



Georgian Bay District Secondary School

865 Hugel Ave., Midland, ON L4R 1X8
www.gbd.scdsb.on.ca T: 705-526-7817



Upcoming Events

November 23

Grade 8 Parents' and Blended Learning Night

Dec. 2

Semi-formal Dance

Dec. 7

School Council Meeting

December 26 – Jan 6

Winter Holiday – no classes

January 19–24

Grade 9 Math EQAO

January 26 – February 1

Evaluation (Exam) Days

February 2-3

PA Day -No classes

February 6

Semester Two – Term 1 classes begin

February 17

Semester One final report cards distributed to students

February 20

Family Day – no classes

February 22 @ 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Grade 8 Day 9-2 pm/Blended Learning Information Night

March 3

Grad Photo Retake Day

March 9

Interim Reports

March 13-17

March Break – no classes

March 23 @ 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Parent/Student/Teacher Conference

March 30

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

April 12-13

Civics/Careers Final Evaluation

April 14-17

Good Friday & Easter Monday – No classes

April 27

Mid Semester Report Cards Distributed to Students

April 28

P.A. Day

May 22

Victoria Day – No School

To Be Announced

Prom

June 14

Athletic Awards Night

June 22-28

Evaluation (Exam) Days

June 28 @ 7:00 pm

Graduation

July 6

Semester Two Report Cards Mailed Home



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Stay informed wherever you are. Sign up today at gbd.scdsb.on.ca !

Report Cards

Receiving the first “formal” report card of the year is a good time to have a discussion with your teen. Here are some discussion starters: What have you done well? What have you enjoyed? What careers are related to these strengths and interests?

It is also time to reflect on stumbling blocks and what can be done about those. What work don't you understand? How can you get help to improve a mark? What can you do to get to class regularly?

For students whose midterm mark is not where you would prefer it to be, consider the suggestions below to get support to achieve a successful semester. (Parents, you may need to help set this up as many teenagers are reluctant to ask for help)

1. Contact your teacher to arrange for extra help.
2. Make an appointment with our Student Success Teacher, Mr. Seca.
3. If you have an IEP, make an appointment with your Special Education Resource Teacher.
4. Speak to the Vice Principal, Ms. Beeler or Ms. Lapp, who will assist you to make connections with the Staff members.

School staff and parents working together as a team are a strong network. Let us know how we can help you in making education work for your teen. Please sign and return the “Response Form” section of the report card, even if you choose not to write a comment.

Attendance

Please call GBDSS when your student will be absent or late. 705-526-7817, press 0 for the attendance secretary or the attendance answering machine, if after school hours. This helps us keep accurate records. Parents may now check attendance through the Parent Portal. This account provides attendance information that has been input into PowerSchool (our student database) for each period. The grade in each course can also be seen once entered into PowerSchool at the regular midterm and final reporting periods. Parents may sign up for email alerts from the Parent Portal – for example, a parent might want a daily email with their child's attendance. Specific information was mailed to Parents in October to access Parent Portal.

Bus Cancellation Information in Case of Inclement Weather

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the **North Zone**. When buses are cancelled, please remember that schools are still open (unless otherwise noted) for student learning.

The Consortium, in conjunction with bus operators, will make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and as such, will make every effort to post announcements between 6 and 7 a.m. Inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day, and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day. You can also subscribe to receive bus delay notifications here: <https://scstc.ca/Subscriptions> and you can follow the Consortium on Twitter @SCSTC_SchoolBus and follow GBDSS on Twitter: @GeorgianBay_DSS. Bus cancellations are added to our GBDSS Website announcements page when applicable.

Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The Grade 10 students across the Province will be writing and must be successful on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test in order to achieve their Ontario Secondary School Diploma on Thursday March 30, 2017. GBDSS has developed a comprehensive Literacy Plan to help prepare students for the literacy test which includes the writing of a Practice Test, a school wide approach with a focus on the writing of an effective opinion piece, offering a literacy test preparation program at lunch in February as well as other literacy activities. It is also very helpful if parents/guardians can help their student prepare. You can do so by finding preparation resources on the EQAO website at:

<http://www.eqao.com/Parents/Secondary/10/10.aspx?Lang=E&gr=10>

New this year! Sign up to receive messages via text or email on tips, tricks, news and reminders about the writing of the School Literacy Test on March 30, 2017 with the "Remind" app. Please see the instructions below to sign up:

Grade 9 EQAO

The grade 9 EQAO math examination will take place on January 19th – 24th. The EQAO exam constitutes **10% of the final mark in grade 9 Applied and Academic Mathematics**. Fortunately, there are several ways for GBDSS students to be prepared.

