



Coyote Connections

WEEK OF: Sept 2 - 6

welcome
- BACK -

Monday – Sept 2	❖ LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday – Sept 3 Mini Block Rotations A/B/C/D	❖ WELCOME BACK - 9 am Homeroom – (lists posted in foyer) Mini Block Rotations – Early dismissal & bus pick-up at 11:50 am 9:00 -Blk A / 10:10 -Blk B / 10:45 -Blk C / 11:20 -Blk D
Wednesday – Sept 4 A/B	❖ Homeroom (A Block) – 15 minutes (attendance & form collections) ❖ Regular day of classes: 9:00 am – 3:15 pm
Thursday – Sept 5 C/D	❖ Homeroom (A Block) – 15 minutes (attendance & form collections)
Friday – Sept 6 A/B	❖ Homeroom (A Block) – 15 minutes (attendance & form collections) ❖ Grade 12 Assembly – 9:20 am (theatre) ❖ Grad Presidential Candidate's Meeting – Lunch in Rm 302

Student Schedule Info for Tuesday, Sept. 3

- *School starts at **9am** – see mini block rotation above.
- *Students begin class in Homeroom (which is your A block class)
- *Homeroom lists (and school maps) will be posted in the foyer at 8:30 am
- *In Homeroom you will be given your **timetable** for the year, lockers and other important information including forms for parents to sign.
- *Student Course Change requests can be submitted online until Sept. 13. Counsellors will reach out to all requests via email. Students are to stay in their classes until a switch has been confirmed.

Link for Course Changes

Deadline: Sept. 13



GESS WELCOMES the following new staff:

To all the returning staff and especially our new staff, welcome to George Elliot for the 2024-2025 school year. We could not be luckier for the caring, dedicated people that serve our school community and Lake Country. Our school vision statement is "Love, Learn, Thrive," and each staff member – CEA, custodian, teacher, support worker, and administrator – know the importance of generosity, creativity and kindness to see every member of our school become their very best. Have a great school year!



Teaching:

Mr. Andrew Fraser
Mr. Will Butcher
Ms. Pamela Spiers
Mr. Brennan Atamanchuk
Ms. Deirdre Lucas
Mr. John Mohr
Ms. Charlot Butler

Teaching Interns:

Mr. Alan Gu
Mr. Nathan MacFarlane
Ms. Abbie Smith

Indigenous Advocate:

Ms. Femi Vrtar

Jeri Baird

GESS Vision Statement: Love. Learn. Thrive.





Coyote Connections

SEPTEMBER 2 - 6

IMPORTANT START-UP INFORMATION

STUDENT VERIFICATION SHEETS: Each student will be receiving their individual student data verification sheet in homeroom. It is important that these be reviewed and signed by their parents/guardians and returned to their homeroom teacher as soon as possible. Current information on file is crucial in keeping families updated. Please sign this form even if there are no changes required. We really appreciate your quick attention to this document.

GENERAL FIELD TRIP PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: Every student is required to have a general field trip permission form on file for each school year. This permission form enables classroom teachers to take their students off site for walks in our community throughout the year (ie: Terry Fox Run, Rail Trail walks, etc.). These forms will be given out in homeroom and we've also included the form [here](#), for those who are able to complete this from home. Please have your child bring these back to their homeroom class as soon as possible. Thank you!

GESS PAC (Parent Advisory Council) MEETINGS: PAC meetings will be held on Mondays, once a month throughout the school year. **All parents are welcome** and invited to attend these meetings. The first meeting will be held in the GESS library at 6:30 pm – Sept. 23rd.

2024-25 GESS PAC Executive:

President: **Craig Catton**

Vice President: **Ros Hazan**

Secretary: **Ian Long**

Treasurer: **Tanya Leshuk**

Members at Large:

Jodi Cochrane, Cynthia Livingstone

PAC Email: gesspac001@gmail.com

Upcoming PAC Meetings:

- * September 23
- * October 21
- * November 18
- * December 9
- * January 27
- * February 24
- * **NO March Meeting**
- * April 14
- * May 12
- * June 23 – PAC AGM

Student MEDICAL Information

Parents/Guardians: To support our students diagnosed with life threatening medical conditions, please fill out the important applicable forms that have been provided on our website under the Medical tab. Please email them to our school email at ges@sd23.bc.ca or bring them into the main office.

Link to these documents: [MEDICAL](#)

- *Medical Alert Planning
- *Medication at School
- *Anaphylactic Student Plan
- *Diabetes Support Plan
- *Seizure Action Plan





Coyote Connections

SEPTEMBER 2 - 6

PLEASE VIEW OUR WEBSITE FOR CURRENT AND IMPORTANT UPDATES! www.ges.sd23.bc.ca

***Keep a sharp eye on the calendar as changes are made quite frequently.**

STUDENT FEES: Please pay all student fees online by visiting our website at www.ges.sd23.bc.ca and click on the **School Cash Online** button to register. The student activity/cultural fee is \$30, Yearbook Fee (optional) is \$45 and the Grad Fee is \$125. *Fees will be posted early September.*

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT: The purpose of the George Elliot Code of Conduct is to provide and maintain a safe, caring and orderly environment for all students and their learning. Please see our website for this document.

