Q and A

**Will our trips go past 3 pm?**

No. It is very important to us that we return to the school before 3pm so students can attend any extra-curricular activities or catch buses home.

**How often will we go on trips?**

We will try do an outtrip once a week. This could be small such as a local hike or a half day trip orienteering or a full day kayaking.

**What do we do in Outdoor Connections?**

This is our time to team build, prepare for activities, look at interesting connections that aren’t part of the curriculum and practice skills that will help us on outtrips.

**How many overnight trips will we go on?**

We will try do 1-2 a term, some will be an afternoon and overnight, others may be 2 nights away.

**How will my other day of classes be impacted by the academy?**

We will minimize the impact on the “out of academy day” by scheduling any away trips on the “ academy day”. If we go overnight we will either leave after lunch on “out of academy” day or we will miss two days of the “ academy day” and only one of the “out of academy day”. This means the maximum you will miss a term will be 1 to 1.5 days of your other classes. We will provide some catch up time on the academy days to compensate missed work.

**Do we still do regular PE?**

Yes you will still participate in traditional units such as badminton, handball, dance wresting. But you will also do outdoor based activities such as: swimming, skating and hiking. Fitness activities will be connected to our outtrips.

**Will we be behind in academics?**

No not at all. You will have a senior English teacher teaching you grade 10 english, and hopefully with the connections you make with nature will lead to a deeper and more meaningful understanding and connection to learning.

You will be ahead in your electives as you will have taken Outdoor Connections and Photography which will give you more flexibility in Grade 11.

Although Science is not always part of the academy the subject will be connected where possible which will also help with meaningful connections .

**How will science fit in with the Academy?**

When possible we will leave for outtrips after Science class but when possible to make curricular connections we will tie in Science. The teacher will be supportive of the outdoor program and will bring an area of expertise to the academy. All academy students will be in the science class together.

**What other costs will I have to pay outside of the $2500?**

Nothing, you will need to provide personal clothing and equipment such as jackets, boots, hat, whistle, first aid and a food. The costs cover transportation, guides, major equipment such as snowshoes, kayaks etc.

**What if I want to play school sports?**

There is no conflict with school sports. You play for the team offered at your regular school .

**What if I don’t know anyone in the program?**

We will be together as a cohort for all 5 subjects. We will do a lot of team building activities that will promote friendships and working relationships. Everyone is coming to the program with similar expectations and you will be with likeminded people. We expect students to make lasting friendships from this program.

**Do I have to attend Rockridge?**

No, you can attend any of the West Van Secondary Schools, you just come to Rockridge for the academy day.

**Do I need previous experience?**

No experience is necessary but a willing and open attitude is. All activities will provide opportunities for all levels.

**Will be challenged if I am experienced in the outdoors?**

Yes we will provide varying experiences to challenge all levels.