



# Great Lakes Secondary School

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## GLSS Bathroom Loitering Policy

To the students, parents, guardians, caregivers, and the broader Great Lakes Community,

Great Lakes, like other Secondary Schools in the LKDSB, has seen a recent increase in behaviour in our bathrooms. This includes vaping, vandalism, and property destruction. Many of our students have told the staff here at GLSS that they no longer feel safe when using the bathroom because of these incidents. Clearly, we need to make a change.

Effective March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, GLSS will adopt a new Bathroom Loitering Policy. We will use the tenets of Progressive Discipline to help educate all GLSS students on why this change is necessary, and to ensure that students can change their behaviour before consequences are put in place.

Bathroom Loitering includes the following behaviours:

- Sitting in groups in the bathroom
- Standing in groups away from any bathroom facilities (for example, standing in a group of five, in the middle of the bathroom, away from the sinks)
- Congregating in groups in a single stall
- Entering and leaving the same bathroom multiple times within a short timespan (for example, going into and out of the same bathroom 3 times in the same 7 minute break period)

All of these behaviours have been observed by staff throughout the 2022-2023 school year, and all need to end to ensure that our bathrooms become safe spaces for all students at GLSS. The GLSS staff will undertake the following steps to help our students change these behaviours, in order. We recognize that situations are unique, but students and parents, guardians, and caregivers should expect the following responses from the Administration at GLSS:

- Students will be sent to the office to speak with an Administrator, and an Administrator will call home and speak with a parent, guardian, or caregiver to make them aware of the situation
- Students will be given an in-school suspension
- Students will be given an out-of-school suspension

It is our hope that sharing this information now will ensure that very few students will require these Progressive Discipline steps. Should these behaviours continue after the first suspension, longer suspensions may be required.

We appreciate your cooperation as we implement this new policy to make GLSS safe for all students.

Thanks,

Derek Stenton

Principal, GLSS