



ÉCOLE BALLENAS SECONDARY

Building Successful Students

Principal: Trish Cathrine

Vice-Principal: Ben Braun

Vice-Principal: Corleen McKinnon-Sanderson

CODE OF CONDUCT

Expectations

The staff at Ballenas believe that every student is able to be a successful learner. In order to bring about this success, each teacher develops an appropriate learning climate according to their subject, discipline and teaching practices. École Ballenas Secondary School is a learning community of approximately 1000 young adults and staff. As in any community, we must work toward our common purpose in a spirit of cooperation. The hallmark of all interactions in our school community should be that our actions and words demonstrate a respect for self and others.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

We believe that it is the personal responsibility of each student at Ballenas Secondary School to be aware of, to support, and to follow our school Code of Conduct, Qualicum School District Board Policies and the laws of BC and Canada.

These rights and responsibilities apply to all students while under the jurisdiction of the school. This includes student behaviour at school, while on school activities and when traveling to and from school. The School Code of Conduct ensures that all students, staff and community members conduct themselves in a manner that fosters a positive and safe learning environment for all.

Students who contravene the Code of Conduct will be subject to a program of restorative practices and progressive discipline, which seeks to:

- clarify expectations
- provide support for behavioural change
- assign appropriate and timely consequences for breaches of school rules and/or Board Policies which reflect the age, maturity, and intellectual development of our students

The Board will take all reasonable steps to prevent retaliation against a student who has made a complaint of a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Members of our school community support the values expressed in the **BC Human Rights Code** respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law – prohibiting discrimination based on:

- race
- color
- ancestry
- place of origin
- religion
- marital status

- family status
- physical or mental disability
- sex
- sexual orientation
- gender identity or expression
- age

School Officials may have the responsibility to advise other parties/agencies of serious breaches of the Code of Conduct (i.e.: parents/guardians, school district officials, RCMP, Ministry of Children and Family Development).

Special Consideration

Special consideration regarding the application of our Code of Conduct may apply to students with special needs if those students are unable to comply due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional, or behavioural nature.

General Rights and Responsibilities:

- Each student and teacher has the right to be treated, at all times, with dignity and in a respectful manner
- Each student has the right, unless removed following due process, to attend classes and participate in a full range of class and non-class activities
- Each student has the responsibility to attend classes regularly and to be punctual
- Each student has the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner, which does not distract, disrupt, offend or endanger self/others or cause damage to school property or equipment

Attendance

At Ballenas Secondary, we believe that the essence of our educational programs occurs in the classroom with skilled teachers and support. Direct instruction, explanation, clarification, discussion, collaboration, teacher and peer feedback, assessment, group tasks, practical experience and evaluation are all invaluable components of an effective learning environment. Students who miss class time will not only miss the essential learning but will miss opportunities to extend learning.

Students are expected to be at school and in class on time. Late procedures will be reviewed with students in all courses.

Student Parking/Driving

Students are permitted to park only in the student lot at the front of the school, **NOT** in the areas that are reserved for staff, on the walkways, or in any fire access, handicapped, or visitor areas. Students must apply for a parking pass via the front office. Students who disregard parking rules may have their cars towed at their expense and/or may be restricted from parking on the school

grounds. For security reasons, students are not to be loitering in the parking lot during instructional times. Driving offences will be reported to the RCMP.

Threat Assessment Practice

High profile acts of school and university violence combined with other traumatic events have understandably elevated the anxiety level of students, parents, guardians, teachers, support staff and community members. In the absence of clearly stated expectations and supporting process and procedures to assess high-risk and threat-making behaviours and shape the response, there is a strong likelihood of either over-reaction or under-reaction when these situations arise in our schools.

Our School District, in partnership with several key youth service providers in the community including: Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), RCMP, VIHA, SOURCES, Regional District of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, and others, is seeking to develop comprehensive policy and protocols that will help us to respond quickly, cooperatively and effectively to assess and respond to threat-making behaviours.

