



<https://gss.sd42.ca/>

January / February Events

Jan 10 School reopens
 Jan 11 AM Collab - Late Start
 Jan 12 PAC Meeting
 Jan 13 DH Meeting
 Jan 19 Daytime Band Livestream
 Jan 24 Pro D Day
 Jan 25 - 26 Lit and Num Assessments - Remaining Gr 12 students
 Jan 26 Last Day Semester 2
 Jan 27 Flex "I" Day - Invited Students Only
 Jan 28 Marks Due Semester 1
 Jan 28 H and S Semester 2 - No Students
 Jan 31 Semester 2 starts
 Feb 2 e-Reports issued

Parent Communication:

Maintaining contact with parents and students is important to us. We rely upon email, the parent portal, Facebook, Twitter and the planner app to keep families abreast of What's going on? The Gazette on the school website is updated daily. If you haven't been receiving emails this year, you'll need to resubscribe to the parent portal. Information is linked to: <https://www.sd42.ca/forms-payments-portal/>

We strongly encourage parents to do this by logging onto the parent portal and subscribe.

Follow up to letter for Superintendent Mr H. Dhillon

Schools will be closed until January 10th for most students. Children with exceptional needs and children of essential workers are eligible to attend starting January 4th. Please call the school reception to confirm you child will be in attendance.

Please note that classes will not be running as per normal this week and no new assignments or instruction will be offered either in person or via remote learning. Students who attend will be assigned to a supervised space for the day to work. There will be no new instruction.

Students with exceptional needs who work with an Education Assistant to address personal care needs (ie feeding/safety/toileting) will continue with their individualized programming. Further information about next week is included in this Newsletter.

The BCCDC and BC Ministry of Education has publicly available documents that will provide general answers to general questions. Here are the links:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Addendum_K-12Guidance_12292021.pdf

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines->



GSS Newsletter

Jan 2022



Changes upon Return as a result of the New Health Order:

At this time of increased case count it is important to remember the best practices in a pandemic. These are tips to support overall health:

- have a few masks, regularly cleaned, never shared, stored in a clean zip lock, not in the bottom of a school bag.
- Bring their own water bottle, and utensils for lunch.
- Where possible students should have their own supplies for each subject.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own disinfecting wipes to clean items such as keyboards.

New or Modified Requirements are:

Daily Health Check: Parents and students are reminded of their responsibilities to complete a Daily Health Check and are provided with resources on how to complete one (e.g. the K-12 Health Check app). Please download the app to phones as necessary <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/mobile?lang=en>

School Gatherings / Event: We will move large events to a virtual environment or look to postpone, PAC Meetings, Multi Class events, FUNd Nights, Band Concerts, Theater / Drama events, School Dances, etc.

Masks: Masks have always been required. GSS has a good high level of compliance, however, students do need to be reminded that masks worn over the chin are non-functional. Additionally students seated at a desk should always wear their mask. We will continue to remind students however if this remains a pattern we will be communicating that to you as parents. Poor mask compliance is not safe.

Visitors: Remain limited to those supporting education purposes.

Lunch and Cafe: Classrooms will be open, or outside. The Cafe seating will be reserved for Science classes who cannot eat in a science lab. Students can eat in the hall if seated, not walking.

Spacing and Classrooms: Teachers will be moving desks in a manner to maximally separate student. There will be a reduction in group or partner based assignments.

Sports: The League will resume; however no spectators will be allowed. No tournaments are allowed at this time. Individual communication will come from coaches.

Grad events: We will delay any decisions about Grad events as June is still a solid 5 1/2 months away. We remain optimistic. Info is posted to: <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/grad-2021-info-2/>

Clubs and Teams:

Despite the challenges of the current COVID situation we have worked to try to keep several aspects of school culture. Many clubs remain active, while adhering to the Health and Safety expectations. A complete list of clubs including meeting times, locations, and adult leadership are located at: <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/clubs>



Symptoms

Are you experiencing any of the following?
(check all that apply)

- ☐ Fever higher than 38°C
- ☐ Chills
- ☐ Cough
- ☐ Loss of sense of smell or taste
- ☐ Difficulty breathing
- OR -
- ☐ None of the above



Scholarships and Bursaries

Grade 12 students should begin to work on application packages for the many scholarships and bursaries that are available. The District Scholarship and Bursary applications are due in early March in the Career Centre.



Students are encouraged to visit the grad webpage of the website to review the criteria and specifics for each award. SD42's Scholarship Book and application forms can be downloaded by visiting the Career Centre webpage at:

<https://gssccareercentre.wordpress.com/>

Drop by the Career Centre if you have any questions.

Returning to School In A Pandemic

Prior to the break the Provincial government formally identified changes in COVID regulations and recommendations. At this time our students have seen sporting events, family events and other parts of their social life dramatically changed by the current COVID regulations.

