you haven't completed the SAT yet, please look into this right now. An SAT score may be needed for admission to American post-secondary schools. Check with the university and the College Board website. Some schools also require subject-specific SATs. These cannot be done at the same time as the general SAT.
 - Register for the SAT exam at www.collegeboard.com. Our school code is 821063. Generally, January is the last chance for you to write the SAT if required by a US school the following September. Test locations vary and are listed on the CollegeBoard website. Practice tests and information are available online as well. Check out ACT college entrance exam as an alternative to the SAT: www.actstudent.org.

- ❑ **Start a post-secondary file** to keep track of your post-secondary information (log-in information, application deadlines, financial aid info). Start with this booklet! Compile a list of all application deadlines for the post-secondary institutions you are applying to. Keep copies of all your references in your post-secondary file.
- ❑ **If applying to UBC, start your application NOW.** Apply by December 1st to be considered for the UBC Major Entrance Scholarships (Centennial Scholars Entrance Awards, Presidential Scholars Awards, Beyond Tomorrow Scholarship). You will need to write, edit, and re-write your personal profile. You can (and should) save and come back until it is your best effort. Make sure you understand the requirements; instead of just listing activities make sure to self-reflect on what you've learned in the process. Do not push "submit" until it is ready. It is recommended that you copy questions into a Word document and work on your draft until you are ready to complete the personal profile. Adhere to the word limit!
- ❑ Arrange an informal meeting with Ms. Kaufmann or with your counselor to begin post-secondary/career planning. **Have a second set of eyes look over the admission requirements** to make sure that you are eligible for the program you are applying for.
- ❑ **Read the Best Informer daily! Follow the Charles Best Career Centre on Instagram and join the Career Centre team to get the latest updates.** Team code: gvrymg1
- ❑ **Visit the Online Career Centre website** often for post-secondary, financial aid and other important information:
<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/charlesbest/ProgramsServices/career/Pages/default.aspx#/=>
- ❑ **Apply to BC universities and colleges on-line:** www.educationplannerbc.ca. All BC post-secondary institutions except for BCIT are using the EPBC platform for their applications. *You will need your PEN (Personal Education Number).* Make sure that you are using your legal name. It may be wise to check how it's currently spelled in MyEd. If your spelling of your legal name doesn't match what the Ministry of Education is associating with your PEN, post-secondary institutions will have trouble matching your application with your transcript. NOTE: You do not have to submit transcripts at the time of application.
- ❑ **Douglas College starts accepting applications for the fall semester on October 1st. Apply early. Many programs are open enrolment: First-qualified, first-accepted.**
 - General Admission requirements: Completed BC secondary school graduation OR one course short for BC secondary school graduation OR 19 years of age by end of the first month of the first semester of attendance OR completion of a certificate or equivalent from a special needs program and has been in school for 12 years.
 - English Language proficiency requirement of English 12 with a min. grade of "C" or equivalent substitution. <https://www.douglascollege.ca/future-students/admission-information/english-proficiency-requirement>
 - Individual programs may have additional requirements and/or higher English grades.
 - English and mathematics upgrading are available for students needing to upgrade their English and/or Math. <https://www.douglascollege.ca/future-students/explore-douglas/ways-study/english-and-mathematics-upgrading>

- ❑ **BCIT** applications are accepted year-round for trades programs; most technical programs accept applications until the program fills but details and deadlines vary. Check program specifics and get more info at www.bcit.ca. Check for additional requirements e.g., resume, references, letter of intent, and/or statement of standing.
- ❑ Apply to **Ontario** universities at www.ouac.on.ca. Application deadlines vary; **however, out of province applicants are encouraged to apply early**. Applicants from outside of Ontario are using the OUAC-105. Check out their help section: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/105-tutorials/>
- ❑ **ELL** students: Check with the post-secondary institutions for their English language and second language requirements. See Mrs. Kaufmann if you need help verifying requirements. If you must take an English proficiency test, look up test centres and available dates.
- ❑ **Request any letters of reference you may need.** Please give your referee at least two weeks' notice. Supply the referee with detailed information about yourself by giving them a completed **brag sheet**. Brag sheets can be found on the Career Centre team or [website](#).
- ❑ **Do you have a “Plan B”?** If you are not accepted to your “first-choice” university/ college, do you have a backup plan?

OCTOBER INFO SESSIONS & IMPORTANT DATES:

❖ Grad photos: Oct 17th – 28th (Register for a session.)

