



# Governor Simcoe Secondary School

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**August 2024**

Hello Redcoats!

Welcome back to another year at Governor Simcoe Secondary School. I hope you have enjoyed your summer break...relaxing, unwinding and spending time with your family and friends.

I am very fortunate to again be working alongside an amazing Vice Principal, Mrs. Brophy. Please feel free to seek us out if you require support or assistance with any matter. We will do our best to help you.

## **Student Activity Fees**

We are pleased to again begin the year with enthusiasm for a rich school experience of all the usual fun and engaging learning activities in high school. As such, we are kindly requesting that families help support these opportunities - such as guest speakers, assemblies, special spirit days, experiential learning, extracurricular activities, etc. - by paying the \$40 registration fee found on School Cash Online. School Cash Online will open on Monday, August 26th. Students/families will also need to complete required consent forms through School Cash Online (Science, Physical Education and Technology). I thank you in advance for supporting all students in having the best experience possible as a Redcoat.

## **Registration and Timetables**

Students will be able to view their timetables through the Aspen Student Information System on **Monday, August 26th, 2024.** Students can do so by logging on to their DSBN Student Portal and clicking on the icon below:



Aspen SIS

Remember to use the AASP button, not the Log On button.

1. Click the My Info button at the top left-hand corner underneath your name.
2. Click on the Current Schedule button along the left-hand side of the screen.
3. Your schedule appears, sorted by course name. Click on the word Term to sort by semester/term.

Some reminders about schedules:

- Students are required to be full time unless there is documentation that requires a reduced/part time course load

- Spares are for Grade 12 students only
- A reminder that students who want to be eligible to apply to university require a minimum of six (6) courses that are Grade 12 University or Mixed level (4U or 4M courses), and one of those six courses must be ENG4U (Grade 12 University English)

### **Guidance Message**

The week of August 26th-30th, the Guidance Department will meet with the following students:

- New registrations (students who are new to Simcoe and need a schedule)
- Students with conflicts in their schedule (current Simcoe students whose course requests conflicted and therefore they are missing a course)
- Summer school follow-up (only if the summer school course affects a current course this school year or a diploma requirement)

**Please make sure students are checking their DSBN email account on a daily basis throughout this week, as that is the primary way that the Guidance Department will be reaching out to the above students. We will also reach out by phone with the phone numbers that are currently in our school information system, but email is the main method of communication.**

Once the above students' schedules are adjusted, Guidance will then begin meeting with students who are requesting a course change (to switch a current course in their schedule for a different course); this will likely not occur until the week of September 3rd. **Students who want to request a course change will complete an online form that will be posted on the [Governor Simcoe website](#) on the first day of school.** The Guidance Department will work through the requests as they come in; therefore, students are required to attend the classes that are in their current schedule, as Guidance will call into their classes to meet with them. Students are encouraged to check their Guidance Google Classroom and the Governor Simcoe website, as well as their DSBN email, for further updates regarding course change requests.

### **Grade 9 Welcome Event:**

To all Parents/Guardians of Incoming grade 9's!

We are very excited that your child will be attending Governor Simcoe Secondary School and we look forward to meeting your child at Orientation Day, on **Thursday, August 29, 2024**. Our school participates in the nationwide Link Crew Program, an organization whose sole purpose is to help grade 9's feel more comfortable as well as help them achieve success in their first year of high school.

The Link Crew grade 9 orientation and transition program is designed to both welcome and support grade 9's by assigning them a senior Link Leader as a mentor during their first year. This Link Leader is a responsible older student who was hand selected from a large pool of applicants and has met the criteria of being a good role model and a positive leader at our school.

Following is some information to let you know what you and your student can expect in advance of their first day of school.

- The orientation will take place on Thursday, August 29th from 8:00am - 12:00pm at Governor Simcoe;
- A day or two before orientation your child will also receive a phone call from their Link Crew Leader personally inviting your child to orientation day and giving the details of where to be and what time;
- Your child is encouraged not to bring a backpack, purses or other like items as the day is quite active but a water bottle is suggested; and
- Because the day is active, please make sure that your child wears comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement.

This is a student only function so we encourage you to let your child attend on their own.

We look forward to meeting your child on orientation day!

Link Crew Coordinators: **Mr. Bolle, Mr. Brophy, Ms. Lockyer, Mlle Cousins and Mr. Diramio**

### **Transportation:**

Parents/Guardians: If your child is eligible for transportation, please visit the Niagara Student Transportation Services [website](#) for more information. The [back-to-school page](#) is now live and includes information for parents to review regarding student transportation.

Busing information, for those eligible, is available on the [NSTS Parent Portal](#). Please check your child's bus route number, stop location, and time each day as routes may change due to new student registrations. Finalized Transportation information will be available through the [Parent Portal](#) on Thursday, August 29th, 2024.

Please contact your school or email NSTS at [general@nsts.ca](mailto:general@nsts.ca) if you have questions regarding your child's transportation.

### **Communication:**

Success in high school is dependent on a number of factors including consistent attendance, completion of assigned work for evaluation, and communication with teachers and school staff. Administration will send out regular communication to students and families regarding procedures, reminders, events, reporting periods, etc., but in addition, communication between teachers, students and families will continue to be an integral part of a student's learning experience. It is important that students regularly check their DSNB student emails to receive updates from teachers. In addition, teachers will use individual online platforms for their courses including D2L and/or Google Classroom. Teachers will also communicate with parents via email and phone calls to follow up on student progress. Parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers or administration if they have questions or concerns regarding their child's academic or well-being needs.

### **Lunch:**

Lunch is scheduled between 10:55 - 11:35 a.m. each day for all students. The cafeteria is open, and we are happy to announce that Chartwells will be returning. The library will be available at lunch to grade 12 students, or those wanting a quiet place to work. A number of English classrooms across from the main office

are also open for students to enjoy their lunch. The second and third floor are closed (out-of-bounds) during the lunch period. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Picture Day:**

Picture Day is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th, and retake day on Monday, October 21st. We will continue to communicate this on the announcements and through email as we get closer to the date.

**Football:**

There is open field time for interested football players next Tuesday, August 27th, and Wednesday, August 28th from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Students are to wear a t-shirt, shorts, shoes or cleats, and bring water. No other equipment is necessary. First official practice will be Tuesday, Sept 3rd after school.

**Reminders and Student Handbook:**

The environment we learn in is very important to all of us. It is very crucial for all students to feel safe and welcomed. If you come across any issues during your time at GSS, please make sure we are made aware so that you are given the best possible chance to succeed in high school. The Student Handbook containing important information such as key dates, code of conduct, assessment practices, etc., will be posted on the Governor Simcoe website shortly. We encourage students and families to read and review this document together. A copy of this handbook will also be sent to you electronically.

On behalf of Mrs. Brophy and myself, we wish you a wonderful start to the school year. We look forward to seeing everyone and are committed to making Governor Simcoe the most fantastic place for our Redcoats to be. Welcome to "Our House!".

Thank you,

T. Thompson  
Principal, Governor Simcoe

L. Brophy  
Vice Principal, Governor Simcoe