The school regulations have not changed. We still have every expectation that students should be distant where possible, wearing masks 100% of the time, and taking appropriate actions with hand sanitation, while ensuring that student's stays away when they are ill. Please remember that everyday students and staff members are expected to do a daily health assessment prior to entering the school. That information can be found at the following link:

As a school we have much lower numbers than most school with our student population. We've done a great job in working to control the virus and at this point we have been recognized, through conversation with Fraser health as having zero in school transmissions or clusters, we would like to keep this pattern.

Our greatest concern is that the new variant is more infectious and there are a the few students who frequently wear their masks in an incorrect manner. Masks need to cover the mouth and nose, not the chin. This need to change.

As a school community of more than 1100 people we have very few students who do not consistently apply mask properly, however, there are a few who consistently ignore my polite reminders. So I'm done with polite. Going forward after the break, in an Omicron environment, we will increase our conversations with parents whose children consistently choose to not wear their masks properly. We are at a point in society in which wearing a mask properly should be considered a common courtesy. People flaunting the rules in a school, without an honourable mask exemption, are rude. Visiting adults will be asked to leave, and the rude student behaviour will be addressed.

It's important to recognize that we have several members of our school who go home to families with health concerns. Cancer, heart disease and other issues have not lessened at this time. We are a community. We need to make sure we take care of ourselves, each other, and by that pattern taking care of each other's families. I know this is difficult, however, I am confident in the



International Baccalaureate Website and Diploma Information Session.

In February 2020 we launched a new website for Garibaldi Secondary School International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. We hope to be able to share some of the highlights of our programming including student work, course offerings and updates.

GSS is hosting a Zoom IB Diploma Programme information session. Information will be presented to support intake of Grade 11 students in the Fall of 2022.

The session will include past students, current teachers and admin. As a matter of courtesy, please ensure that your zoom ID includes your family or last name.

Topic: GSS IB Diploma Programme Information Session

Time: Jan 26, 2021 07:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting the link will be posted to the GSS Website.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



STUDENT TRANSFER GUIDELINES: SECONDARY 2021/22

School Transfer Process.

Current Gr 8 - 11 Students:

Students applying for transfer in Phase 1 (prior to Mid March) must complete the online form. Students in grades 9-12, Phase 1 requests must be submitted on time. The best chance to transfer schools is during Transfer Phase 1. Students whose transfer request was not successful in Transfer Phase 1 will be considered again in Transfer Phase 2.

More information is online at: https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/Secondary-Transfer-Guidelines-2021_22.pdf

Course Planning Is Mid February

Students will soon be selecting which courses they plan to take for the upcoming school year. Course information presentations were done for each grade and the course information has been posted to the GSS Website. <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/students/course-selection/>

Students will complete their course selections and meet individually with a counsellor, vice principal or principal to have the data entered. While changes can be made at a later date, the early data helps support school planning. Late changes often cannot be completely accommodated. So plan early and plan well.

If you have any questions regarding course selection and/or program choices please contact your student's counsellor.





MYP Report Cards:

For grade 8 - 10 report cards, A total score of 8 on Criteria A-D is needed to receive credit for a Grade 10 course (keep this in mind for “I”s)

Criteria A - D (This is on front page of report card)

Emerging

Level 0

The student has not submitted work and/or the student does not reach a standard described by the descriptors of the MYP criteria.

Level 1

The student is not yet meeting expectations for the course.

Level 2

The student is beginning to achieve expectations for the course.

Developing

Level 3 - 4

The student is developing competency and is meeting expectations for the course.

Proficient

Level 5 - 6

The student is applying knowledge/skills and is proficient in the course.

Extending

Level 7- 8

The student is extending further than expectations for the course.

DELf

(Diplôme d'études de la langue française)

Last November, a group of grade 11 and 12 students challenged themselves and completed a very challenging French language exam. DELF (Diplôme d'études de la langue française) is one of the most demanding international examinations where students are asked to demonstrate their proficiency in French reading, writing, speaking and listening.

This diploma (issued by the Ministry of Education of France), is a life-long certification that is based on the same international standard; used in 164 countries (CEFR). It is an internationally recognized official document that enriches the student's school or professional portfolio, it offers advantages for post-secondary education and is recognized internationally. It also allows students to obtain 4 credits towards graduation requirements.

For more information on DELF, please check <https://www.lsf-france.com/info/delf-dalf/>

School Calendar for 2021 - 2022

The school calendar always undergoes a few changes over the balance of the year. Please be sure to download the school class found at: <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/21-22-gss-calendar/>

Collaboration days, and the irregular pattern of “in school-learning” time for the Grade 11 and Grade 12 students are important to note. Specific attention needs to be paid to these calendar days.

To support learning for the Grade 11 and 12 classes, we have looked to use changes in the weekly flow. On some occasions Monday is an in-class session day for Grade 11 and 12 as often classes are affected by a statutory holiday or Pro D Day .