Wed, October 5, 2022	SFU Recruiting and Q&A Session at Best (library). Starting at 3.20 pm.
Wed, October 12, 2022	Douglas College Recruiting and Q&A Session at Best (library). Starting at 3.20 pm.
Thu, October 13, 2022	Canadian University Event (CUE) at Heritage Woods Secondary, 9-11 am.
Thu, October 13, 2022	UVic Gustavson School of Business. Info session at Best (library). Starting at 3.20 pm
Mon, October 24, 2022	University of Toronto. Recruiting and Q&A Session at Best (library). Starting at 3.20 pm.
Wed, October 26, 2022	SFU Beedie School of Business Info Session at Best (library). Starting at 3.20 pm.
Thu, October 27, 2022	Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University) Recruiting and Q&A Session at Best (library). Starting at 3.20 pm.

NOVEMBER

- Check your Transcript/ Diploma Verification Report** to confirm the accuracy of your record at the Ministry. These can be viewed through your MyEd portal. See your school counselor for assistance if needed.
- Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN#) if you do not already have one.** You will need this number if you are applying for scholarships (or part-time jobs). Apply here <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin.html>
- Continue to check the Best Informer and the Career Centre website & Team** for updates on scholarships and post-secondary information. New information is constantly being added.
- If you are an Indigenous student talk with Mrs. Kaufmann about financial aid and scholarship opportunities specifically for Indigenous students. Other resources are the District Aboriginal Education Program (604.945.7386) and our Indigenous Youth Worker, Ms. Waunch. Also, check with your Band Office or Friendship Center.
- Apply to BC Post-Secondary schools** using www.educationplannerbc.ca
- Consider the need for further training.** This could be online courses, further education, certificates, training courses, self-study, or internships.
- Research and learn all you can about your desired career path. Attend as many program-specific information sessions as you can.
- University of Toronto** recommends that BC applicants apply by November 7th.
- UBC** is offering multiple online **application workshops** this fall. Sign up for one if you are hoping to get into UBC; it can't hurt to collect any "insider information". <https://account.you.ubc.ca/s/events> Continue working on your personal profile! [You can find more info about the Personal Profile on the UBC website.](#)

NOVEMBER INFO SESSIONS & IMPORTANT DATES:

- ❖ **Presentation on Student Transcript Service:** The counsellors will explain the STS on November 8th, 9th, and 10th. Check for announcements closer to the date.
- ❖ **Language Challenge Exams:** Students wanting to obtain Grade 11/12 credit for a language they speak but did not take in high school can register for the Language Challenge exams written in Delta. There is a \$50 refundable deposit. Register here: <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/schools/secondary/challenge-exams/> **Hand completed application to Mr. Papillo at the Counsellors' Office by November 1st.** Exams will take place on Saturday, January 28th and Sunday, January 29th, 2023. Available in French 11/12, Japanese 11/12, Korean 11/12, Mandarin 11/12 (simplified & traditional characters), Punjabi 11/12, Spanish 11/12, Farsi 11/12 (NEW).

Wed, November 2, 2022	UBC Sauder School of Business: Student Ambassadors will be visiting the school. Join us in the library, at 3-20 pm. CANCELLED
Thu, November 3, 2022	Western University Recruiter at Best: Visit their table in the school's foyer, 3-3.45 pm.
Fri, November 4, 2022	Post-Secondary BC (PSBC) Fair at Dr. Charles Best Secondary. There won't be classes in the morning so that you can attend this fair. Collect information about universities/ colleges and chat with the recruiters. 8-11.45 am.
Tue, November 8, 2022	Langara College: Virtual Information Session for SD43 students. Get your questions answered, starting at 6 pm.
Tue, November 15, 2022	University of Waterloo Recruiting and Q&A session at Best (library). Starting at 3.20 pm
Tue, November 15, 2022	McGill University at Heritage Woods Secondary. Open to all SD43 students. 7 pm at the theatre.
Thu, November 17, 2022	University of Calgary Recruiter at Best: Visit their table in the school's foyer, 3-3.45 pm.
Tue, November 22, 2022	Fraser Health Health Career Access Program: Zoom presentation for SD43 students interested in pursuing a fully funded Health Care Aid training. 6 pm
Wed, November 23, 2022	University of Alberta Recruiter at Best: Visit their table in the school's foyer, 3-3.45 pm
Wed, November 23, 2022	UBC Sauder School of Business. Virtual session for SD43 run by Student Ambassadors. 6 pm. Link will be provided closer to the date.

DECEMBER

- Double-check application deadlines** for all post-secondary institutions you are considering. Deadlines vary between institutions and programs. Some programs have earlier admission deadlines.
- Apply to Eastern Canadian universities now!**
- If you plan to go to the US for school, you may need to take the SAT by December. Some schools require SAT subject tests as well as the general SAT. These cannot be done at the same sitting. <http://www.collegeboard.org/>.

