



Georgian Bay District Secondary School

Newsletter and Permission Form September 2016

Important Dates

Friday, Sept. 9	Picture Day
Wed. Sept. 21	School Council Meeting @ 5 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 22	Grade 9 Parents Information Night
Thurs. Oct. 6	Interim Reports
Tues. Oct. 11	Picture Retake Day
Thurs. Oct. 19	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thurs. Oct. 20	Awards Night
Fri. Nov. 11	Report Cards

Dear Parent and Guardians:

I would like to extend this welcome to your child and yourselves for being a part of the Georgian Bay District Secondary School family. As the new grade 9 students arrive, I am able to empathize with their excitement and energy as I too, am new to the school. I am extremely excited about being a part of the Midland community and looking forward to establishing relationships with all the students, their parents, and guardians. It is our mission to assist all our students in reaching their potential as we instill a growth mindset in everyone, allowing them to go further than they imagined. When your child graduates, we hope that their learning at GBDSS has been the most enjoyable and productive part of their lives. We here at GBDSS, believe in the Blended Learning Model where students use technology daily in all of their classroom environments. This provides yet another avenue for learning and growth, preparing students for the ever changing world beyond high school. As Georgian Bay District Secondary School is a community based school, we encourage parents and guardians to be involved in as many events as possible and experience with their child the amazing things GBDSS has to offer.

Please take the time to read the following important information and sign and return the permission and information verification forms by Friday September 9, 2016.

John Playford
Principal
Georgian Bay District Secondary School

STUDENT INFORMATION VERIFICATION FORM (YELLOW FORM)

It is extremely important that we have updated information in case of an emergency. **Please review and return this updated form by Friday, September 9th.**

STUDENT HANDBOOK

It is very important for parents/guardians and students to be aware of our expectations. We ask that you to review our Student Handbook. It is available on our website at www.gbd.scdsb.on.ca. If you prefer to have a print copy, please ask your son/daughter to pick one up at the main office. Outlined in the handbook are the rules, policies and procedures that we will be following throughout the year. This is our "contract" with the student, your teen. Like any contract, it is important that all parties know and understand what is outlined in the contract. There will be assemblies during the first week of school to review the Handbook and clarify expectations. Please take a few minutes to review the Student Handbook and become familiar with its contents. In particular, please note the following areas:

Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
Attendance
Code of Conduct/Smoking
Computer Use Guidelines

Dress Code
Emergency Procedures
Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy
Important Dates

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Every school in Simcoe County will be participating in mandatory drills for fire, hold and secure, shelter in place, lock down procedures and evacuations during the school year. Students and staff will not always be given advance notice of when these drills are to occur so as not to detract from the realism of the drills.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE 2016 - 2017

Student injuries at school, during school events, and extra-curricular activities (athletics, clubs, and out-of-province/out-of-country field trips) are not covered by the Board or its insurance company. While every precaution is taken to provide a safe learning environment, accidents can and do happen.

Due to injuries in Ontario during school extra-curricular activities and field trips, and the resulting legal claims, a risk exposure to school boards has been highlighted. It is essential that all those participating in non-regular school extra-curricular activities have adequate insurance coverage for all instances of injury.

The Simcoe County District School Board has selected Reliable Life Insurance Company as an option for students/parents/guardians to consider with regards to purchasing student accident insurance coverage for the upcoming school year. The coverage is for 24 hours a day. Reliable Life offers a variety of plans and benefits at reasonable annual prices. Coverage can be purchased online at www.insuremykids.com. **Please fill sign the pink permission form and indicate whether you will purchase insurance or that you already have appropriate coverage.**

COMPUTER USE

All SCDSB schools offer Internet access to students along with a school e-mail account. These are valuable learning tools that are an integral part of many courses. Students are expected to make use of these resources in an appropriate manner and are held accountable for their use of the school's computer network. These expectations are outlined in the Student Handbook. Students who choose not to follow these guidelines may lose their computer privileges. Please take the time to review these expectations with your teen.

Please sign the portion on the pink permission sheet to indicate your understanding of the school computer policy.

GUEST WIRELESS NETWORK STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

The Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) provides students with a digital media learning environment comprised of information and computing technologies (ICT) which may include: software, Internet access, hardware (computers, printers, scanners, digital cameras, etc.). This procedure sets out standards for appropriate student use of ICT, including board and personally-owned equipment for educational purposes while at school or during school-sponsored activities. Parents/guardians/students acknowledgement and agreement of the appropriate use is required annually.

