



Governor Simcoe Secondary School

15 Glenview Avenue, St. Catharines, Ontario L2N 2Z7
(905) 934-4006 Fax (905) 934-3389



December 21, 2023

Good morning,

Please see the following informational updates and reminders:

Guardian/Parent Permission for Next Year's Course Selections:

Since Monday, December 11th, Grade 9, 10, and 11 students have been selecting their courses for next school year (2024/2025) with the Guidance Department. Students are using the Xello program to do this, which is available on each student's D2L account.

We are asking parents/guardians to grant approval of their student's course selections through School Cash Online. Once your student has submitted their courses, please review your student's course selections in Xello and then go to School Cash Online and use the permission form to grant approval of their course choices. There is no cost or fee to using this form. We are asking that every parent/guardian please submit this form.

If you would like to make changes to the courses that your student has submitted, please email either Cara Stewart (cara.stewart@dsbn.org) or Tim Tope (tim.tope@dsbn.org) with the specific changes that you would like to make, and they will make the adjustments in Xello for your student. *Please email only Cara or Tim, not both of them. They will email you once the changes have been made so you can review the adjustments and then use the School Cash Online form to grant approval for your student's updated course selections.

Please do not worry if your student has not yet selected their courses; the Guidance Department will meet with any students in January who still need to select courses.

For your reference, the list of course options for next year is available by each grade on the Governor Simcoe Guidance website: www.govsimcoe.dsbn.org>Student Services top tab>Information For Grade (choose which grade your student is currently in). As well, the courses and their descriptions are also available in your student's Xello account.

Student Behaviour:

We are continuing to have concerns with inappropriate use of school washrooms. Specifically, some students are congregating in washrooms and engaging in inappropriate activities such as vaping and vandalism. This is making other students feel uncomfortable and unsafe using our washrooms. All staff participate in supervisions, some of which include the responsibility to monitor halls and check washrooms to discourage students from congregating and engaging in inappropriate behaviours. If students are caught actively vaping on school grounds, a 3-day suspension is issued and the tobacco officer is notified. Students should not have any vape device on their person, especially since the legal age to acquire them is 18. If students have a vape

out while inside the school, that indicates intent to engage in vaping and will have appropriate consequences applied.

Washrooms should be used for their intended purposes only. Please review these concerns at home.

We are also experiencing concerns with groups of students that are staying for extended periods of time afterschool, not engaged in activities or other school related events but rather using this as “social time” with their friends. Caretaking staff are noting not only disruptive behaviour, but also garbage being left around, and damage to bathrooms and other items in the hallway. Please be aware that supervision of the school is not available after the end of the school day. The only students that should remain at the school are students who are engaged in afterschool activities, which are also supervised by staff/coaches or are supporting an extra-curricular activity either as a volunteer or a spectator. We want students to be able to enjoy participating in afterschool activities, events, volunteer opportunities or simply as spectators supporting the many outstanding teams and clubs that we offer here at Governor Simcoe, so appropriate behaviour when representing “Our House” is expected.

Friday, December 22, 2023:

Friday, December 22, 2023 is the last day of school before the holidays. All DSBN buildings are closed starting December 23rd, 2023, and will reopen Monday, January 8th, 2024. We are reminding students to please clean out their lockers, and take home any required items over the holidays.

Some events scheduled for Friday include:

- Period 1: Trivia
- Period 2: Holiday Assembly
- Lunch Period: Pancake Brunch

We hope everyone has a relaxing and safe holiday with family and friends, and we look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

Sincerely,
T. Thompson