- Numerous opportunities for in-class preparation
- School wide focus on grade 9 EQAO preparation in all classes
- The exam varies very little from one year to the next. The last 10 years' worth of exams are available for at home practice on the website: <http://eqao.com/>

Volunteerism...Part of the High School Diploma Community Service Hours

In order to graduate, students must complete a minimum of 40 hours of voluntary community service. The holiday season is a great time to get volunteer hours completed! Community service can include a wide range of activities including:

- ✓ Service for seniors
- ✓ Work with service clubs and community recreation leagues
- ✓ School related activities
- ✓ Environmental projects

It does not include any of the following:

- ✗ Working for a local business for free
- ✗ Doing work normally performed by a paid employee
- ✗ Chores normally done around the house or for the family

Community Involvement forms are available in the Guidance and Main Office. Information about groups that are looking for student volunteers is posted outside the Guidance Office. Remind your child to check the Volunteer Board on a regular basis and start completing their hours....NOW.

Eat Well to Excel and Breakfast for Learning

GBDSS wants to thank our Eat Well to Excel and Breakfast for Learning sponsors, who again this year, are providing funding for our breakfast and lunch programs for our students in need. Every day, students have the opportunity to stop into the Food Room before school and during lunch time to enjoy a healthy snack that has been prepared by volunteer staff and students. We encourage students who are in need to join us in the Food Room.

Adult Volunteers

Georgian Bay District Secondary School is very fortunate to have a school community that supports our many initiatives by volunteering their time and expertise. All school boards, including SCDSB, require all adult volunteers to complete a Criminal Record Check prior to allowing any adult to work with our students. This includes volunteers who coach, deliver extra-curricular programs or drive students to extra-curricular activities. If you wish to be a volunteer, you must take a letter of support from the Principal to the Midland Police or the OPP to have a Criminal Record Check completed.

Current volunteers who do not submit an *Annual Offence Declaration for Volunteers* on or before December 31, 2016 will be deleted from the database and will have to submit a new Criminal Records Check. If you were a volunteer for the school last year, including being a volunteer driver for our sports teams, and have not completed the Annual Offence Declaration please contact Cindy Carrington in our main office.

Student's Council / Student Activity Cards

Student Council meetings are held throughout the year. We meet every Tuesday at lunch in Room 101. New members are always welcome!

Students participating in all co-curricular athletics, clubs and Students' Council events must have a student activity card sticker. If you have not purchased your student activity card for this school year, they are available online at <https://simcoecounty.schoolcashonline.com> and select "Get Started Today" option.

GBDSS School Council

The next school council meeting is **December 7, 2016**. All interested parents are invited to attend and get involved. We meet at 5:00 pm in the Boardroom (on the left just inside the front doors of the school).

School Grounds Smoke-free 24/7

This is an important reminder to students, parents, guardians, and community members, that under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act it is against the law for any person to hold lit tobacco or to smoke anywhere on school property at any time. Please respect this law when visiting the property for purposes such as to pick up students, meet with staff, and attend school performances, graduations, and sports events. Have questions? Contact *Your Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

Grad Photos Retake Day

On Friday, March 3, 2017 grad photos are being retaken. Appointments must be made online at www.bookmygrad.com, using school code MID and your student number to secure an appointment time.

Letters of Verification of Attendance and Other Verifications from the Office

Requests for letters of education verification for government agencies and other organizations, (i.e. Revenue Canada, Social Services, and/or confirmation of attendance letters, etc.) must be made by the parent/guardian/adult student, in advance and in writing, and must be verified with proper identification and/or documentation. Forms are available on the Simcoe County District School Board website www.scdsb.on.ca under Student>Transcripts> Transcript and/or Education Verification Request Form. Please be advised that processing these requests may take up to 10 business days, so please plan accordingly. Thank you for your understanding.

Music Department

The GBDSS music department has a lot on the go this semester. In addition to our open mic "Growls" which happen every other Friday at lunch, you won't want to miss our Christmas Concert - "A Very Beary Christmas" which will take place **Thursday, December 22nd**. This concert will feature all of our class and extra-curricular ensembles. We are running a variety of musical ensembles and are always looking for more students to come out and participate. If you're a student who'd like to join, check out our schedule below!

