



# Governor Simcoe Secondary School

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September 12, 2024

Hello Redcoats! We hope that you are settling into a routine back to school and feeling good about your classes. Please see below for some reminders and updates:

## **Student Activity Fees:**

This is just a reminder that we are kindly requesting that families help support schoolwide 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:**

This week guidance has continued to meet 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 is posted on the [Governor Simcoe website](#).** The Guidance Department is working 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.

## **Creed Diversity:**

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to fostering diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environments that promote acceptance and protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Creed and/or religion is one of the grounds that is both an individual right and a collective responsibility. The DSBN recognizes and embraces the creed diversity represented in its students, staff, and community members.

As we start our school year, I invite you to share with me your family's most significant creed-based holiday(s). We will work together through the accommodation request process as Governor Simcoe recognizes the importance of families celebrating their creed and/or religious beliefs and practices.

The DSBN has created a [Family Guide: Recognizing and Respecting Creed Diversity](#) to support families in requesting accommodations. This guide has also been translated into the following languages; Arabic, French,

Hungarian, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese, which can be viewed on the [DSBN Equity webpage](#). For a list of Days of Significance, please refer to the [Days of Significance Calendar](#).

### **Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH):**

Please see the attached Newsletter for the month of September from NRPH.

### **School Nurse**

We welcome our new school nurse, Megan Ardiel to Our House. Megan will be with us every Tuesday. Her contact information is [megan.ardiel@niagararegion.ca](mailto:megan.ardiel@niagararegion.ca)

There will be a booking link available for student self-service via our website coming soon. Also, students that might be interested in joining the Healthy Schools Committee, facilitated by our nurse, are asked to please connect with Megan.

**Meet your school health nurse**

Nurse Megan is here to provide support in a safe and confidential space

289-668-0721

**your school health nurse can help you with**

- sexual health and relationships
- substance use
- stress and coping
- referrals to community services

### **Grade 9 Trip:**

Grade 9 students and link crew leaders are reminded to sign-off on the permission form found on School Cash Online (SCO) to attend the Grade 9 Trip to Balls Falls. There is no cost to the trip, but permission from parent/guardian is required. The trip is Wednesday, September 25th, and the students will be gone for the entire school day.

### **Student Handbook:**

Please see the attached student information handbooks - the DSBN Secondary Information (common to all Secondary Schools) and the Governor Simcoe Student Handbook (for school specific information).

### **Student Travel:**

Our IT department encourages students to set up Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) before traveling to ensure they can access DSBN Resources (Gmail, D2L, Google Classroom, etc.) outside of Ontario. Click on the following for instructions:

[Set up your Microsoft 365 sign-in for multi-factor authentication](#)

### **Reminders:**

- We are experiencing some vandalism in the boys washrooms (i.e., soap dispensers destroyed and put in toilets, clogging sinks, etc.). As a result, there have been numerous times where the washrooms need to be closed awaiting clean-up and repair, posing a great inconvenience to many students including the cost of replacement. Please have a conversation with your student about appropriate behaviour and respect for property. Students are invited to have a confidential conversation with any staff member in terms of who might be responsible.
- We have received calls from our neighbours on Brisbane Glen that a large number of students are congregating in the walkway, the street, sidewalk and surrounding properties during lunch. We understand that many students use this space as a location to vape or smoke off of school property, as well as socializing with their peers. While we appreciate the efforts to abide by smoking/vaping restrictions on school grounds, we ask that students also be mindful that unnecessary crowding and loitering in these areas is causing discomfort for some of our students and community members.
- Students are reminded that the school is off limits after school hours unless engaged in after school activities (i.e., sports, clubs, teams, rehearsals, etc.). There are a number of students that are remaining in unsupervised areas for long periods of time. This is a safety issue and students will be asked to leave.

### **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.

Thank you,

T. Thompson  
Principal, Governor Simcoe

L. Brophy  
Vice Principal, Governor Simcoe