The Central Okanagan Public Schools' Appeal Process

Policy 460 – Appeals states that “A student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in the Central Okanagan Public Schools may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health, or safety of the student”. For a complete description of the Appeals Policy along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 – Appeals that can be accessed from the Policies link under the Board of Education heading on the Central Okanagan Public Schools homepage at www.sd23.bc.ca.

The Central Okanagan Public Schools' Financial Hardship Clause

Within Board Policy Regulation 425R – Student Fees (www.sd23.bc.ca), the Board of Education has indicated “that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship”. This clause in the Regulations provides for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families, while preserving the dignity of families which may be unable to pay. Please contact the school Principal if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE: To learn how to report your child's absence using the **School Messenger App**, please visit: <http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/z>

ACCIDENT INSURANCE:

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students was discontinued in 2019. The IA Financial Group now offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan or to find out more, click [here](#).





Coyote Connections

SEPTEMBER 2 - 6

NEXT WEEK AT GESS:

- Sept. 10:** Grade Assemblies – Gr. 9-11
Gr. 9 Parent Info Night – 6-7pm (theatre)
Gr. 12 Parent Info Night – 7:15-8pm (theatre)
- Sept. 11:** **SCHOOL PICTURE DAY** (Retake Day - Oct. 23 - am)
Mandatory Gr. 12 Parent Zoom – 7 pm (Grad Retreat Information)
Meeting Link TBA
- Sept. 13:** Last day for course changes for Semester 1
- Sept. 16:** Breakfast & Brown Bag Lunch Programs begin
- Sept. 18:** Post-Secondary Institute Fair – 9-10:30am (community gym)
- Sept. 19:** Grad Presidential Speeches & Retreat Day – Group #1, Oyama Ziplines
- Sept. 20:** Grad Breakfast, Presidential Speeches & Retreat - Group #2, Oyama Ziplines



BUS STUDENTS:



Students must be registered in order to ride the school bus. Please visit the school Transportation website for more information: [SD23 Transportation](http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/policies/Pages/default.aspx#/=). Should you have further questions, please contact the Transportation Department at 250-870-5151. Traveling on a school bus is a privilege which may be suspended or revoked for a student not observing school District regulation 475R, the GESS Code of Conduct, and other procedures established by the Board of Education. (Please visit [http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/policies/Pages/default.aspx#/="](http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/policies/Pages/default.aspx#/=) to read the regulations)

GRADE 12 INFO:

- *Sept. 6 – Any grade 12 students interested in being **PRESIDENT**? You must attend the candidate meeting Sept. 6 at lunch – Room 302
- *Sept. 10 – **Grad Council** meetings are every Tuesday morning at 7:30 am in Room 302 (Annex). First Meeting is 7:30 am on Sept. 10th
ALL GRADE 12s WELCOME!
- *Sept. 10 – **Grade 12 Parent Info Night**
7:15 – 8 pm (theatre)
- *Sept. 11 – **MANDATORY** Grade 12 Parent Mtg via Zoom at 7:00 pm. Grads, if you want to go on the Zipline Retreat, your parent/guardian **MUST** attend this meeting. *Mtg link TBA*





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SEPTEMBER 2 - 6

Check
this out

GESS - ABCD Block Rotation

Below is an example of the ABCD block rotation

Parents:

Here is an example of a student timetable and the block rotation.

To request a MyEd Password reset:

ges@sd23.bc.ca

Rotation:	A/B	C/D	B/A	D/C
9:00 – 10:18	A1 <i>Physical Education</i>	C1 <i>Intro Spanish</i>	B1 <i>Foundations of Math</i>	D1 <i>Social Studies</i>
<i>*9 minute break from 10:18 – 10:27</i>				
10:27 – 11:45	A2 <i>Physical Education</i>	C2 <i>Intro Spanish</i>	B2 <i>Career Life Education</i>	D2 <i>Social Studies</i>
11:45 – 12:30	LUNCH			
12:30 – 1:49	B1 <i>Foundations of Math</i>	D1 <i>Social Studies</i>	A1 <i>Physical Education</i>	C1 <i>Intro Spanish</i>
<i>*8 minute break from 1:49 – 1:57</i>				
1:57 – 3:15	B2 <i>Career Life Education</i>	D2 <i>Social Studies</i>	A2 <i>Physical Education</i>	C2 <i>Intro Spanish</i>
ALTERNATING WEEKS ON CALENDAR	WEEK #1		WEEK #2	

Example Schedule:

Description	Room	Teacher	Term	Schedule
PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION 10	100D GYM	Frechette, Tim	S1	A1-A2(1)
FOUNDATIONS OF MATH AND PRE-CALCULUS 10	129	McWhirter, Jenn	FY	B1(1)
CAREER LIFE EDUCATION 10	129	McWhirter, Jenn	FY	B2(1)
INTRODUCTORY SPANISH 11	202	Davidson, Monica	S1	C1-C2(1)
SOCIAL STUDIES 10	207	Cornock, Jillian	S1	D1-D2(1)
YEARBOOK 10	139	Ford, Bennett	FY	PM1(1)

****Term descriptions: FY is Full Year, S1 is Semester 1, S2 is Semester 2****

****Anything with a block AM or PM are outside the timetable****

Easy!

