

# GREAT LAKES CURRENT

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

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## A Newsletter for Parents of Great Lakes Secondary School August 1, 2019

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### **Welcome and Welcome Back**

Beginning its fourth year of operation, Great Lakes is developing a tradition as being a strong school for academics, the arts, and athletics. With 86 caring staff members, we welcome and welcome back 910 students including 207 grade nine students and 14 international students.

### **School Leadership**

A big Wolfpack welcome to Mr. Jim Stewart, who will be the new principal of Great Lakes beginning September 1. Mr. Stewart comes to us from Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School, where he has been the principal for the past four years.

Farewell and best wishes to the current principal, Mr. Paul Wiersma, who has been appointed as the System Coordinator of Student Success – Alternative and Continuing Education beginning September 1.

### **Student Registration**

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

- On **Monday, August 26**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., grade nine students will register.
- On **Tuesday, August 27**, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., students in grade ten through twelve will register.
- Students will have an opportunity to walk through the school to familiarize themselves with where their locker, classes, and school amenities are.
- Student activity fees are \$35 and are used to subsidize general student activities and lock/locker rental. At registration, students will receive their timetable, a locker assignment, and other school information. Each student will be assigned his or her own locker.
- Physical Education uniforms are required for grade nine health and physical education classes and encouraged for grade ten through twelve classes. They are \$30 (shirt and shorts) with additional shirts being \$10 each.
- 2019-20 yearbooks are \$50 each.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to prepay all fees using School Cash Online. This will result in a faster registration process. Otherwise, cash will be accepted.
- Students who are unable to register at the time of registration may register at the office on August 28, August 29, 30, or Tuesday, September 3, the first day of school.

### **School Cash Online**

School Cash Online is the preferred method of paying fees to the school. Examples include the student activity fee, yearbook, PE uniform, course enhancement fees, class trips, and extra-curricular activities. School Cash Online allows a parent or guardian to select the fees applicable to their child and pay for them online either using eCheck (similar to debit) or MyWallet (similar to a rechargeable gift card). Set up your School Cash Online account now at <https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>. Be sure to use your child's legal surname and nine-digit student number without dashes or spaces. For more information, see <https://www.lkdsb.net/Board/BudgetFinance/SchoolCashOnline/Pages/default.aspx>.

### **Grade Nine and Ten Student iPads**

Students in grade nine and ten will be issued an iPad at registration. Students and parents/guardians will be expected to hand in the 2019-20 Secondary Student iPad Use Agreement (included with this newsletter) prior to receiving the iPad.

### **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.

### **Notification and Permission for The Use of Student Personal Information**

Please complete the enclosed Notification and Permission for The Use of Student Personal Information form and return it at student registration. Please see the principal if you have any questions or concerns about the way student personal information will be used and disclosed.

### **Summer Office Hours**

The school and office will be open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday, August 19 to August 22. On August 26, the school office will resume school year hours (7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). Administrative team staff (principal, vice-principals) are available by appointment. New students who would like to register should make an appointment to see a vice-principal on August 26 and 27. Guidance counsellors will be available on August 26 and 27 on a first come, first serve basis.

### **Administrative and Support Staff**

The following people are happy to support your child at school including

- Guidance: Mr. Bedard, Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. L'Heureux, Mrs. Brennan (clerical)
- Resource: Mr. Cornell
- Student Success: Ms. Kaija
- First Nations: Mr. (Dallas) Sinopole
- Office: Mrs. Collier, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Harrett (office supervisor)
- Administration: Mr. Stewart (principal), Mr. Gower (grade 9/10), Mrs. White (grade 11/12)

### **2019-20 School Year Calendar**

The 2019-20 school calendar has been finalized and can be found on the school website. School will begin on Tuesday, September 3. Christmas holidays will be December 21 to January 5, and March Break will be March 14-22. The last exam day is June 24.

