

GREAT LAKES CURRENT

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<http://glss.lkdsb.net>



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

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-the-mysbi-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.

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 his/her 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/> For more information, see <https://www.lkdsb.net/Board/BudgetFinance/SchoolCashOnline/Pages/default.aspx>. Please use the legal name for your child along with his/her nine digit student number with no dashes.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are still on sale and are scheduled to arrive in June! If you would like to purchase a 2018-2019 yearbook, please log on to schoolcashionline.ca or bring \$50 to Mrs. Bruce in Room 118. The price goes up to \$60 in the new year.

Want a FREE yearbook? Just bring in \$100 worth of advertising. Please see Mrs. Bruce or Mr. Stewardson 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!

Prevalent Medical Conditions

Recent legislation requires schools to have a plan of care for all students who have anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, or epilepsy. A plan of care template was mailed out to parents of students for who we are aware have one of these medical conditions. If your child has one of these medical conditions and you didn't receive a plan of care template then please contact the school. If you received a template then please complete it and return it to the school.

Smoking and Vaping

Smoking (smoking tobacco or cannabis) and Vaping (the use of electronic cigarettes to vape any substance) are not permitted by anyone at any time within 20 metres of the school property. Fines range from a maximum fine of \$1000 for a first offence to \$5000 for further offences. It is also illegal to sell or supply tobacco or vapour products on school property. Students found to be smoking or vaping on school property may be suspended. For more information, please see the link on Smoking and Vaping 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. Student Services maintains a binder of community involvement activity opportunities.

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.

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

During school hours, on-site parking is restricted to staff. Students may park at the Sarnia Arena. Vehicles found parked at the school during school hours without a parking pass clearly visible in the front windshield may be towed at the owner's expense.

Student 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.

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.

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.

Important Dates and Activities

November 15	Provincial Report Cards Distributed
November 19-23	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
November 21	Full Disclosure (grade 11 and 12 marks)
November 22	Great Lakes Idol, 7:00 p.m.
November 23	PD Day
December 6	Music Night, 7:00 p.m.
December 20	Undergraduate Awards Ceremony, 12:00 p.m.
December 20	Graduate Awards Ceremony, 7:00 p.m.
December 22 – Jan 6	Winter Break
January 8	Progress Reports
January 16	University Application Equal Consideration Deadline
January 16, 17	EQAO Grade 9 Math
January 17	Grade 7 and 8 Parents' Information Evening
January 25 – 31	Exams
February 1	College Application Equal Consideration Deadline
February 4	First Day of Second Semester
February 4	2019-20 Course Selection Process Begins
February 13	Grad Pictures
February 26	Grade 8 Tour Day
February 28, March 1, 2	The Revue, 7:30 p.m.
March 9 – 17	March Break
June 6	Graduation, 7:00 p.m.