

SCITS-St. Clair Consolidated School

275 Wellington Street
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 1H1
Phone 519-336-6131
<http://sscs.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 and Students

August 15, 2016

The Beginning of a New Era

SCITS-St. Clair Consolidated School is a new secondary school created as a result of the consolidation of Sarnia Collegiate Institute and Technical School and St. Clair Secondary School. The predecessor schools have provided 94 and 55 years of high quality education, respectively, to over 35 000 students. We look forward to carrying on some of the great traditions while creating new ones along the way. We welcome 1060 students who will be served by 95 caring staff members.

Staying Informed

The school's website, <http://sscs.lkdsb.net>, contains the daily morning announcements, the monthly calendar of events, and the student handbook. The website is the primary means of communicating with parents.

Daily updates are provided to students, parents, and the community via the school's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Both of these pages can be accessed through the school's website and do not require a Facebook or Twitter account.

Bus cancellation information is posted each school day by 6:30 a.m. at <http://www.schoolbusinfo.com/>.

St. Clair-SCITS Consolidated School is in transportation zone two. On days that the buses are canceled, the school will remain open, and teachers will conduct classes.

Student Handbook

Students in grade nine and ten will receive the *Student Handbook* during the first week of school. The *Handbook* contains the school year calendar, student expectations, and supports for students. It can be accessed through the school's website.

Student Registration and Grade Nine Student Orientation

Student registration (for pre-registered students) will take place the last week of August.

- On **Monday, August 29**, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., grade nine students will register. From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., they will have orientation activities concluding with lunch.
- On **Tuesday, August 30**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., students in grade 10-12 will register. Students will have an opportunity to walk through the building to familiarize themselves with where their locker, classes, and school amenities are.
- At registration, students will pay their school activity fees of \$35 (cash or debit only) and receive their timetable, a locker assignment, and other school information. The student activity fee subsidizes general student activities and pays for lock/locker rental, computer network access, and printing.
- Physical Education uniforms are required for grade nine health and physical education classes and can be purchased for \$20 (shirt and shorts) at the registration time or during the first days of classes. Additional shirts may be purchased for \$10 each.
- 2016-17 yearbooks may be pre-purchased for \$50 each.
- Students who do not register at the time of registration will be expected to register at the office on Tuesday, September 6, the first day of school.
- Students who would like to attend SCITS-St. Clair, who are not already pre-registered, may make an appointment to see the Vice-Principal, Mr. J. Gower (grade 10, 11) or Mrs. C. White (grade 9, 12).

Student Transportation

Please direct questions about student transportation to Student Transportation Services at 1-877-330-4287.

Parking

Parking this year will be very limited with most spots being used by staff. Visitor parking will be available in the west lot just off of Wellington Street. Through an arrangement with the City of Sarnia, additional parking is available across the street at the Sarnia Arena.

School Council

Are you interested in serving on School Council? School Council is an advisory group of parents, community, students, and staff that meets about six times a year. The first meeting will be Tuesday, September 20 at 7 p.m. in room 107.

School Name Update

An Ad-Hoc Naming Committee of the LKDSB including representatives of parents, community, First Nations, and staff received 145 submissions on possible names for the school. The names were shortlisted to include Bluewater Collegiate, Great Lakes Secondary School, and Sarnia Clearwater Collegiate. Public input on the names is being received until August 17 via <https://survey.lkdsb.net/shortlist.aspx> or on a hard copy available at the school or board office. The intention of the committee is to recommend a name to the LKDSB Trustees for approval at the August 30 Board meeting. A Transition Sub-Committee will then meet to choose school colours, logo, crest, and mascots.

Student Registration Verification Form

Please find enclosed your child's Student Registration Verification Form. This form indicates the contact information, current address/phone number, as well as emergency contacts that we have on file for your child. Please confirm that the information is correct and indicate if there are any changes that need to be made. **Please return the Student Registration Verification Form at Student Registration** so we can have the correct information on file when school resumes.

