

Our Story

We are a team of experienced educators launching a non-profit high school in Vancouver to pursue our mission of educating high school students without leaving them wondering, "Why am I learning this?"

Our Founders

VISST was founded by Dr. Mike Gelbart, a former UBC computer science professor with a PhD from Harvard University, and Shaun Olafson, an education entrepreneur and founder of Kiddy Junction Academy.

Admissions

For the 2022-2023 school year, VISST will assess applications on a rolling basis until all spaces are filled. For more information and the application form, see visst.ca/admissions.



Contact Us

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VISST

Launching September 2022, the Vancouver Independent School for Science and Technology (VISST) is **Vancouver's first and only STEM high school.**

VISST offers the full B.C. curriculum with accelerated and enriched STEM including computer science starting from Grade 8. Students will learn from experts, PhDs and former UBC professors — and from each other as a group of like-minded learners.

What makes VISST different

Classes start at 10:00am.

An integrated curriculum where teachers forge connections between subjects.

Transparent and open communication between the school, students, and parents.

Students take responsibility for, and take care of, the facilities and each other.

Cultivating curiosity and having fun as explicit goals of the school - learning new things is not the only metric for success.

Clear connections between school subjects and life outside of school.

Academic Program

VISST offers the full B.C. curriculum augmented with additional STEM offerings through a mix of acceleration and enrichment.

Educational Philosophy

Our philosophy mixes rigorous fundamentals with project-based learning. Projects provide an incredible opportunity for students to pursue their interests, practice teamwork, grapple with ambiguity, and go deeper when their curiosity tugs.

On the other hand, we also believe in the value of structured learning to build up fundamental knowledge and skills through practice.



Location

We are fortunate to be located at the corner of Broadway and Granville, in the heritage building with the iconic Kaplan sign. Our bright, freshly-renovated space is ideal for a modern school.

