



STUDENTS MATTER AND WE CARE.

Student Services

Careers

Counselling

Health

Planning

Careers

Work Experience integrates classroom theory with practical experience in the community and workplace in an effort for students to gain practical skills and to explore possible career options. There are hundreds of various work experience opportunities which include banks, hotels, auto repair shops, schools, investment firms, dentists, medical research, computer technicians, SPCA,

lawyers, retail stores, restaurants, engineering firms, and architectural firms.

Whatever your career interest is we will work to find a suitable placement.

Work Experience provides students with the opportunity to:

- Explore personal interests and abilities.
- Practice knowledge and skills in a work environment.
- Develop connections between goals, school studies, and possible career fields.
- Observe and participate with adults working in the field of career interest.

When a student is enrolled in WEX 12A, a 4 credit course, it includes:

- The Work Experience component out-of-school: 90-100 hours of volunteer work or job shadowing in the community in an area of interest to you, the student. (4 credits)
- Ongoing personal reflection: keeping a Journal and Summary of Hours.
- You will meet with your teacher on a regular, flexible basis and complete a series of classroom assignments on topics such as: workplace safety, employability

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skills, résumé writing, and interview skills. During this time, you will also work with the teacher, to plan the work placement and make telephone calls with the teacher to set up your placement.

Work Experience encourages students to:

- Find answers to career questions.
- Explore career options through work experience placements.
- Make connections between school and work.
- Reflect on experiences and set new goals.

Upon completion of Work Experience, a student will receive:

- A Work Experience certificate from the School District.
- Skills and knowledge necessary for entry level employment in the specialty field.
- Background and course work necessary for entry into related post-secondary programs.
- Possible preferential admission to some post-secondary institution programs.

WORK EXPERIENCE 12A and 12B (WEX12A, WEX 12B, 4 credits each)

These courses are 4 credit elective courses in which the student

completes 90-120 hours of volunteer work or job shadowing in the community. The timing of these hours is completely flexible: during school, after school, weekends, holidays, Professional Days, Spring Break, etc. Initiative is a key ingredient for success in this course. Teachers set up the placements after careful consultation with the students. Students are evaluated based on: employer feedback, communication, summary of hours and a journal of work experience and a number of assignments done at certain times of the year. Grades will be given in the final report card in June. Some of our students complete their hours in the summer after Grade 10 (or Grade 11). Prior to any placements, the student must see the career resource teacher.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPRENTICESHIP (SSA, 11A, 11B, 12A, 12B – 4 credits each)

This series of courses is a career program that allows students the opportunity to begin an apprenticeship while still in high school, and to earn wages and high school credits, for doing so. One hundred and twenty hours of paid work equals 4 credits to a maximum of 480 hours for a total of 16 credits. Students secure a paid job with a certified journeyman in that trade, and become registered with the Industry Training Authority.

- This is a special program for a student who wishes to graduate while working part-time and developing a career through apprenticeship.
- The student is eligible for a \$1000 scholarship upon graduation if he/she maintains a C+ overall average in Grades 11 and 12.
- Within 3 to 5 years, the student will be a trained journeyman in his/her chosen field making excellent wages.
- Examples of designated trade categories include: Aerospace, Construction, Electronics,

Automotive, Graphic Arts, Horticulture, Forestry, Motion Picture & Theatre, and Hospitality.

- For more information or to enroll, students are encouraged to visit the Career Resource Centre/WEX Teacher. Students interested in the Apprenticeship Programme are responsible for obtaining their own placement.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Following is a brief explanation of some of the "Special Projects" that run annually in SD # 91. NVSS students in grades 10-12 are eligible to apply for these projects. Projects Agriculture, Heavy Duty and Forest Management will give the students 24 – 32 hrs towards their Work Experience Program.

