



Dear Parent/Guardian,

School District 85 will be continuing the Forestry Academy for the 2018-2019 school year. The main goals of this program are to teach students skills related to the forest industry on Northern Vancouver Island, introduce students to the diverse range of jobs that exist locally in the forest sector, and help students build connections to local companies.

The Forestry Academy will cover five topics of study: North Island Ecology, North Island Forest Operation, First Nations' Forestry, Non-Timber Forest Use, and Credentialing. In order to facilitate this hands on course, and allow access to the vast terrain of the North Island, this course operates outside of the regular school timetable. Therefore, students will work up to 10 hours a day for 6 days in the fall and 6 days in the spring. Opportunities for credentialing (eg. First Aid, S100 Fire Suppression) may exist at other times throughout the year. In order to model many of the jobs in the forest industry a large portion of this time will be spent outside, and in potentially challenging weather conditions. Students will be provided with essential safety equipment (such as hard hats, high-vis vests, and cork boots) and will receive safety training over the course of the program. (eg. Risk Assessment, Level 1 First Aid, WHMIS). Behaviour deemed to break safety rules, and endanger the student or others will result in immediate removal from the program.

This program will provide students with four credits over the course of the year. Students accepted into the program will earn this credit in addition to their regular timetable courses. For six days each semester (a total of 12 days), students will leave their regular classes to attend the Forestry Academy. School staff will work to support students in this time away from the regular classes, but it is essential that the student is passing all their classes with a minimum of a C+ letter grade, and is prepared to make up any essential assignments or tests on their return to their regular timetable courses.

This program is designed for students who are ready to work with industry partners, and have a drive to learn about forest practices on the North Island. This will provide a challenging and unique experience for the students in our district and should prove to be an extremely valuable opportunity for students to develop employment skills and explore potential career options.

Any questions regarding this program should be directed to:

Mr. Pendergast

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