DECEMBER INFO SESSIONS & IMPORTANT DATES:

- December 1st – **Early application deadline to UBC** to be considered for Major Entrance Scholarships (grade average +93) & if you wish to be considered for first round offers of admission: <https://you.ubc.ca>. If you are hoping for early admission, also make sure to give UBC access to your transcript before the Winter Break (using STS).
- December 15th – **Application deadline for SFU Entrance Scholarships** for fall term. Apply if you have a min. 90% avg. <https://www.sfu.ca/students/financialaid/entrance.html>

JANUARY

- Plan for a spring visit of your post-secondary school** if you can (or your top 2-3). Try to visit when school is in session, the experience will be very different than during break times.
- January to April are busy scholarship months.** Keep checking the Informer, the Charles Best Career Centre website and team for updates and new scholarships.

JANUARY INFO SESSIONS & IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 15th - Application deadline for UBC: <https://you.ubc.ca>.
- **January 26th – CLC Capstone presentations**
- January 31st - Application deadline for SFU <https://www.sfu.ca/students/admission/apply.html>, and for UVic <https://www.uvic.ca/undergraduate/programs/undergraduate-programs/pages/commerce.php#ipn-admission>
- January 31st – SFU requires that all applicants have completed their STS (Student Transcript Service) selection and have provided SFU with access by the end of January.

FEBRUARY

- Feb. 15th - Scholarship Meeting #2 at the library, starting 3.20 pm.** Local scholarship packages (incl. the District Authority Awards) will be distributed. You'll have until March 31, 2023, 3 pm to complete and submit your application package.
- Make sure to check the financial aid page of the post-secondary school you plan to attend. Some schools have program specific scholarships/ bursaries you can apply to individually.
- If you are leaving your home community for post-secondary, **apply for housing now.**

MARCH

- Check the status of your application and emails often! You may be asked to self-report first semester final grades and second semester interim grades electronically. Some offers of admission are based on self-reported grades. All other offers are made in the late spring based on grades sent by the Ministry of Education.
- Friday, March 31 - Completed Best Internal Scholarship application packages are due by 3 pm.** Late applications are not accepted.

APRIL

- Have you filled out the [Student Transcripts Service](#) online form to give the Ministry of Education permission to send your grades to the post-secondary schools of your choice?
- If you are taking online or distributed learning courses, please check the deadlines for completion on “your” post-secondary websites. As a rule of thumb, you should plan to finish your online course at least one month before the university’s final deadline. It takes time for the teacher to mark your final assignments and to get the final mark onto your transcript.
- Finished Career Life Connections? You must complete CLC to graduate!** See Ms. Abercrombie (KAbercrombie@sd43.bc.ca) for questions.

MAY

- Canadian Universities make the bulk of their admission offers from April to the end of May.
- Please let the school know about any **scholarships you have won** so they can be acknowledged in the Commencement program. Check the Informer for an online form where you can submit your information to Ms. Kaufmann. Ensure you write a thank you note to the scholarship donor.
- Financial Aid: Check out www.canlearn.ca and www.studentaidbc.ca for info on Canada and BC student loans and grants.

JUNE

- Grad Dinner & Dance: Saturday, June 10th (6 pm at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver followed by the After-Grad festivities)**
- Commencement: Tuesday, June 27th (6 pm at SFU)**
- Remember to send thank you notes for any scholarships you have won.

- Post-Secondary course registration is usually done mid-June to early July. Look for an email with your assigned time coming from your college/ university.
- June 30th – On-line course completion deadline for SFU and UBC**
- FYI: Transcripts and Dogwood diploma will be mailed to your home sometime in July/ August.

Post-Secondary events & information session open to the public

**This list is only meant to give you an idea of the different types of workshops and events available. Make sure you fully understand the programs offered at the schools you are applying to and their application process. Attend a variety of different events to be able to make an informed decision.*