Project Agriculture (PAG) – This is a 3-day career awareness opportunity. The format starts with seminars (careers, safety, farming in BC, etc.) and tours (auction mart, veterinary clinic, cattle farm, etc.) for 1 day followed by 2 days "on the farm" where we "descend" on a large mixed farm and operate tractors, swathers, manure spreaders, loaders, ATV's (a safety course), combines, balers, etc. We also feed calves, milk cows, weld, compete in "farming jeopardy" and learn to drive draft horses pulling a plow. PAG is normally scheduled for the 3rd week in September.



Project Natural Resource Management is similar to PFM, but takes place in the Vanderhoof region. It also requires students to

have a strong Science background, as the hands-on projects are based on student skill and capability in many instances. Local industry is the key organizer in this project. In order to participate in this program, students must have permission from both parents and teachers. Student must be in grades 10-12 to participate in this project.



Project Health will partner health professionals with UNBC and CNC campuses in a 2 day immersion into the life of a post-secondary student, along with Career opportunities in the health science sector. In order to participate in this program, grade 11-12 students must have honour roll GPA's and have permission from both parents and teachers. 20 Career Program hours are available through this project.



Project Forest Management (PFM)

– This is a 3-day career awareness opportunity. The first day includes seminars (safety, bear aware, environment, forestry presentations, etc.) and tours (forest, mills, etc.). The next 2 days the students are put in groups of 4 and spend ½ day on a rotating schedule with 6 “Forestry Professionals or Teams” where they learn to (each year is different) layout blocks, GPS layout, map blocks, measure tree height and volume, do insect (bug) and disease surveys as well as silviculture work (planting, spacing, weeding, brushcutting, etc.) PFM is normally scheduled for late May.



Project Heavy Duty – PHD is a 4-day immersion into Heavy Duty Equipment operation. The first 2 days in April are spent in classroom sessions and tours. Classroom topics include safety, WCB, Finance, small business, trades training institutions, student expectations and others while the tours are of local (Vanderhoof and Endako) industries and businesses that are involved with heavy duty equipment (mines, mills, equipment sales and repairs, etc.) The next 2 days in May are spent in a gravel pit near Vanderhoof where the students spend 1 hour operating pieces of equipment in rotation. Machines such as loaders, trucks, excavators, feller-bunchers, butt-n-tops, skid steer loaders, skidders, cats, etc are used.

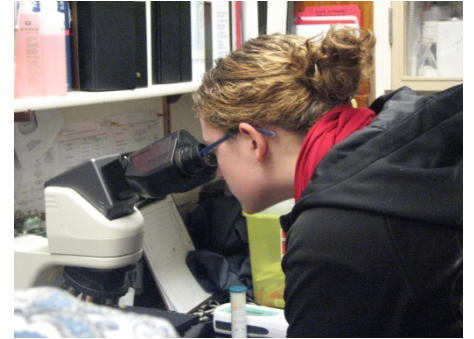


Project Fire Fighter

Project Fire Fighter is a 2-day full immersion “career simulation” opportunity for a select number of **Junior Fire Fighter students** from throughout the school district. Students remain at the Fort St. James fire hall over the duration of the project as they participate in live fire scenarios at the regional fire training centre. Students must be enrolled in FFT12 in order to participate in this project.

Work Experience

N.V.S.S. offers many Work Experience Programs designed specifically for grade 11 and 12 students who would like to take the opportunity to combine and compliment regular secondary school graduation with career study. Students are encouraged to meet regularly with the Career Coordinator.



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to satisfying graduation requirements, Work Experience students **MUST** complete the following requirements:

1. A minimum of 4 focus courses common for all students taking the program.
 2. Ministry Work Experience 12A or 12B requirements, including 120 hours of work experience related to the focus area.
 3. Graduation Transitions 12
- When the 3 requirements are completed, the student will receive a letter grade and 4 (Grade 12) credits toward graduation.

The following are the 8 Focus Areas from which a student may choose:

Business and Applied Liberal Arts and Humanities
 Fine Arts, Design and Media
 Science and Applied Science
 Fitness and Recreation
 Tourism, Hospitality and Foods
 Health and Human Services
 Trades and Technology

Why take Work Experience?

* Many post-secondary institutions require some work experience in order to be admitted into their programs.