### **Wolfpack Athletics**

Wolfpack athletics for the fall season include boys baseball, junior and senior girls basketball, cross country running, junior and senior boys football, golf, junior girls and boys soccer, tennis, and junior and senior boys volleyball. Grade nine students are especially welcome. Listen to the daily announcements for more opportunities. Daily announcements are also posted on the school website.

### **Volunteers**

Great Lakes is fortunate to have approximately 35 people who volunteer their time to support student activities and events at the school. Volunteers are screened by the principal and have a police vulnerable sector check completed. Please contact the principal if you are interested in participating.

### **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.

### **School Council**

The GLSS School Council is made up of parents, staff representatives, community members and the principal. 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 first meeting of the 2018-19 school year is Tuesday, September 18 at 7 p.m. See the school website for past meeting agendas and minutes.

### **Student Handbook**

The *Student Handbook* contains the school year calendar, student expectations, and supports for students. It can be accessed through the school's website.

### **Student Transportation**

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

### **Bus Cancellations Due to Inclement Weather**

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

Bus cancellation information is also available through the free MySBI Bus Status app. See <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/download-themysbi-mobile-app/> for more information.

Great Lakes is in transportation zone two. Approximately sixty percent of students are bussed to school. On school days when bus transportation is cancelled due to inclement weather the school is open and teachers are in their classrooms. Regular attendance is expected of students who do not use bus transportation and walk to school. Regular attendance procedures will be followed for non-bus students on bus cancellation days. We need to ensure that all students are safe. If a non-bus student is not going to attend school on a bus cancellation day, then parents/guardians must contact the school by 8:30 a.m. to inform the school that the child will be absent due to weather conditions. Bus students will automatically be coded as transportation cancelled (there is no need to contact the school). Attendance will be changed to present if the student arrives to attend class.

### **Staying Informed**

The school's website, <http://glss.lkdsb.net>, contains the daily morning announcements, the monthly calendar of events, and the student handbook.

Regular updates are provided to students, parents, and the community via the school's Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. These pages can be accessed through the school's website and do not require a registration.

Parents and guardians may add their e-mail addresses to our student information system. This will allow for periodic updates. Some teachers will use this e-mail address to send parents grade updates. To participate, please complete the Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) consent form found on the school website.

### **Parking**

Parking is available at the school for students. Students are expected to drive their vehicles in a safe manner.

### **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 27 and 28 beginning at 9 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 child 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**

Student Accident Insurance is available to voluntarily purchase through insuremykids®. Plans range from \$13-\$33 per year. For more information, see [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com). Accident insurance is recommended as 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 having plans of care for students who have serious medical concerns such as anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and other health issues that may be life threatening. If your child has one of these conditions then please complete or update the enclosed plan of care and return it at registration. It will be shared with your child's teachers. If a plan of care was not enclosed then please contact the school to request a plan of care template. If your child no longer has a life-threatening prevalent medical condition then please inform the school in writing.

### **Final Exams**

All students are expected to write their exams as scheduled by the school. Exams are **not** rescheduled for reasons such as work schedules or vacations. The only acceptable reasons for absence from exams are for illness, bereavement or court appearance. Medical notes will be required for students who are absent from exams due to illness. Absence from an exam for any other reason will result in a mark of zero for the exam portion of the course.

### **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, we will 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**

August 26	Grade 9 Student Registration, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
August 27	Grade 10-12 Student Registration, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
September 3	First Day of Classes
September 6	School Pictures
September 12	Grade 9 Parents' Night – 7:00 p.m.
September 13	Grade 9 Welcome Day (Rain Day Sept. 16)
September 17	First School Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
September 27	PD Day
September 30	Orange Shirt Day, <a href="http://www.orangeshirtday.org/">http://www.orangeshirtday.org/</a>
October 14	Thanksgiving
October 15	Progress Reports
October 17	Parents' Night – 6:00 p.m.
October 25	PD Day
November 13	Provincial Report Card
November 22	PD Day
December 19	Awards Ceremonies – 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
December 21 – Jan 5	Christmas Break
January 24 – 30	Exams
February 4	First Day of Second Semester
March 9 – 17	March Break
June 4	Graduation – 7:00 p.m.