EVENT DATE	POST-SECONDARY EVENT
Oct 13 - 15	UBC Engineering Open House (virtual). More info
Oct 14	National Portfolio Day (virtual). More info
Oct 15	University of Toronto Open House (virtual). More info
Oct 17	BCIT Big Info. Virtual Open House. More info
Oct 18	Douglas College Info Night (virtual). Focus on: Applied Community Studies, Health Sciences, Humanities & Socials, Science & Tech. Register here.
Oct 18/ Nov 4	RCMP Career Info Session. Surrey headquarters. More here.
Oct 19	Which Waterloo Engineering Program is right for you? Webinar. More here.
Oct 20	Douglas College Info Night (virtual). Focus on: Commerce & Business, Humanities & Socials, Languages, Performing Arts, Science & Tech. More.
Oct 20/ Oct 25	SFU Applied Sciences Info Session. Virtual. Sign up here.
Oct 20/ Oct 27	Discover UBC Okanagan. Civic Hotel Surrey. More info Discover UBC Okanagan. North Vancouver Pinnacle Hotel. More info.
Oct 21	SFU Faculty of Environment Pro D Day workshops. More info
Oct 22/ Nov 19	Your degree at UBC. Webinar to explore program options. Register early.
Oct 22	University of the Fraser Valley Open House. Abbotsford campus. More info.
Oct 25	University of Toronto. Application workshop. Virtual. Sign up here.
Oct 25	Tour 2 different BCIT programs, on campus: Options incl. HVAC & R, Machinist, Millwright, Telecommunication Systems, etc. More here.
Oct 26	UBC Engineering: Everything you need to know. Webinar. More info.
Oct 26	Discover Vancouver Community College (VCC). Open House. More info.
Oct 27	Waterloo Engineering Application Workshop. Virtual. Sign up here.
Nov 2	SFU Computing Sciences & Software Systems. Webinar. Sign up here.
Nov 5	National Portfolio Day. KPU campus. Register here.
Nov 5	UBC Engineering Open House. Vancouver campus. Sign up here
Nov 9	Explore Automotive Programs at BCIT. Webinar. More here.
Nov 9	Discover UVic. Virtual Info Session. Register here.
Nov 15	UBC Engineering Application Tips. Virtual. More info.
Nov 19	Capilano University. Open House, North Vancouver. More info.
Nov 26	Explore UVic. Open House, on campus, Victoria. More info.
Nov 29	Jill of All Trades: Trades sampler for female students at BCIT.

Many more post-secondary events are constantly added to the [Career Centre Website.](#)

**UBC is going virtually this year. For a list of available info sessions and workshops please visit the [UBC website.](#) Early registration is highly recommended.

Useful Websites

Gathering Information:

Post-Secondary Options in BC	https://educationplannerbc.ca/
University Study	http://www.universitystudy.ca/
Info on Ontario universities	www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca
What can I do with a degree in ...?	https://careers.yorku.ca/students-and-new-grads/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree
US College Board, SAT info and Registration	www.collegeboard.com
Glossary of Post-Secondary Terms	https://www.postsecondarybc.ca/glossary-terms/
MacLean's Magazine university rankings	www.macleans.ca/universities
My Blueprint	https://app.myblueprint.ca/?sdid=sd43
Industry Training Authority (ITABC)	www.itabc.ca
BC Post-Secondary Application System	https://educationplannerbc.ca
Ontario University Application Site	www.ouac.on.ca
Alberta University Application Site	www.applyalberta.ca

After Applying:

How to send your transcript to your university?	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSo_U7XmH8k
BC Transfer Guide	www.bctransferguide.ca
BC Student Aid (loans)	www.canlearn.ca
Canadian Government Financial Info Site	www.studentaidbc.ca

Some common BC Post-Secondary School web sites:

BC Institute of Technology	www.bcit.ca	Simon Fraser University	www.sfu.ca
Capilano University	www.capilanou.ca	Thompson Rivers University	www.tru.ca
Douglas College	www.douglas.bc.ca	TRU Open Learning	www.openlearning.tru.ca
Emily Carr University of Art & Design	www.ecuad.ca/	University of the Fraser Valley	www.ufv.ca
Justice Institute of BC	www.jibc.ca	University of British Columbia	www.ubc.ca
Kwantlen Polytechnic University	www.kpu.ca	UBC Okanagan	www.ok.ubc.ca
Langara College	www.langara.ca	University of Northern BC	www.unbc.ca
Nicola Valley Institute of Tech.	www.nvit.ca	University of Victoria	www.uvic.ca
Okanagan College	www.okanagan.bc.ca	Vancouver Community College	www.vcc.ca
Royal Roads University	www.royalroads.ca		

Work/Study programs

House of Commons Page Program

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/About/PageProgram/Index-e.html>

Pages are first-year undergraduate students registered at one of the four universities in the national capital region. They work on a part-time basis for one year. Application is competitive.

The Canadian Armed Forces

The CAF will cover all tuition for education including all the textbooks and academic equipment you need. Students will earn a salary from the moment studies start, and there is guaranteed employment.

<http://www.forces.ca/>

Contact: Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre
620 Royal Avenue

New Westminster, British Columbia V3M 1J2

Phone: 604-694-6390

Email: info.vancouver@forces.gc.ca

Royal Canadian Military College: <http://www.rmc.ca/>

Thinking of going to university in the U.S.? More Info:

- For American Universities and Colleges, virtual campus tours: <https://www.campustours.com>
- Financial Aid for International Study
 - Financial aid for Canadians studying abroad is generally scarce, though it does exist.
 - Check eligibility rules for scholarships; some have restrictions on the location of schools the scholarship can be applied to; others have no restrictions.
- Support and Information for international students in the U.S., they also run a lot of info session on the application process, scholarships, etc.: <https://educationusa.state.gov/>
- Get in touch with the **Advising Centre for Canada** to get help and find out more specifics: <https://www.educationusacanada.ca/students/undergraduate-studies/>



Congratulations to the Class of 2023!