

ABERDEEN HALL PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Contributed photo

Abigail, George, Maddi, Matthew, Natalie, Sophia, Fenner, Aspen, Brynn and Paige pose in front of the newly-built Aberdeen Hall school. Aberdeen Hall's rapidly expanding campus is located on 18 pristine acres near UBC Okanagan. The facilities and view are something must be experienced to be understood. Call 250-491-1270 for a personal tour.

More than academics to Aberdeen

By GRANT OZECZOWSKY
Director of Senior School

We are pleased to announce the plans for our new high school facility. The robust growth of our student body has not only allowed us to break ground on new buildings, but it has also enabled us to develop and deliver exciting new programs.

For students, this means we can continue to design learning opportunities that meet their individual needs, expanding their horizons and helping them find direction during their teenaged years.

During adolescence, young people grow and change incredibly quickly. They seek to understand the world around them, and begin to sculpt and shape their own identities. It is a demanding and wonderful time.

We see it as an opportunity to educate the whole person, and to teach students the skills they need to succeed academically and socially.

Aberdeen Hall's High School is a safe, supportive and innovative environment in which students can gain the knowledge and confidence that will help them excel as they grow into young adults.

Our low student-to-teacher ratio ensures each student forges a healthy personal connection with their classmates and the school faculty.

The resulting partnership helps students meet our rigorous academic goals as they prepare for our Advanced Placement courses, and eventual post-secondary success.

Whether it be the humanities or mathematics, the sciences or French, students at Aberdeen Hall receive the individualized instruction that helps them achieve personal excellence.

Our rich academic offerings are balanced with a healthy mix of athletics, fine arts and character-based education.

In our "Cornerstones" classes, students learn valuable lessons in leadership, personal resiliency and global

awareness. Senior students have an array of elective courses to choose from including visual art, drama, robotics, guitar and information technology.

Finally, athletes at Aberdeen Hall's are offered a wide variety of interscholastic sport, ranging from tennis and track, to basketball and volleyball.

Students who graduate from Aberdeen Hall will have learned the value of integrity and responsibility; the virtue of fairness and respect; and the benefit of excellence and perseverance.

These students will carry with them the knowledge, confidence and skills they will require not only to gain university acceptance, but to succeed as independent learners in a post-secondary environment.

At Aberdeen Hall, students can find the answers to the questions adolescence poses.

The results are young men and women who are ready to make a positive difference in our world.

The Journey

By SOPHIA
Grade 9

On a bus with all your best friends, you're told, "It's the journey too, not just the destination," but that's not a problem at all.

Mad Libs, iPods, Truth or Dare, random outbursts of song, MASH, building anticipation, snacking, smiling, laughing and talking.

Whether you're heading to Pines, Sliver Lake, Vancouver, Victoria or Salt Spring Island, your bus ride will be memorable.

Sleeping arrangements. You always want to be roommates with just that certain person, but it's unlikely to happen. There's no need to worry, though. It's just sleeping.

You wake up in the morning after minimal sleep – due to intense excitement. You're ready for anything.

The leaders have things for you to do:

You must make your way across a wire that's two feet off the ground. The only thing keeping you up is another person on another wire.

There is only one way to succeed: have complete trust in the other person and work together to get to the end.

You must use compasses and GPSs to follow a treasure map and reach the finish line first.

What does it take? Teamwork.

You are put in a canoe/kayak with a friend and told to follow the leaders.

Proves to be difficult. After much thrashing around, you figure out that you must paddle in sync to succeed.

You are told to sit around the campfire, and pass around a small branch. When the branch comes to you, you can speak freely and will not be judged by the people in the circle.

You find yourself learning so much you did not know about your classmates and telling them things you barely knew about yourself.

What do all these things have in common? They all force you to work together as a group to accomplish something. You come out of it knowing you've learned a great life lesson – how to work with others effectively.

Within the blink of an eye, it's the day you're to leave. You're packing up your things when you look at the person you've shared a room with.

You understand this person so much better now.

After all the experiences you've shared this week, you find yourself thinking about that first day when you were asked to room together and how worried you were about getting along. How silly.

None of that matters now.

On the bus back they're still playing on their iPods and randomly singing. But there has been a change. Underneath it all, everyone is united in a new way.

You've all experienced something together, and that you will treasure for the rest of your life.



Contributed photo

Campus getting bigger

Natalie, Aspen, Taylor, Hewitt, George and Sophia, senior grade students, are all smiles along with Christopher Grieve, Head of School. A new senior school building is to begin construction this spring and will overlook the Valley as the campus of Aberdeen Hall continues to grow.

Students select Gryphon as new school mascot

By RENE
Grade 6

Aberdeen Hall was a new school without a mascot. Last year, the Grade 5 socials class started a process to decide which of two gryphon images our school would adopt as our mascot.

First, we had to elect Grade 5 students that would lead the vote, make the ballots, and campaign for the two Gryphons. After that, the class had to agree on a date, time, and a place for where the vote would be held. A separate group had to design the ballots and posters.

Once the ballots were complete the planners got the ballot boxes and set them up in our school library.

After much campaigning for both mascots it was time for the vote and almost all of the citizens of our school voted. Teachers, grandparents, parents, aunts/uncles, and students all participated in the vote.

I was one of the planners, so I had to stay late after school on two nights to help with the election. At the end of the second day of voting the votes were counted by Mrs. Raye, my mom and I.

There were a lot of ballots to count and we wanted to be accurate. Although the competition was close, the voters selected the more formal Gryphon mascot. The next day we announced to the school who had won. Some people cheered and some people booed, but by the end of the presentation everyone was happy.

It has now been a year since the vote and Aberdeen Hall now has P.E. shirts with our new Gryphon logo on it and the school has a Gryphon rugby team.

Since the school has made the decision for the new mascot, our new logo has been used in many different and exciting ways. It has come to express the spirit and enthusiasm of our school.

I love having the Gryphon as our mascot and I am proud to have it a part of our school.



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