Digital Awareness

There are increasing concerns about the challenges of digital activity in children. I believe that the "Isolation of the Pandemic" has changed the pattern of youth communication. Youth are moving increasingly to the digital framework for most of their communication. We are seeing increasing conflict, and highly at risk behaviour for younger and younger children. Threatening, aggressive and increasingly sexualized behaviour is becoming more common with younger and younger children. The number of RCMP files relating to evening or late night teen digital conflict is increasing. This is specifically concerning as with these files there can be a connected to the "legal" owner of the phone contract.

Today I encourage you to talk with your children about the dangers and the permanence of sharing, posting, and viewing inappropriate, or abusive content on social media platforms such as Instagram,

TikTok, Snapchat, Discord and others. Once something is posted to social media, even to a private account, the content is permanently captured, easily shared, and extremely difficult to remove. We are asking that you remind your child of the following:

- Students are ultimately responsible for the content they post and need to consider the potential harm to the mental and physical health of other students.
- Students need to be aware that the police can charge minors who distribute, share inappropriate photos or produce criminal content.
- Any other concerns you have about your student's social media use: screen time, time of day it is used (ie. late into the night), etc.

In addition to these social media concerns, students are speaking and acting disrespectfully to each other. This includes using racist, transphobic, and other discriminatory language, which is never appropriate, even if students feel they are "just joking" with friends.

In every school staff, address any discriminatory language as they become aware of it. Please speak with your children about the importance of using language that is inclusive and supportive of our school and greater community.

A number of parents/ guardians have reached out to ask about online resources they can access to learn more and/or to support their conversation(s) with their children. The [erase website](#) has some excellent resources. One parent/guardian resource we recommend in particular is [Raising Digitally Responsible Youth](#).

Should you have any questions or become aware of concerning or harmful behaviours within our school community, please reach out to our administrative team.

Attendance Notification:

If your student is ill or otherwise not at school, attendance notification can be added to the parent portal. This will push all the teachers directly after data input by the main office. Failing that you can contact the office to report an absence.

<https://parents.sd42.ca/Parents/ParentLoginPage.aspx>

Absence reports are collected every morning and added to the daily attendee data. Once the absence is recorded by the office all the teachers will see the "excused absence". There is no need to contact individual teachers.



Literacy and Numeracy Assessments

The literacy and numeracy assessments are scheduled for the last week of January. We will be focusing on ensuring that all grade 12 students have completed their required assessments for graduation.

In the next cycle of assessments, in March, we will work to ensure that all grade 10 and 11 students are complete. Last year was a great challenge in supporting the assessment expectations for graduation, however, I'm very confident that every student will complete their assessment in a timely manner.

More Info About Assessments:

The Grade 10 and 12 Literacy Assessment is a provincial assessment that assesses student proficiency in literacy. It is a graduation requirement and students take the assessment in their Grade 10 and 12 year.

The Literacy Assessments assesses student ability to use critical thinking and analysis to make meaning from a diverse array of texts. It also assesses the ability of students to communicate their ideas.

The Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment is a provincial assessment that assesses student proficiency in numeracy. It is a graduation requirement and students take the assessment in their Grade 10 year.

The Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment focuses on the application of mathematical concepts learned across multiple subjects from kindergarten to Grade 10. It requires students to solve problems by using five numeracy processes (different ways of thinking and working): interpret, apply, solve, analyze and communicate.

Semester Transition

Jan 27 – "I" or Flex Day. This day will have limited student attendance. Students in need of additional support to complete learning outcomes will be invited to class for the day or a period of the day. Teachers are required to communicate with the student and best practice is to email with the families.

Not every student with an "I" report or incomplete will be invited, as one day may not be sufficient to complete all outstanding learning outcomes.

Jan 28 – Orientation Day. No Students will be in attendance this day. The focus will be for staff to ensure digital connections are made as necessary, and students are clear with online connection to class resources. This is necessary to plan for the potential movement to online class delivery.

Inclement Weather:

The decision whether or not to close schools due to inclement weather conditions is the responsibility of the Superintendent who must balance safety with the need to provide learning. The Superintendent will use their best judgement to make a school closure decision. The decision making process is complicated by the fact that weather conditions can vary significantly between neighbouring communities, may change and may differ from original forecasts. A final decision is made by 6:00am so that a timely communications process can be initiated. The decision is posted on the district website <https://www.sd42.ca> and sent to major radio and television outlets such as All News 1130 and CKNW 980.

Report Card Follow up:

Report cards will be issued Feb 2nd 2022. Please be sure to **download** the report card in its digital format from the MyClass System. A how-to video is posted at: <https://myedbc.sd42.ca/MyClass>. **Complete timetables for students are also accessed in the MyClass system.**

We do care about each student's pace and progress at school. Please feel free to contact teachers via email, or if you have a concern that is greater than a single teacher or subject, be sure to be in contact with the grade counselor or grade administrator as necessary.

Grade counselors or grade administrators can support conversations in support of learning. Their contact information can be found at: <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/staff-contacts/>

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