



GEORGE ELLIOT SECONDARY SCHOOL

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September 11, 2020

Hello GESS parents and students,

We are pleased with how well our staff and students responded to all of the new changes and protocols thus far. There was, and is, much to discuss and learn as we navigate how our school will operate during the pandemic. We want to thank you as parents for the important role you play in reinforcing the messaging around safety.

Our goal for the week was to have your child feel cared about by the staff here at GESS, feel safe and confident about what school looks like this year, feel welcome (especially grade 7s and new students), and have a good idea on what to expect when they arrive back to us for classes on Monday. We hope this was achieved and that students will quickly adapt and feel safe and connected at school once again.

As we continue to settle into our new routines, please remember to conduct a thorough daily health check before your child leaves to school each day. If your child is experiencing any of the cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms they must not take the bus or go to school. They should seek assessment by a health-care provider and self-isolate while they await the results and not return to school until their symptoms have resolved.

Another reminder that our timetable and student schedules have been modified to comply with the learning group cohort model, therefore, course changes this year will be extremely challenging and kept to a minimum. Changes will only be considered under exceptional and unique circumstances and for educationally sound reasons.

For parents of our grade 7 and 8 students, please remember that GESS is a **closed campus** for students in those grades. We have had to modify how our grade 7 and 8 students eat their lunch and play outside which requires them to eat together in their learning group cohort. As such, we would like to remind families that these eating areas are peanut/nut aware environments. We have a number of students who have life-threatening allergies to nuts so we ask that parents are extremely vigilant in ensuring that no nuts or food containing nut products are sent to school. We appreciate your help with this.

Students in grades 10-12 were notified of their B1/B2 schedules today (which days they will attend full days or half days). This schedule will commence Monday. Parents will also be notified of their schedule via email.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr. C. Schwartz

Mr. D. Smith

Mr. R. Wakefield