



# Governor Simcoe Secondary School

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



August 30, 2024

Hello Redcoats!

Just a few reminders and information for you before our start-up next week:

## **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 is now active for this payment. Students/families will also need to complete required consent forms (no fees attached to these) 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.

## **Guidance Message:**

The Guidance Department has been meeting 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)

Next week, guidance will begin meeting with students who are requesting a course change (to switch a current course in their schedule for a different course). **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.

## **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 note that boundary distances have changed in terms of who is eligible for transportation). 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 is available through the [Parent Portal](#).

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.

### **Lockers:**

Secretaries have assigned a bank of lockers to homeroom classrooms. Homeroom teachers will assign lockers and students need to provide combination codes so that the office has a copy. If you need a lock, they can be purchased in the main office before or after school or on lunchtime. They are \$5 cash or debit/credit.

### **Student Parking passes:**

Students who drive to school will need to fill out a google doc for the main office BEFORE a parking pass is issued. To access this form, please use this QR code:

This code is also posted outside the main office. After the form is completed, students need to come to the main office, before, after school, or on lunchtime to receive the 2024-2025 parking pass.



## **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.

## **Code of Conduct Updates:**

An email from the Director's office regarding PPM 128 went home to all DSBN families at the end of the day on Wednesday.

PPM 128 states:

- Student cell phones and devices must be off and out of sight during instructional time. Students will no longer have access to social media via school networks.
- Students cannot possess or use tobacco products, e-cigarettes (vapes) or nicotine products at school.

You might notice that this is largely in keeping with our current practice at Governor Simcoe. Our goal is to reduce distractions in the classroom and to develop appropriate cell phone use. Our response to vaping/tobacco will include school discipline, followed by addictions support including CASON, the Mental Health and Addictions Nurse (MHAN) and Tobacco Enforcement Officers. We will also be receiving vape detection devices for washrooms, etc.,

We understand that this is a process and our partnership with families is essential in achieving a positive impact on student achievement and well-being. This revised Code of Conduct from the Ministry ([School rules: provincial Code of Conduct | ontario.ca](#)) will help us all in framing positive and respectful interactions.

Students are encouraged to reach out to an adult staff member in the building if they require any support. We also have an in-school team which includes administration, guidance, the student success teachers and the social worker, who get together regularly to discuss ways in which to support students who might be struggling. Help is always available!!

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