At Ballenas, our administration team, counsellors, and other key support staff have received formal training in the area of threat assessment. We require that any behaviours which are worrisome, high risk, or immediate threat (as per the attached chart) be reported immediately to the Principal who will call a school-based team together to assess the situation. If warranted, a community threat assessment team will be called in. The key is that more than one person will be part of every threat assessment, and that appropriate data will be gathered to assess and plan for intervention.

Worrisome Behaviours	High Risk Behaviours	Immediate Threat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pictures, stories, or journals with violent or disturbing content ▪ Vague threatening statements ▪ Pre-occupation with weapons, violence, or fire ▪ Unauthored threat, note or graffiti ▪ Cyber-bullying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possession of replica weapon ▪ Bomb threat plan ▪ Verbal or written threat to injure, kill or damage property ▪ Internet threats to kill or injure self or others ▪ Fire setting (minor) ▪ Violence to animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possession of a weapon that poses a serious threat to others ▪ Plan for serious assault ▪ Homicidal or suicidal behaviours that threatens safety ▪ Fire setting (major)

Note: These lists are meant to be representative, not exhaustive

This information should be considered fair notice that violence, or threats of violence will not be tolerated at our school. It should also follow that anyone from our school community that has

reasonable grounds to believe that there is potential for high risk or violent behaviour should promptly report that information to the Principal or their designate.

Violence, Weapons and Bullying

Our school district has very clear and prescriptive policies covering expectations in these areas. Violent and threatening behaviour will not be tolerated. Students who are violent or who cause others to feel threatened at school will meet consequences as outlined in Board Policy 700 Safe Caring and Inclusive School Communities. Risk/threat assessment will be carried-out when threats or acts of violence take place.

Substance Abuse (Alcohol and Drugs)

Alcohol or drug use/possession will never be acceptable at Ballenas Secondary School. Students who use, distribute, or possess alcohol or drugs will be placed on an immediate In-School Suspension. They will complete a Substance Use Workbook and appear (with a parent/guardian) before the District Drug and Alcohol Review Committee which will seek to understand the students' use patterns, offer support and set expectations.

Smoking and Vaping

Provincial Government Legislation dictates that smoking or the use of vapour products are not permitted in schools or on school property. All school district facilities, vehicles and grounds are smoke free and vapour product free, without exception, in compliance with the Tobacco Control Act of British Columbia. Ballenas students are not permitted to smoke or vape within one block of the school. Any student smoking or using vapour products on school property will be considered in breach of Legislation and Board Policy. Any student found to be in possession of tobacco or vaping products will have them confiscated, will complete a learning activity, and will be subject to progressive discipline.

Dress Code

Board Policy 700, refers to Safe Caring and Inclusive School Communities. Dress guidelines are intended to incorporate individual choice; however, these are tempered by a responsibility to recognize that Ballenas is an educational and working environment, in which there is an expectation of reasonableness and appropriateness. Clothing should be comfortable and allow a student to participate safely in activities such as physical education, science experiments and/or shop projects. Clothing should demonstrate a respect for the school community. Articles of clothing that promote alcohol or drugs, which display offensive language or images, or encourage sexism, racism or bigotry, are not acceptable at Ballenas. Clothing bearing direct or indirect messages or graphics referring to gang culture, sex or pornography, weapons or violence will not be permitted.

Students who are found to be outside of these guidelines will be warned, and required to adjust their attire appropriately.

Computer Use

Students are expected to abide by the Board Policy 501 – ‘Acceptable Use of Technology’ when using school computers. Students may have their network privileges removed for breaches of this policy.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices can be both a powerful learning tool and a distraction to learning. Electronic devices may be used for learning in classrooms with teacher permission and direction. All members of the Ballenas Community are reminded that any recording (video, picture, voice or other) of anyone without permission is strictly prohibited.

Students who are not able to manage their devices properly will have a discussion, classroom consequences (this may include removal of the device) and communication home. Repeat offences will put students on a progressive discipline track with escalating consequences.

Video Security

Students, parents/guardians and staff should be aware that École Ballenas Secondary makes use of a video security system. This system is in use to ensure the safety of students and staff, as well as, the security of school district property (Board Policy 104).