Digital media learning environments use ICT to help students to communicate and work collaboratively, and support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others while gaining skills required to being productive and safe digital citizens. Students use a variety of applications which may include blogs, wikis, learning management systems (such as Moodle, Google Classroom, Desire 2 Learn, Edmodo) and social networking sites (such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.). When these applications are used as instructional tools, they allow students to:

- interact and publish with peers, experts and others;
- communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences;
- develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures; and
- contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.

The following safeguards are used to reduce the risk of accessing or viewing inappropriate content online and for student safety.

1. **Digital Citizenship** - Students receive appropriate instruction on digital citizenship and safe computing practices based on nine elements of using technology appropriately developed by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). Teachers will review the appropriate use agreement with students at the start of the year/semester and a copy shall be posted in the classroom for reference.
2. **Internet Filtering and Blocking** - The SCDSB uses appropriate Internet filtering to reduce the risk of students accessing inappropriate content online; however no software is capable of blocking all inappropriate material. Filtering is used on board-owned computers and personally-owned devices connected to the board network.
3. **Classroom Supervision** – School staff monitor by observation and through online programs to support focussed, purposeful use of ICT when a student is online during the school day.

4. **Code of Conduct/Discipline Procedures** - The school Code of Conduct (see student agenda) sets out rules for student behaviour including online activity. Inappropriate use is subject to discipline in accordance with the school discipline policy and procedure. Students who are experiencing and/or witness any form of harassing, defaming and/or bullying shall report to a school official.

Appropriate Use

- ICT is available for student use to support appropriate instructional practices aligned with curriculum expectations.
- Use of ICT shall be in accordance with the laws of Canada and Ontario (e.g. Copyright Act, Criminal Code of Canada, and the Education Act), Board Policies and Procedures (e.g. Student Discipline Procedures) and the School and Board Code of Conduct.
- ICT use shall be in accordance with safe computing practices.
- Students will treat board ICT with respect including reporting known technical, safety or security problems.
- Students are responsible for the use of their individual account and shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to access and use their account. The onus is on the student to use ICT appropriately.
- When using social networking sites outside of the classroom (i.e. in their homes), students are reminded that appropriate behaviour and anti-bullying guidelines apply in the online world. Protect your privacy, safety and reputation and the privacy, safety and reputation of others.

Inappropriate Use/Activities

Students shall not:

- attempt to gain unauthorized access (e.g. hacking) into any computer system.
- share passwords, except as may be required by staff for maintenance and support purposes.
- login to anyone else's account, or access the personal data of others.
- deliberately attempt to disrupt the computer system performance or to destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by using other means.
- share information that, if acted upon, could cause damage or danger of disruption to the system or bring about harm to others.
- engage in cyber bullying.
- share private information about another person.
- access, store or distribute material that is profane or obscene (including pornography), that advocate illegal or dangerous acts, or that advocate violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature).
- use ICT to record or photograph other students unless authorized by school teaching or administrative staff prior to any recordings being made. Such equipment includes board and personally-owned devices, such as cell phones, smart phones, iPods, iPads, computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), cameras, MP3 players, tape recorders, video-recorders, digital audio recorders and any other technological equipment that allows for recordings to be made of visual images and/or sounds. This is to respect the privacy and ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Students should not expect that online work is private. Staff may access student digital media work spaces for assessment and support purposes, to maintain system integrity and to ensure that students are using the system responsibly and safely. A search may be conducted if there is reasonable cause to suspect that a student has violated the law, the Code of Conduct or this agreement.

The decision to allow a student to bring a personally-owned device to school rests with the parent and the student. The board and your child's school will not be responsible for devices that are lost, stolen or damaged in any manner. Students are responsible for connecting their own devices to the network. Help documents are available, but board staff will not be responsible for connecting student devices. Personal devices are only to be connected to the wireless guest networks and not be plugged into any SCDSB networks using an Ethernet cable. Devices should be easily identifiable, clearly labeled and where possible, registered with the manufacturer. Any violation of this agreement may result in confiscation of personally-owned equipment and appropriate discipline. Confiscated equipment may be returned to the parent/legal guardian or in the event of suspected illegal or inappropriate activity, may be forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

GUEST WIRELESS STUDENT ACCESS INFORMATION:

1. Log onto the following website: <http://student.scdsb.on.ca>
2. Select Guest Wireless Access from the menu.
3. You will need your own user name and password. The password is your birth date: YYYYMMDD. Once you have logged on you can change the password.

