



Governor Simcoe Secondary School

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



January 16, 2024

Good afternoon! Please see below for some informational updates and reminders:

Final Culminating Activity (FCA)/Exam Days:

The District School Board of Niagara is committed to creating conditions that support all students achieving their potential and celebrating success. Final Culminating Activity (FCA) Days are designed to allow students the opportunity to consolidate their learning and work toward improving their achievement through final culminating activities which may include a written exam, performance, interviews, etc., or an opportunity for students to redo a major summative assessment. All FCAs are designed in a manner to suit the nature of the subject, grade level, and course.

Expectations for students will vary by course and grade level. Certain courses will have final evaluation tasks that students must attend. If the student does not have a scheduled Final Culminating Activity on one of these 4 days (as outlined by teachers), all students are able to come in to work with their teacher during that period to consolidate their learning, celebrate their success, and improve their achievement by either completing outstanding work or redoing a major summative assessment from throughout the course. Teachers will be available in the school on all mornings of the FCA days, even if there is no scheduled final instructional activity for that class, to work with students. **Teachers will communicate with students and families which students are required to attend in order to meet with success in the course.**

	Tues, Jan 23rd	Wed, Jan 24th	Thus, Jan 25th	Fri, Jan 26th
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last instructional day semester 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period 1 Exams/FCA (8:30 a.m. start) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period 2 Exams/FCA (8:30 a.m. start) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period 3 Exams/FCA (8:30 a.m. start)
Mon, Jan 29th	Tues, Jan 30th	Wed, Jan 31st		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Period 4 Exams/FCA (8:30 a.m. start) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam make-up day (in case of snow day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day semester 2 Exam review for sem 1 classes 1:40 - 2:10 pm 		
Tuesday, February 13, 2024: Signed reports to be sent home with students				

During these 4 FCA days, there are no instructional classes and students are able to go home after they have completed their FCA. Please note, buses continue to run on the normal schedule and there will be quiet, supervised study spaces available in the library. Students are reminded to not congregate in unsupervised areas of the building.

In addition, it is important to note that cafeteria services will not be available during the FCA/exam days. The last day of cafeteria services is Tuesday, January 23, 2024, and services will resume on Wednesday, January 31st.

We encourage students and parents/guardians to reach out to teachers if you have any questions about the student's progress or achievement or questions surrounding these FCA days.

Semester One exam review: Wednesday, January 31st is the first day of semester two classes. The last 30 minutes of the 31st will be dedicated to semester one exam review. Students will have an opportunity to travel back to their semester one teachers to find out their mark and view their exam/culminating activities. If students require more time with a semester one FCA/exam review, they can make arrangements with their semester one teachers.

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

In December students selected their courses for next school year (2024/2025) with the Guidance Department. Students used the Xello program to do this, which is available on each student's D2L account. For those students who have not yet selected their courses, the Guidance Department will meet with these students this week on January 17th and 18th to provide support to complete this task.

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 use 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. 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.


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. In addition, students should not have any vape device on their person.

According to our updated **policy 3-01 “Smoke-Free Learning and Workplace Environments”**:

District School Board of Niagara
Policy
Human Resources - General

E-01 Smoke-Free Learning and Workplace Environments

 **Date** Nov 2023

 **Review** Nov 2028

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) wishes to safeguard the health of its students and employees by ensuring smoke-free learning and working environments.

1. In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, smoking or vaping or the holding of lit tobacco is prohibited inside the building of any school, or on any outdoor property used by the school and in all DSBN owned/leased vehicles.
2. In addition, any smoking device and smokeless tobacco product (e.g., chewing tobacco), or vaping device which includes e-cigarettes are prohibited from all schools or on any outdoor property used by the school.
3. Due to the fact that Administrative and outdoor education facilities are frequently used as a classroom and co-op placement site, smoking is also prohibited on the Education Centre, Curriculum Support Services, Special Education Support Services, Outdoor Education Centres and Service Centre premises.
4. Students shall be instructed on the health hazards associated with smoking. In addition to the Health and Physical Education Curriculum, teachers are encouraged to reinforce the message in other courses as well as in activities such as coaching.

As you can see, #2 states that “any smoking device and smokeless tobacco product, or vaping device which includes e-cigarettes are prohibited from all schools or on any outdoor property used by the school”. If students are found with a vape while inside the school, appropriate consequences will be applied. Washrooms should be used for their intended purposes only. Please review these concerns at home.

School Council Meeting:

As a reminder, the next School Council meeting will be held at Governor Simcoe on Monday, January 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Please email Teri Thompson (teri.thompson@dsbn.org) if you have any items that you would like added to the agenda.

Sincerely,
T. Thompson