



Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Vashon Island School District. We are honored that you have selected our district to continue your education. This Web page was created by a former parent of commuting students in cooperation with the district. If you have any questions, be sure to let us assist you. Welcome to Vashon!

Susan Hanson, Principal

Vashon Island High School

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## Contact numbers

### [Vashon Island High School](#)

206-463-9171

206-463-1944 (fax)

### [McMurray Middle School](#)

206-463-9168

206-463-9707 (fax)

### [Vashon Island School District](#)

206-408-8100

206-463-6262 (fax)

## **Ferry (WSF) information**

### **Tickets**

Students usually [buy online](#) a monthly passenger pass or a multi-ride commuter card. There are no ticket sales at the Vashon terminal. Passenger tickets are collected - whether in a vehicle or on foot - from Fauntleroy passengers as they board the boat and from Southworth passengers as they disembark from the ferry to the Vashon dock. Southworth drivers buy their ticket at the toll booth before getting on the Southworth ferry. Car/driver commuter passes and tickets are collected at the tollbooth or on the dock at Southworth and Fauntleroy, before boarding the ferry to Vashon. No tickets are collected when leaving Vashon Island. Students may park their cars overnight in the parking lot above the ferry dock.

For ticketing options and prices, and to buy tickets online, see the [WSF Web site](#).

### **Schedule**

All times below are from the winter 2008 schedule, effective through March 29, 2008. The core commute times don't often change with new schedules, but for updated and emergency schedule information, check the [WSF Web site](#).

### **Morning**

Southworth commuters take the 6:40 ferry and Fauntleroy commuters

take the 6:45 ferry. School buses are on the Vashon dock to meet the ferries and depart the dock for school after students from both ferries have boarded.

## **Afternoon**

Immediately after school, school buses takes students from McMurray and Vashon High School to the ferry dock. Commuter students wait on the dock until their respective ferries depart: Fauntleroy commuters take the 3:25 and Southworth commuters take the 3:30.

On early-release days students are dismissed early enough that the buses arrive on the dock in time to catch the 10:45 ferry to Southworth and the 10:30 ferry to Fauntleroy.

## **Ferry delays**

If a morning ferry is delayed for any reason and the school bus is not waiting on the dock, students should call their school to let them know that they are waiting on the ferry dock. High school students should call 206-463-9171. Middle school students should call 206-463-9168. The schools will arrange for a school vehicle to pick up the students and bring them to their schools.

Students who arrive at school late due to ferry or school transportation delays are not marked tardy. If a student is late for any other reason (missed the ferry, doctor appointment, etc.), parents or guardians are responsible for arranging transportation for their children to school. A Metro bus meets many ferries originating from Fauntleroy on the Vashon dock throughout the day, but check the [schedule](#) for specific times.

## Ferry information

The [WSF Web site](#) has a wealth of information. [E-mail Alerts](#) (click on the link to subscribe) are messages sent to you whenever there are delays, emergency schedule changes, traffic situations that might affect the ferries, etc. Given the frequency of ferry problems, E-mail Alerts are very helpful.

### [Vessel Watch](#)

uses the GPS units on the boats to show you where they are on the route. At the dock but the 3:25 ferry is nowhere in sight? Call home and have someone look at Vessel Watch to find out exactly where the boat is (updated every three minutes).

## Behavior on the ferries

Because of increased security concerns, it's important for commuter students to comply with requests from WSF staff. Ferry employees and hundreds of commuters see commuter students as representatives of Vashon Island schools. It is important that students' behavior on the ferry and in the terminals reflect the positive contributions they make to Vashon schools. WSF can, at its discretion, refuse passage to any passenger. You can't go to school on Vashon if you can't ride the ferry.

## Buses

### School bus

In the morning, school buses for McMurray and for Vashon High School pick up students on the Vashon dock. The buses wait for both the Fauntleroy and Southworth ferries to arrive. In the afternoon, students board the buses bound for the ferry dock at

their respective schools.

## **Metro bus**

If students arrive late or stay after school, Metro buses 118 and 119 leave the Vashon dock at regular intervals (don't worry about the bus number: there's only one bus route). There is a bus stop just south of the Vashon Highway entrance to the high school (outside the staff parking lot and across from the Park and Ride - you'll see the sign). On the [Metro schedule](#) the stop is between the SW Ellisport and SW Bank stops so you can use those times as a guide. The nearest bus stop for McMurray students is in front of McFeeds on the southeast corner of Vashon Highway and Cemetery Road. Bus fare is collected when boarding the bus: The fare for students is .50 and exact change is required. McMurray and Vashon High School offices have bus and ferry schedules and can help students decide which bus to take to catch a particular ferry. Metro schedules are usually available at the Fauntleroy and Vashon ferry terminals.

[General information about Metro](#)

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[Metro route map for Vashon Island](#)

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## **Adverse weather**

Adverse weather conditions can cause school to be one

or two hours late, but the ferries don't sail at tidy one-hour intervals. If a school delay is broadcast on radio and TV stations, students catch the following ferries (as of the spring 2008 schedule):

One hour delay: Fauntleroy, 7:05 ferry; Southworth, 7:55 ferry.

Two-hour delay: Fauntleroy, 8:25 ferry; Southworth, 8:20 ferry.

A broadcast notice of "Limited Bus Transportation" does not affect the route of the school buses that transport commuter students. Refer to the school district's [Emergency Weather Bulletin \(PDF\)](#) for more information.

## **School hours**

Vashon Island High School begins at 7:35 and ends at 2:25, with dismissal on early release days at 10:10 (10:40 for noncommuters). Southworth commuters catch the 10:45 ferry, Fauntleroy

commuters catch the 10:30 ferry. [VHS bell schedule](#)

McMurray Middle School begins at 7:40 and ends at 2:10; early dismissal is at 10:30 (commuter students are excused earlier to make the 10:30 and 10:45 ferries). [McMurray bell schedule](#).

## School news and information

School newsletters are available online and by mail (mailed by request only) and contain important and timely information about activities, events, and deadlines. Subscribe to school mailing lists by going to the [district Web site](#) (*Subscribe to Our Mailing Lists*, bottom of the right column). You'll also receive the quarterly school district Report Card to

Parents.

## **Emergencies**

It's helpful to have a contact person on Vashon Island in case of emergency or if school is closed early for weather reasons. Midday ferry departures from Vashon can be up to two hours apart, and there is no direct route from Southworth to Vashon between the 12:30 and 5:05 ferries (goes to Fauntleroy first and then back to Vashon).

## **After school activities and events**

McMurray Middle School and Vashon Island High School offer students many opportunities to participate in drama, music, study, sports,

and other extracurricular activities. Commuter students are equal members of their respective student bodies and are encouraged to participate in any of these enriching activities. For activities schedules, check the [VHS](#) and [McMurray](#) Web sites.

## **Continued enrollment**

Out-of-district students must get a release from their home district and reapply to the Vashon school district *every* school year. Students who maintain academic progress and are free of truancies or disruptive behavior are accepted for the next school year. This procedure is usually completed soon after the first of the year preceding the next academic year. [Application for Nonresident Admission \(PDF\)](#)

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## Running Start

Nonresident students who choose to enroll in Running Start must do so through their home districts. Contact Vashon High School for more Running Start information.

## Related links

[Vashon Island School District](#)

[Vashon Island High School](#)

[McMurray Middle School](#)

[Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber](#)

(local newspaper)

[Vashon-Maury Island Chamber of  
Commerce](#)

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Commuter Guide to Vashon Island  
Schools

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