



Gold River Secondary School

August 31, 2009

Welcome back. Another summer has passed and it is time to begin another school year. You are invited to visit the school at any time. Improving student achievement continues to be our main focus.

During Homeroom on September 8, students with parent/guardian approved course selection sheets will receive timetables. Daily schedules, a review of the Code of Conduct, attendance and late procedures, and updating demographics forms will also be done. Homeroom teachers will collect \$5.00 student activity fee, and only Grade 8s and new students will pay a \$6.00 lock fee. Student planner books will be distributed on Wednesday. These books are part of our programs and are paid for by the student activity fee.

Please find enclosed a fridge magnet that includes all key dates/activities for the 2009-2010 school year. Place the magnetic calendar in a place suitable for daily reference. The printing company did not colour code the dates and will send us corrected ones which will be given to students to take home on September 9. Thank you to the PAC for sponsoring this addition to our school.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Parents and their students have an important role to play in decisions made about attending school. It is expected that parents will encourage and support students in attending school regularly.

When students are absent or late, it is recorded as unexcused unless we receive a phone call or a written note from a parent/guardian. PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT OR LATE DUE TO ILLNESS OR FAMILY NEED. THIS INCLUDES STUDENTS NOT RETURNING FOR AFTERNOON CLASSES.

The school administration will be regularly sending home letters with attendance information when it is deemed necessary as a result of frequent absences or lates. These letters are for parent/guardian information and to be sure parents/guardians are aware of the recorded absences/lates.

PHONE 250-283-2538 WHEN YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT OR LATE DUE TO ILLNESS OR FAMILY NEED!!

A reminder that GRSS is an MP3 player free zone in classes and a head covering free zone for the whole building.

Our Code of Conduct can be found under the **Student Handbook** link on our website at www.grss.sd84.bc.ca

Opening Day - Tuesday, September 8

- 9:30 a.m. Bus pick up at Tsaxana
- 10:00 a.m. School Assembly in the Lobby & Homeroom
- 10:30 a.m. Group activities (**do not wear good clothes**)
- 12:00 p.m. Bus pick-up

Students who do not have a course selection sheet with parent/guardian signature need to return one to the Office before receiving a timetable. The Office opens at 9:00 a.m August 31 for registration and return of course selection sheets.

Students Arriving Late to School

Arriving late to class is disruptive to other students and staff, reduces learning time for students, and encourages an attitude and patterns that we do not want to see developed in our students. As a result of the above, our school has put in place the following:

1. Students are to sign in at the office when arriving late.
2. Parents/guardians are to notify the school if a student is going to be late in the morning or afternoon due to illness or family need. Phone 250-283-2538.
3. If the school is not notified by a parent, any late to school will be considered UNEXCUSED.

Being successful at secondary school means knowing your options, getting involved, building relationships, pursuing your interests, exploring career options and challenging yourself.

- * have a good reason for choosing each of your courses
- * build your self-esteem by participating in student activities
- * stay connected and informed through daily announcements
- * explore future careers - check out Work Experience
- * volunteer
- * take responsibility for your choices
- * get involved with Student Leadership
- * cheer on your school teams

Our school gardens are blooming and expanding. If you would like to donate any extra or unwanted plants to our gardens please call the school at 250-283-2538.

Our Emergency Procedures

Here is some key information about our Emergency Program:

Fire/Earthquake Drills: 3 of each conducted each school year.

Lockdown Drills: 2 conducted each school year.

First Aid: 2 Certified First Aid Attendants

Personal Care For Students During An Emergency:

1. Homeroom or classroom teachers will maintain supervision of their students. Support staff will be assigned to assist with supervision.
2. The PAC and school district have provided emergency kits for each homeroom that contain 24 hour supplies of food, water, basic first aid kits and tarps for shelter.
3. Each homeroom will have:
 - class lists for a roll-call (every 3 hours)
 - medical alert lists
 - a record of any administered first aid/medication
 - recorded release of students to parents

Supervision:

In the event of an emergency that requires an ongoing evacuation of the school, students will be supervised by the staff and will only be released to the care of a parent or guardian. If required, shelter will be provided at the school site or at community facilities designated by the PEP.

Communication:

If school phone/computer/fax lines are not accessible, communication will be done via posting notices at the school site and through the PEP communication centre.

Examination Results

Examination results are no longer mailed directly to each student. Your provincial exam mark will be posted on the Ministry website www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams three to four weeks after the exam. To access your results online, you will need your Personal Education Number (PEN) All grade 10, 11, and 12 students received a separate bulletin about examination results, rewrites, etc. either during examination time or with their final report card.

Study Blocks for Senior Students

Some senior students and their parents choose a iStudy[®] as part of their grad program courses. Students may request an UNSUPERVISED STUDY. Students choosing to do so, will be required to do the following:

1. have a 67% average last term of grade 10, with no failures. Maintain a 67% average for each formal reporting period.
2. get a consent form from the principal and have it signed by a parent and returned to the principal.
3. sign out at the office before leaving the school and sign in upon returning.
4. attend regularly and be punctual.
5. work quietly, without disturbing other classes, if they choose to remain at school.

Students who are not able to meet the above expectations will be assigned to a SUPERVISED STUDY in a classroom with normal attendance/punctuality guidelines in place.

Smoking

Bill 10, the Tobacco Sales Amendment Act, 2007, Section 2.2 went into effect September 2, 2007. Smoking is prohibited in Public Places and Schools.

Bus Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: GRSS STUDENTS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED TO RIDE THE ELEMENTARY BUS IN THE MORNING OR AFTERNOON!

Morning: Pick up at Tsaxana ñ 8:00- 8:10 a.m.
Arrive GRSS ñ 8:20 a.m.

Afternoon: Pick up at GRSS - 3:30 p.m.
Arrive Tsaxana ñ 3:45 p.m.

Dates to Remember:

September 9 - Regular class schedule begins at 8:31 a.m.
September 15 - Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
September 18 - Last day for Course changes
September 24 - CIC Day (school not in session)
September 25 - Pro-D Day (school not in session)
September 30 - Parent Advisory Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
October 8 - School Photo Day
October 14 - Interim Reports issued

Bell Schedule and Block Rotation ñ 2008/2009

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:31 a.m.	Warning Bell	Warning Bell	Warning Bell	Warning Bell	Warning Bell
8:35-9:37 a.m.	A	C	C	C	D
9:37-9:41 a.m.	Class Change	Class Change	Class Change	Class Change	Class Change
9:41-10:43 a.m.	B	E	X	F	B
10:43-10:58 a.m.	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:58-12:00 p.m.	F	A	D	B	F
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-2:02 p.m.	E	H	H	E	H
2:02-2:06 p.m.	Class Change	Class Change	Class Change	Class Change	Class Change
2:06-3:08 p.m.	D	G	A	G	G