

GREAT LAKES CURRENT

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Phone 519-336-6131
<http://glss.lkdsb.net>



Mr. P. Wiersma Principal
Mr. J. Gower Vice-Principal
Mrs. C. White Vice-Principal
Mrs. N. Harrett Office Supervisor

A Newsletter for Parents of Great Lakes Secondary School February 12, 2018

A Culture of High Expectations

The beginning of a new semester provides a fresh start for students. Students are encouraged to work hard and set high expectations for themselves. We believe that all students can learn, progress, and achieve at high levels given time, support, and a caring adult as their teacher. We expect that students will attend their classes. We will work with students to have them achieve at the provincial standard, which is level three or higher. Cell phones can be both an aid and a distraction to learning. Students will be expected to have their phone off and out of sight during instructional time unless the device is used as part of the lesson. We appreciate your support as we challenge each other to do our best.

Attendance

Attendance is a critical ingredient to being academically successful. Each course includes 89 classes, and missing classes or coming late to class represents missed learning opportunities. Please encourage your son and/or daughter to make attendance a priority. Please contact the school if classes need to be missed for illness, medical appointments, or necessary reasons.

Bus Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather

Bus cancellation information is posted each school day by 6:30 a.m. at <http://www.schoolbusinfo.com/>. Great Lakes is in transportation zone two. On days that the buses are cancelled, the school will remain open, and teachers will conduct classes. Sixty percent of students are bussed to school. Students are encouraged to attend school if it is safe to do so. Students who are bussed will have their absence coded "transportation cancelled" and it will be assumed that they are not coming to school. Such students who do come to school are expected to attend classes and will have their attendance coded "present". Students who walk to school will be expected to attend school unless a parent contacts the school to explain their absence. Such students who are absent without explanation will be deemed truant.

Parental Email Addresses

Information about parents' nights and report cards will be sent out by email to parents. Some teachers send out progress reports by email. To provide your email address to the school for these purposes, please complete a Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) consent form and return it to the school office. The form is available on the school's website.

School Council

The GLSS School Council is made up of parents, staff representatives, community members and the principal. The School Council provides a forum for people interested in public education to work cooperatively in developing common goals and plans to strengthen schools in order to improve student achievement. The Council meets regularly to discuss a variety of topics relevant to the school community. Input from the various council members shapes school policies and priorities. Meetings of the School Council are public, and everyone is welcome to attend. The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 21, at 7 p.m. See the school website for past meeting agendas and minutes.

Student Wellness and Bullying Intervention Line

Students are able to learn when the school environment is safe. Call the school if there is a concern about a student's wellness or if there is a bullying situation that you are aware of. Messages may be left anonymously. The line is monitored regularly by the principal and is available 24 hours a day. Call 519-336-6131 and select option 5.

Staying Informed

The school's website, <http://glss.lkdsb.net>, contains the daily morning announcements, the monthly calendar of events, and the student handbook. Daily updates are provided to students, parents, and the community via the school's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. These pages can be accessed through the school's website and do not require a social media account.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are still on sale and are scheduled to arrive in June! If you would like to purchase a 2017-2018 yearbook, please bring \$60 to Mr. Stewardson in Room 317. Want a FREE yearbook? Just bring in \$100 worth of advertising. Please see Mrs. Bruce (Room 118) or Mr. Stewardson (Room 317) for more details. If you are looking for something to do at lunch and/or after school, consider joining the Yearbook Club. We are currently looking for more photographers and page designers!

TELP Survey

We want to hear from parents and guardians of students in Grades 6-10 regarding the future of TELP and the iPad program. Please complete the following short survey, and your input will help inform LKDSB Senior Administration on its decisions regarding the future of this program. Survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JZKTXJS> or go to <http://glss.lkdsb.net>.

Literacy Test

To graduate with the Ontario Secondary School Diploma, students must complete the literacy requirement, which, for most students, will be passing the Ontario School Literacy Test in grade ten. This semester's test is being written on Tuesday, April 10. Literacy support is being given to students that are at-risk of not passing the test. Over the next six weeks, students will increasingly focus on preparing for the assessment. For more information on the assessment, see the Parent Resources available at www.egao.com.

Homework Help

As part of the LKDSB's numeracy initiative, grade nine and ten students have registered for Homework Help (<https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>). Homework Help is a free online math help resource for students in grades 7-10. It provides free, live, one-on-one tutoring from Ontario teachers Sunday to Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Serious Student Medical Concerns

Schools are responsible for planning for students with serious medical concerns such as anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, and other health issues that may be life threatening. If your child has a serious medical concern then please contact one of our vice-principals, Mr. J. Gower (jeremy.gower@lkdsb.net) or Mrs. C. White (caroline.white@lkdsb.net), to discuss. This information will then be made available to school staff including your child's classroom teachers, guidance, administration, and the office staff.

Community Involvement Activities

Students are required to complete forty hours of community involvement activities for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students are encouraged to complete these hours in the earlier years of high school and may begin the summer before grade nine. Ineligible activities include ones that would normally be a paid position (e.g. for a business) or activities that would normally be performed in the home (e.g. chores). See <http://www.lkdsb.net/Secondary/CommunityInvolvement/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

Important Dates and Activities

March 1-3	The Revue
March 10-18	March Break
March 26	Progress Reports
March 28	Parents' Night, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
April 10	Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
May 24-26	Musical
April 27	P.D. Day
June 2	Prom
June 7	Graduation, Progressive Auto Sales Arena
June 8	P.D. Day
June 27	Last Exam Date