Concert Band meets every Monday at lunch and Thursday after school. All instruments welcome!

Jazz Band meets every Tuesday after school.

Jammers Club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch.

Choir meets every Wednesday at lunch.

Looking ahead to semester two, GBDSS will be presenting our first musical "**THE MUSIC MAN**" which will take place in May. The cast has already been hard at work rehearsing, and the pit band will start in December.

Guidance Department

The GBDSS Guidance Department is pleased to offer any information and/or support to help you get to where you want to go, short term support, problem solving, academic/career planning to name but a few. All the best for a successful second half of semester one!

A special thanks to grade nine students and parents for making this year's Take a Student to Work Day such a great success. We hope all involved enjoyed the experience.

Grade 12 students bound for college or university should be aware that application deadlines are fast approaching. The college application deadline is February 1st, 2017. The university application deadline is January 11th, 2017. An assembly and computer lab time will help students work through the application process.

As always, we encourage grade 12 students to get their forty community service hours into the Guidance office a.s.a.p.

From the GBDFSS Libr@ry/Learning Commons

Books! DVDs! Audio CDs and much more!

Due to the merger of our two local high schools, we now have access to all of the Penetanguishene Secondary School collection. That means new titles for all GBDSS students to peruse. Don't see what you need? Make a suggestion to your friendly librarians. We will make every effort to get it into our collection!*

*Suggested titles must be appropriate to our collection policy.

Home access to our subscription databases

Need to complete your research at home? Now you can access all of our subscription databases at home. Just go to our school homepage and click on the large Library Databases button.

To login,

username: gbdrocks **password:** growl

This is a paid subscription for the use of GBDSS students and their family. Elementary siblings are welcome to use the databases. Please do not share this info with students from another school and please do not post our login information on the web.

Databases include:

- eLibrary Canada: a general reference
- History Study Centre
- Literature Study Centre
- SiRS Issues Researcher: current topics and pro/con arguments

Relax at the GBDSS Library/Learning Commons

We offer a wide range of options for student to relax. Grab a book and read in one of our comfy chairs, colour in adult colouring books, make or tinker in our Maker Space or play a game of chess with a friend. **COMING SOON:** a relaxation and meditation room! This room will be available as a quiet space for students to relax, meditate or pray. Mr. Podolski's art students are hard at work creating murals to adorn the walls. It is a welcoming, multi-faith safe space. Stay tuned for the upcoming grand opening!

Find yourself at the GBDSS Library/Learning Commons!

Student Accident Insurance

Participation in any extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs) or out-of-province/out-of-country field trips **MUST** have completed the Student Accident Insurance Form and handed it in. SCDSB continues to require the purchase of insurance, or a signed acknowledgement advising that the family has other coverage. Students may not participate on any sports teams without this regulation being met. Avoid unnecessary disappointment and additional work by our volunteer coaches on the first game day of the winter sports by getting this form completed, signed and submitted to the office now.

Bears Athletics (@BearAthltcs)

Game results, schedules and other Simcoe County Athletic Association (SCAA) information are now featured on the Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) website. The new SCAA web pages for public and media access can be found in the Student Street section at: <http://scdsb.on.ca/student-street/secondary-athletics/>. Scores and schedules can be found at www.scaasports.ca

The fall sport season is now completed, with GBDSS fielding teams in Cross Country Running, Girls Flag Football, Varsity Boys Soccer, as well as Junior and Senior Boys Volleyball. Hats off to all Bears for their performances. Congratulations to both the Girls Basketball and Senior Boys Volleyball whom won their SCAA Championships. Girls Basketball Team will be moving onto GBSSA Championships. Some of the winter activities have already begun tryouts, while others will be starting up soon. Students should listen to the announcements for the organizational meetings that will mark the start of each season. The winter sports for the 2016-17 season will feature Bear teams in the following sports: Junior and Senior Boys Basketball, Boys and Girls Curling, Boys and Girls Hockey, Nordic Skiing, Swimming, Junior and Senior Girls Volleyball. Badminton will be starting Semester 2. A student activity fee, athletic fee, and insurance are required for all student athletes. The new website is www.scaasports.ca.



Georgian Bay District Secondary School Staff Email – Semester 1, 2016 - 2017

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