



CONSEIL SCOLAIRE FRANCOPHONE  
DE LA COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE

(School District No. 93)

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NEWS RELEASE

## École secondaire Jules-Verne is preparing to welcome its first group of students

**March 10, 2008 (Richmond, B.C)** In September 2008, École secondaire Jules-Verne (the name recently given to the new Francophone secondary school in Vancouver) will open its doors. The new school, located at 5445 Baillie Street, on the site adjacent to the Rose-des-Vents school, is the first “stand-alone” or homogeneous secondary French-language school in Vancouver. This is a significant step in the history of Francophones in the city of Vancouver.

The Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (BC’s Francophone School District – SD No 93) (CSF) is pleased to announce that this school will bear the name Jules Vernes. Vernes is a French writer and visionary, known the world-over for his adventure and science-fiction novels. This name was selected by the CSF Board of Trustees following a consultation process during which students, and the Vancouver Francophone community, were asked to decide on the best name for this school.

By choosing this name, the community wanted to express their desire to see young people explore the world and broaden their horizons. Moreover, because the student body is comprised of people from several different countries, a name that was not confined to one region or a specific province of Canada was chosen.

The École secondaire Jules-Verne will offer a complete program in French for grades 7 to 12. The inclusion of students from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade into the secondary level is more and more common in school boards across Canada. It is recognized that this approach is more suited to the social needs and realities of these students - it also serves to integrate them more effectively into the secondary level.

With this adjustment to the secondary program, the three feeder elementary schools in the region (*Anne-Hébert* and *Rose des Vents* in Vancouver, as well as *des Navigateurs* in Richmond) will offer kindergarten through grade 6 classes as of September 2008. This change was approved by the CSF Board of Trustees following a consultation process. In a poll of the community, the families of these three schools, as well as parents from the francophone program at Kitsilano Secondary, stated their wishes regarding the enrolling their children in the new secondary school.

Construction of the École secondaire Jules-Verne is progressing according to budget and the established timelines. The school has the capacity to one-day accommodate some 350 students from Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby, and New Westminster. In addition to teaching space and facilities, the school will house a large theatre and a full-size gymnasium and its surrounding landscaped grounds will be open to the public. The school will also benefit from leading edge technology in the spirit of the innovative projects put forward in the CSF’s *Pédagogie 2010*.

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The construction of this French-language secondary school is a long-time dream finally coming true. For a number of years now, due to increased enrolments in the Francophone program currently offered at Kitsilano Secondary, as well as to the strengthening of the francophone elementary programs in the Vancouver region (*Anne-Hébert*, *Rose-des-Vents*, and *des Navigateurs* schools), the CSF had been seeking to establish a homogenous Francophone secondary school. The CSF continues with efforts to obtain a permanent site in Vancouver where it can build a new elementary school

*Since its creation in 1995, the Conseil Scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique offers educational programs and services geared towards the growth and cultural promotion of the province's Francophone learners. An active partner in the development of British Columbia's francophone community, the Conseil has presently in its system, and distributed across 78 communities in the province, over 4,000 students and 39 schools, which includes 21 homogeneous schools.*

**Reference:**

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