

Who is Doing What  
**VWS Alumni Corner**  
Interview with Liam Foran  
Class of 2006



**VWS:** Tell me about your work and education after graduating from the VWS. (post-secondary schooling, travel, work experience, family, etc.)

**LF:** After graduation I went to Douglas College for the Kinesiology Program and worked summers at a labour job for a construction company. I was then offered a full scholarship to Dickinson State University where I graduated from making the Deans list multiple times, as well as the Presidents List once. After graduating, I came back to North Vancouver and saved up to go travelling. After travelling for four months, I came home and began working at a pub and as well, did some substitute teaching at the Vancouver Waldorf School in the PE department. After eventually taking on the management position at the pub, I got my mortgage brokering license as I could see greater career possibilities in regards to time management and income possibilities. I worked both jobs for two years before leaving both to work for RBC.

*Timeline:*

- 2006-2008 Douglas College Studying in the Kinesiology Program
- 2008-2011 Dickinson State University in North Dakota where I double majored with degrees in Teaching (Physical Education K-12) and Exercise Science.
- 2014 Mortgage Brokering License from UBC Sauder School of Business
- 2018 RBC Mortgage Specialist

**VWS:** What kind of work/study are you involved in now?

**LF:** I am currently a Mortgage Specialist with RBC Royal Bank.

**VWS:** What are your fondest memories of your time at the VWS?

**LF:** Some of my fondest memories are the life long connections and memories I have with my classmates. I have a lot of memories of our class

trips. I still remember a lot of tongue twisters, songs and poems that, when brought up with old classmates, are always good for a laugh! I had a few teachers that I really connected with and appreciate, especially now looking back on my K-12 years at VWS. There were special written reports from Mr. Hassel, my Class Teacher in Grade School and the challenging lessons from Mr. Hesketh, the High School Science teacher. I feel that I have had some excellent teachers and coaches throughout my life and recognize the importance of giving back. So although I am not teaching in a classroom setting, I do spend a significant amount of time coaching with the North Shore Twins Baseball Program.

**VWS:** How did Waldorf education affect your life, and your choice of career?

**LF:** I think Waldorf education paved a path for me to become an educator. If there is one thing that stood out beyond all others is that Waldorf education recognizes the individual. That is something I keep in mind not only when I educate others, but in all aspects of life. Although I do not teach for a career, I am still heavily involved with coaching. As I am now in a career tied to finances, I believe it would be very valuable to include financial literacy as part of the curriculum. \* From what research I have done it is not offered in the public school system either.

**VWS:** What advice would you give to this year's graduates?

**LF:** Be open to new ideas: you will likely change career paths multiple times so do your best to keep all doors open.

*Interview by Ronaye Ireland for Development, February 2020*

**Editors Note:**

*\*Based on feedback from students in previous years, VWHS has added two options for students in Grade 11. Offered are Foundations of Math 11, which includes a unit on financial literacy and focuses primarily on every day mathematics, and Pre-Calculus 11, which also has a unit on financial literacy but focuses on preparing students for taking sciences in University. Equivalent courses would now be offered in the public system as well.*