PARENT PORTAL GIVES PARENTS REAL-TIME ACCESS TO ATTENDANCE, GRADE INFORMATION

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool that provides parents/guardians (of students less than 18 years of age) with quick access to their children's attendance and, in secondary school, grades. Grades for elementary school students will be added to the system in the near future. The program includes the option to sign up for email notifications. It will be available at all Simcoe County District School Board schools.

To access the Parent Portal, parents/guardians will need their child's Student Number, which can be found on the Student Information Verification Form, as well as an Access ID. The Access ID will be provided in a sealed letter in the fall with instructions on how to create an account. If you lose the Access ID, you can visit us in the school office, and we will provide it to you after verifying your identity.

OFF SITE SCHOOL EVENTS

Our school has several events in the school year which are off-site and the whole school participates. They are the Terry Fox Run in the town, Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Cenotaph, the Staff Student Hockey Game at the North Simcoe Rec Centre, Earth Day Celebrations, Relay for Life and Community Garbage Pickup, and other similar whole-school events. **Please sign the pink permission form to give permission to your student (s) to attend these events.**

COMMUNITY HOURS

Forms are available in the Guidance office.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The school Principal has a responsibility to provide a safe environment and to maintain proper order and discipline. Out of concern for the safety of staff and students and the security of the school, video cameras have been installed in areas inside and outside the building.

Once you have reviewed this newsletter, the Student Handbook **and signed the pink Permission Form**. Have your teen return it to their period 1 teacher. We ask that all forms be returned no later than **Friday, September 9** so that we can update our files.

Our school website is updated regularly, including the posting of daily announcements and current events. I would encourage you to check the website frequently to become familiar with the opportunities our school offers at <http://www.qbd.scdsb.on.ca>

LOCKS AND MARAUDER WEAR

School locks will be available for purchase for \$6.00. Purchasing a lock through the school allows us to quickly replace a defective lock. Exact change would be most appreciated.

Bear Wear may be ordered on-line through SchoolCash Online. An order will be placed this fall. Please see our website for further information.

PICTURE DAY

School photos will be taken on Friday, September 9. School photos will be used for student cards as well as available for purchase through our School Photography Vendor, Edge Imaging. Cards will be for sale the day of the picture taking.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first school council meeting will be on Wednesday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m. All parents are invited to join us and those interested in an elected position as parent representative may pick up Parent Candidate Nomination forms at the main office.

Best wishes for a successful year.

Mr. J. Playford
Principal

Ms. S. Beeler
Vice Principal

Ms. M. Lapp
Vice Principal

GBDSS PERMISSION FORM

Student's Name (please print): _____

HANDBOOK AND COMPUTER USE

I / We have read, understood and will abide by the policies and procedures outlined in the 2016-2017 Georgian Bay District Secondary School Student Handbook. We will comply with the computer use expectations as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Student Signature

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Adult Student [if age 18 or older]

Date

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

I/We understand that the Board is not requiring parents to purchase the Board sponsored student accident insurance plan. Student accident insurance can be obtained through any carrier of your choice. Alternately extended health and dental plans may provide the additional coverage.

- I/We have purchased Student Accident Insurance Plan _____ (type) through _____ Insurance Company.
- I/We have appropriate Extended Health and Dental coverage through another insurance carrier/or workplace plan.

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Adult Student [if age 18 or older]

Date

GUEST WIRELESS

Parents/guardians must recognize that a wide range of materials are available from the Internet, some of which may not be fitting with the particular values of their families.

- I have read the Student ICT Appropriate Use Agreement and understand that I must follow the terms of use outlined in the agreement.
- In the event that my child chooses to bring a personally owned device, I understand that the SCDSB and the school accepts no responsibility for the loss, theft, or damage of my/my child's device and that it will be my/my child's responsibility to appropriately manage the device at school.

Student Signature

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Adult Student [if age 18 or older]

Date

OFF SITE SCHOOL EVENTS

I give my permission for my son/daughter to participate in the off-site events:

- Terry Fox Run
- Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Staff-Student Hockey Game
- Earth Day Celebration
- Relay for Life
- Community Garbage Pickup

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Adult Student [if age 18 or older]

Date