

ALEXANDER ACADEMY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



AUGUST
2020

WELCOME BACK MESSAGE

Dear Students and Families,
As our summer comes to an end, a new and exciting school year is before us!

This school year, like all that have come before it, will be filled with new friendships, learning and much personal growth. It will be extra special in that we have been learning remotely through our various online platforms since March, and now, we have a chance to see each other again in person. If we have learned anything this past year, it is how important human connection is to our well-being.



However, this will likely be different than any year that has come before as we return to classes with many new measures in place to keep us safe. Our staff will meet for a full week prior to students arriving to review all of the latest safety measures, and we will discuss at length how we can best apply them to our school. In this newsletter you will find the latest information regarding our return in September, including our Safety Plan, details about Orientation Day and much more.

We are looking forward to seeing old and new faces next week. Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year everyone!

Spencer Todd, Head Teacher

Student Orientation Day

We look forward to seeing all of you at Alexander Academy! Student Orientation Day is mandatory for all students except those who are overseas*, and will take place on September 8th for new students, and September 9th for returning students. Classes will begin on September 10th.

We ask that students arrive to campus by 9:45 on Orientation Day. Please enter at our student entrance at 688 West Hastings. The glass door has our logo and will be open that morning. Come up the stairs to our main lobby and get checked in.



Alexander Academy 101

We have created a guide for all new Alexander Academy students! This guide provides an overview to Alexander Academy culture, expectations, and other valuable information. We recommend taking a browse before you

arrive: <https://www.alexanderacademy.ca/admissions/aa-101/>



DOCUMENTS NEEDED

All students who will be physical present for fall classes must send scans of the following documents to info@alexanderacademy.ca prior to the orientation day. Those who will be overseas during the fall term will only need to submit the [Student information form](#) to info@alexanderacademy.ca

- [Student information form](#)
- [Medical information form](#)
- Insurance coverage
 - Canadian students: CareCard or MSP card (physical or a photocopy)
 - International students: proof of private medical insurance enrollment until June 30th, 2021 and MSP card (front and back) if already enrolled.
 - Those who do not have proof of medical insurance will be asked to purchase insurance at Orientation using their credit card or visa/MasterCard debit card.
 - For information regarding medical insurance, you can visit our page <http://www.alexanderacademy.ca/admissions/medical-insurance/>
- Valid study permit (or proof of application submission by CIC)
- If your custodian has changed: a new and completed [Custodianship Declaration form](#) (known as form IMM 5646) notarized in Canada.
- Most recent Report Card if you attended summer school this summer
- All students are also asked to have their own personal email before September. This email cannot be a parent's. Please enter this information in the student information form.



SPOTLIGHT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

In order to provide a safe and secure learning environment for its students this fall, Alexander Academy will adhere to the guidelines outlined in our Restart Plan. The information may change depending on updated information from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health.



UNIFORMS

We ask that students obtain their school uniforms through Cambridge Uniforms by the end of the first week if possible. Fitting appointments (conducted online via Zoom) information can be found [here](#). All returning students are expected to wear their uniforms to Orientation Day.

More information regarding uniform requirements can be found in the [Pre-Arrival handbook](#).



IMPORTANT DATES

September - November



SEP 8, 2020

**NEW STUDENT
ORIENTATION**

SEP 9, 2020

**RETURNING STUDENT
ORIENTATION**

SEP 10, 2020

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

SEP 25, 2020

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY**

OCT 12, 2020

**THANKSGIVING
(SCHOOL CLOSED)**

OCT 23, 2020

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY**

NOV 2 – 6, 2020

**PROVINCIAL
GRADUATION
ASSESSMENTS**

NOV 11, 2020

REMEMBRANCE DAY

NOV 13, 2020

**MID-TERM GRADE
CUTOFF**

NOV 26, 2020

**PARENT-TEACHER
CONFERENCE**

NOV 27, 2020

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY**

Administration Team



Spencer Todd

HEAD TEACHER AND DIPLOMA PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Spencer Todd has enjoyed the challenge of making class content relevant to the lives of his students since 1998 when he first became a Humanities teacher. Initially, he started as an English teacher in the public system in Victoria where he stayed for several years before moving back to his hometown of Vancouver. Soon thereafter, he became involved with working with international students in a number of different roles to help them prepare for success in the British Columbia high school system and beyond. He especially relishes the challenge of aiding international students in their senior English classes and on their Provincial exams. Spencer has a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies and a Post Degree Professional Program in Education from the University of Victoria, as well as a Post Degree Diploma in Fine Arts from the University of British Columbia. In his spare time, he enjoys reading about history, listening to music, following the Miami Dolphins, and spending as much time as possible with his wife and two daughters.



Berenice Lewis

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Berenice Lewis is a graduate of the University of Calgary where she received her Bachelor of Education. She also holds a Master of Arts from the University of Phoenix with a specialization in Leadership and Administration. Berenice oversees all enrolment activities at Alexander Academy and works closely with the Head Teacher and administrative team to bring students to Alexander Academy. Berenice is committed to ensuring that students can access all that Alexander Academy has to offer. Berenice has extensive experience in independent schools, working as a former educator, principal, Head of School, and now Director of Admissions. Her diverse experiences in the field of education confirm her belief in the power of education to drive positive change within her community and beyond.



Serena Ning

OPERATIONAL MANAGER

Serena Ning received her Bachelor's Degree in English Education. She worked as an English teacher at a University as well as a program scriptwriter for a local TV station in China. Years later she received her Master's Degree of Education in Administration and Leadership at Brock University in Ontario. She then moved to Vancouver working at BCIT ESL Center, where she gained experience in students' admissions, dealing with recruiting agencies, and arranging homestay families. In 2005 Serena joined Alexander College as an Education Advisor. While working, she pursued a Certificate of Business Administration and Management at SFU, and took more responsibilities as Assistant to Vice President. She is thrilled to switch to a High School environment after working at the college level for 13 years, where she will put her new passion to help Alexander Academy in becoming a pathway for students to achieve their success. Serena enjoys working in a dynamic environment where she embraces the beauty of diversity and multi-cultures. She likes travelling, camping, hiking, indoor rock climbing, cycling, water-activities and painting.



Jenny Guan

STUDENT SERVICES MANAGER

Jenny Guan received her Bachelor of Science (major in Biology) and Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia. She had taught various subjects at a secondary level, including Math and Science, in British Columbia. She enjoys working with students from a variety of backgrounds. Jenny highly values the cultural diversity in Vancouver and she is thrilled to join the Alexander Academy community. She believes in the importance of acknowledging each student's individual needs and unique learning styles. When not teaching, Jenny enjoys spending time with her family, doing yoga and playing badminton.



Noemi Yatsushiro

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Noemi Fernandez Yatsushiro graduated in 2018 from the University of British Columbia with an Honours BA in English Literature and a minor in Anthropology. She was raised in Tokyo and has been greatly shaped by a rich cultural background. She enjoys writing, taking long walks and developing new hobbies.



Ellie Kwon

MARKETING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ellie Kwon is a fourth-year marketing student at UBC Sauder. She was born and raised in South Korea and came to Canada to study abroad in 2015. She previously studied at Alexander College and successfully transferred to UBC Sauder in her second year. She enjoys working out, watching soccer, and meeting new people.



Please Visit Our Website to see Teacher Dictionary:

<https://www.alexanderacademy.ca/about-us/staff-and-faculty/>