



GEORGE ELLIOT SECONDARY SCHOOL

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September 4, 2020

Hello GESS parents and students,

We are looking forward to welcoming students back to classrooms on September 10th or 11th. We thank you again for both your patience and understanding as we planned for a safe back to school start up.

Students will attend GESS for one day next week as follows;

- Grades 7, 8, and 9 will attend all day on Thursday, September 10.
- Grades 10, 11, and 12 will attend all day on Friday, September 11.

Emails will be sent to each household by next Wednesday, September 9th letting parents and students know which classroom students are to report to that day. (If you have not received this email by Wednesday morning, please contact the school). Once there they will get their adjusted schedules and receive comprehensive site safety orientation. New students in grade 7 will receive their WEB leader welcome and orientation on Thursday afternoon.

Before your child leaves for school each day, please ensure you conduct a thorough Daily Health Check (please see attachment). **This is the critical first step in providing a safe learning environment and we will need parental help with this.** If your child is experiencing 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.

Please send your child with some general school supplies for the day including a mask if they have one. District masks will be provided to those who do not have their own. Lockers will not be available so students should be prepared to bring their belongings home each day.

Our administrative staff has been busy all week finalizing our timetable and student schedules to comply with the learning group cohort model. Staff has made every effort to honour student choices made in the spring but some changes were necessary and unavoidable. Therefore, requests for course changes this year will be extremely challenging. As a result, changes will be as minimal as possible to maintain optimal school function and keep cohorts from mixing. There are also various additional factors that will limit our ability to accommodate most requests during this time. Changes will only be considered under exceptional and unique circumstances for educationally sound reasons. We thank you again for your understanding.

This year will look different at GESS as it will around the district and the province. We have worked hard to prepare a safe learning environment for all our learners. Our goal for next week is 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, September 14th.

Enjoy a safe holiday weekend!

Mr. C. Schwartz

Mr. D. Smith

Mr. R. Wakefield

Daily Health Check			
1. Symptoms of illness*	Does your child have any of the following symptoms?	CIRCLE ONE	
	Fever	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	Sore throat	YES	NO
	Runny nose / stuffy nose	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO
	Headache	YES	NO
	Fatigue	YES	NO
	Diarrhea	YES	NO
	Loss of appetite	YES	NO
	Nausea and vomiting	YES	NO
	Muscle aches	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	YES	NO
	Dizziness, confusion	YES	NO
	Abdominal pain	YES	NO
	Skin rashes or discoloration of fingers or toes	YES	NO
2. International Travel	Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you or is anyone in your household a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO

*Check BCCDC's [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) regularly to ensure the list is up to date.

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions and the symptoms are not related to a pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies) your child should **NOT** come to school.

If they are experiencing any symptoms of illness, contact a health-care provider for further assessment. This includes 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.