Inn of the Good Shepherd Back to School Kits

For families with financial need, The Inn of the Good Shepherd (115 John Street) is providing over 500 return-to-school kits to students on August 30 and 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The kits are specific to grades and are filled with school supplies such as pens, markers, rulers, calculators, math sets, binders, scissors, and more. Items are placed in a new backpack along with a few snacks and drink boxes. Contact 519-344-1746 for more information.

Attendance

Attendance is the most 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 daughter to make attendance a priority. Please contact the school if classes need to be missed for illness, medical appointment, or another necessary reason.

Student Wellness and Bullying Intervention Line

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

Student Accident Insurance

Enrolment forms for IAP Kids Plus Accident Insurance (<http://www.kidsplus.ca>) will be provided to students within the first couple of weeks of school. This insurance is recommended for families that do not have extended health or dental plans and includes such benefits as accidental dental, eyeglasses, hospital and paramedical, emergency out-of-province/country travel, private tutor and more. There is a choice of two plans for \$14.50 or \$33.50 per year. Parents are reminded that the Lambton Kent District School Board, or its insurer, does not pay for student medical expenses due to a student injury while involved in school activities.

Serious Student Medical Concerns

Schools are responsible for planning for students that have 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 vice-principal 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.

A Culture of High Expectations

Educational research and experience suggests that student achievement and success occur when parents, teachers, school administration, and the broader community work together to have high expectations for our students as well as ourselves. We believe that all students can learn, progress, and achieve at high levels given time and support. Therefore, our plan this year is to continue to develop a culture of high expectations as evidenced by:

- Regular attendance – Students need to attend class to be taught, to learn with and from other students, to receive ongoing descriptive feedback from their teachers, and to be evaluated with integrity. Each class will be meaningful, relevant, and productive.
- Student advocacy – Students will be explicitly taught learning skills and how to advocate for themselves. This will be an emphasis for students who have individual education plans (IEPs).
- Achieving at high levels – The provincial standard is a 70-79% (level 3). Experience shows that students who do not achieve at this level or higher are not adequately prepared for the next grade level. Incentives, support, and encouragement will be given for students to achieve at these levels. For example, students in certain grade nine and ten courses who achieve at least a level three or four and meet attendance expectations will have the option of not writing the final exam.
- Student academic support
 - Assistance in class, at lunch, and after school will be available for struggling students.
 - Peer tutors will be available in many grade nine and ten courses.
 - Our student success teacher and resource teacher will be available for academic support.
- Parental communication – Teachers will contact parents as learning, behavioural, or social/emotional challenges arise. Parents are asked to also communicate when there are questions or concerns.

Important Dates and Activities

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| Mon. Aug. 29, Tues. Aug. 30 | Registration, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. |
| Tues. Sept. 6 | Classes Begin |
| Fri. Sept. 9 | Orientation Assemblies |
| Thurs. Sept. 15 | Grade 9 Students Parents' Night, 7 p.m. Meet the teachers. |
| Fri. Sept. 16 | Grade 9 Welcome Day |
| Mon. Sept. 19 | School Pictures |
| Tues. Sept. 20 | School Council meeting, 7 p.m. |
| Fri. Sept. 30 | P.D. Day (no classes) |
| Mon. Oct. 10 | Thanksgiving (no classes) |
| Tues. Oct. 18 | Progress Reports Distributed |
| Thurs. Oct. 20 | Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test |
| Thurs. Oct. 20 | Parents' Night |
| Fri. Oct. 28 | P.D. Day (no classes) |
| Wed. Nov. 2 | Gr. 9 Take Our Kids to Work Day |
| Mon. Nov. 7 | Ontario University Information Night, Northern Collegiate, 6:30-9 p.m. |
| Thurs. Nov. 17 | Mid-semester Provincial Report Cards |
| Fri. Nov. 25 | P.D. Day (no classes) |
| Dec. 24-Jan. 8 | Christmas Break |
| March 11-19 | March Break |
| June 29 | Last Exam Date |