* Many employers want to see previous work experience before they hire.

* The graduation process stresses the importance of career development and work experience.

* Work experience can lead to summer, part-time, or full-time employment.

* Work Experience provides the opportunity to develop maturity, independence & good work habits. You can also make some good contacts for later in life.

Junior Initial Attack – (JIA) 12, 4 credit Board Authority Approved Course

This course operates in Vanderhoof and Burns Lake in partnership with the local Forest Service (Protection Division). In each centre, 12 senior students (gr.12) are selected through an application procedure to participate in an intensive Forest Fire Fighting Training Program. They meet about once per month and have classroom as well as outdoor sessions which cover topics such as, fire behavior, weather, safety, equipment operation, procedures, fitness, map reading and helicopters. Successful completion of the JIA Program allows them to apply for employment in fire centres anywhere in the Province.

Essentials of Fire Fighting – Firefighting 12 4 Credit Board Authorized Course (Vanderhoof Volunteer Fire Dept. Junior Program)

Students in grade 11 or 12 are selected through an application procedure to participate in the Vanderhoof Volunteer Fire Department Junior Program. They will undertake a course of study covering topics such as ladders, fire behaviours, hoses and

extinguishers, search and recovery, vehicle extrication and urban interface fires. It is expected that they will achieve a degree of competency in these areas of study in addition to the following:

1. Maintain at least a passing grade in all courses
2. Attend practice on a regular basis
3. Attend school and all classes on a regular basis
4. Maintain an acceptable level of behaviour at school and in public that represents their positions as members of the Vanderhoof Volunteer Fire Department
5. Have the full approval of their parents for participation in all Fire Department training and activities
6. Complete at least 120 hours of combined Fire Department Training and activities in order to receive 4 credits for this BAA Course.
7. Complete the WCB Level One First Aid Course upon acceptance into the Junior Fire Fighter Program

Participate in Project Fire Fighter

Counselling

Currently at NVSS, there are two counsellors. The counselling duties can be divided into three different areas -- educational, career and personal - with educational counselling receiving the majority of the counsellors' time.

The counsellors handle registrations, course selections, and course transfers, as well as arrange and conduct meetings with parents and students. Counsellors organize liaison visits between students and post-secondary representatives and assist students with financial aid (loans, scholarships, bursaries), and post-secondary education. They counsel students regarding

such things as academic progress, attendance and behaviour; they interpret educational needs of students to administration and staff.

The counsellors are always available for personal counselling and they are prepared to help students in resolving special problems (e.g. with teachers, family, peers, self) and in developing skills in making personal decisions, and in realizing potential. The counsellors will also help find special help for students, if this is needed.

As well, the counsellors and school secretaries are responsible for monitoring and maintaining adequate and accurate student information records such as: permanent record cards; graduation requirement credits; up-to-date student timetables; student medical problems; student performance surveys and interim reports; student course selection sheets; student course transfers; class size counts/limits. Mrs. Vahi works with students in grades 10-12. Mr. Woolnough deals with students in grade 7, 8 and 9. Of course, either counsellor will be available to assist any student in emergency situations and for personal counselling.

Post Secondary Planning

Need help deciding what to do after high school?

NVSS graduates have many post-secondary options, ranging from entering the work force, trades or technology programs or college or university courses.

Having some ideas about your future plans, even though they

might change, will help you select courses.

It is important to take into consideration the wide variety of choices you will have, as well as the entrance requirements of programs you might apply for after high school.

Do not plan for the minimum that is required. By taking a wide variety of courses during your years at NVSS, you will ensure that you are ready for whatever path you choose.

Helpful Websites for Post-Secondary Planning

www.educationplanner.ca/

www.careercrusing.com See the counselling office or the careers office for username and password.

www.schoolfinder.com

www.workbc.ca

Explore BC Post-Secondary Institutions

[BC Post-Secondary Institutions](#)

[Apply online to BC Post-Secondary Institutions](#)

<http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/>

Post-Secondary options outside of BC

www.canlearn.ca

www.collegeanduniversityguide.com

