

BYRNE CREEK SCHOOL AWARDS CRITERIA (revised March 2026)

Below is a list of school awards and their criteria.

All grade 8-11 awards are presented at the year-end awards ceremony.

Grade 12 awards are presented at the school leaving ceremony

Exception: HEART awards are presented at the end of each semester.

Please note that athletic awards are not included in this document.

Scholastic Achievement Awards (Grades 10-12)

Scholastic achievement awards are determined based on students' overall average for classes taken within the school year. They consider final marks from Semester 1 courses, Term 3 marks for Semester 2 courses, and the most recent mark from a full-year course.

Scholastic recognition honours students with 90-94.9% average

Scholastic excellence honours students with a 95% or higher average.

To qualify for these awards:

Students must be enrolled in a full course load

Grade 12: 6 or more for-credit classes in the current year taken at a Burnaby school or Train-in-Trades program. CLC/WEX are not included in this number.

Grade 11: 7 or more classes in the current year, defined as above.

Grade 10: 8 or more classes in the current year, defined as above.

Averages will be calculated using all courses taken in the school year.

Courses that generate dual credit will be counted only once in the average.

Students must not have a course mark below 67% (letter grade of C, C-, F, or IE)

If a student who does not have a full course load or who has a grade below 67% and feels that they should be considered for an achievement award, they are encouraged to speak with their counselor or grade administrator. Individual circumstances will be considered.

Subject Awards & Departmental Awards (Grades 8-12)

Subject awards recognize excellence in a particular course.

Ex: Excellence in Food Studies 9

Departments/teaching teams select recipients based on a variety of criteria, including but not limited to:

- success with course material
- commitment to learning
- subject-related leadership
- positive contributions to the class

Departmental Awards (Grade 12)

In addition to subject awards, some departments also recognize overall excellence in their discipline at the senior level.

Ex: Top Grade 12 Science Student, or Performing Artist of the Year

Criteria vary by department, but often include:

- excellence in a range of senior level courses (Ex: biology, physics, and chemistry)
- expressed interest in future studies in this area
- out-of-class engagement within the department (ex: peer tutor, lab assistant, math club)

Service Awards (Grade 8-12)

There are two levels:

Service Award

Service with Distinction

Both awards recognize students' volunteer contributions within the school community.

What counts as school service?

Some examples include helping run grade 7 visits, setting up for/running school events, coaching/managing a team, assisting staff with school tasks, representing our school at community events, volunteer tutoring & mentorship, clubs fundraising for charitable causes.

What doesn't count?

Service that earns you a course credit, time spent on personal-interest clubs/projects, service outside of the school.

How to be recognized:

Service hours tracking forms are available through grade-level Teams. Students are responsible for tallying their hours, getting the signatures of supervising teachers, and then submitting their hours by the deadline (April or May – will be announced).

A service award will be given "with distinction" when a student contributes an exceptional number of service hours for their grade level, and/or an exceptional quality of service, and/or service in a variety of contexts around the school. There is no strict number of hours required for either award, and the general time expectation is higher for students in older grades.

HEART Awards (Grade 8-12)

HEART awards are presented in the classrooms in January and June.

HEART awards are shout-outs for students who are demonstrating HEART in their classes.

HEART stands for:

Honesty

Empathy

Achievement

Responsibility

Teamwork.

Teachers can select students to receive a HEART award for any one of these qualities.

Other Awards (Grade 12)

Bulldog Award

Every year, a graduating student is selected to receive the “Bulldog Award” at our school leaving ceremony. The Bulldog Award is given to a well-rounded student who excels in multiple disciplines such as sports, arts, academics, and service. The winner embraces the ideals of H.E.A.R.T., has leadership skills, and contributes significantly to the school and community. Students are nominated by any member of staff, and the winner is selected by a committee.

Governor General’s Academic Medal

The graduating student with the top academic average in the school will be awarded the Governor General’s Bronze Academic Medal.

The winning student must have earned their high school diploma.

The average grade is calculated from all grade 11 and 12 courses listed on the student’s official Transcript of Grades. The average cannot be anticipated – it must be calculated based on final marks. Courses taken after graduation, to upgrade marks, will not be considered.

Due to the need for final marks, we cannot award the medal at the school leaving ceremony in May. At the ceremony, we will recognize likely contenders for the award. Confirmation usually comes in the fall.