



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

191 Carlton Street • St. Catharines, ON • L2R 7P4
905-641-1550 • dsbn.org

December 2nd, 2021

Dear Students and Families:

At the DSBN, we are committed to achieving an equitable and inclusive school culture where everyone feels safe and accepted, has a true sense of belonging, and feels their identity and lived experiences are valued. To support this work, it's important that we hear from you, and that we listen. Your voice matters to us.

This is why we are asking students in Grades 9-12 who are learning in-school, as well as family members, to participate in the '*Your Voice Matters*' School Culture Survey. Collecting this information will help us better understand the feelings and experiences that all secondary students and families are having at school. Your input will be used to support and enhance our school, with the goal of building and maintaining a positive culture at Governor Simcoe Secondary School for all.

The questions are organized into five main areas that help create your school culture: Well-Being; Caring and Safe Schools; Sense of Belonging; Equity and Inclusion; Teaching and Learning.

Identity-based questions related to ancestry, ethnicity, race, religion, gender identity and language(s) spoken at home will also be asked. These are to understand how learning experiences may differ among groups of students, and will contribute to promoting a safe and inclusive school culture.

Students in Grades 9-12 will be asked to complete the survey at school during class time between **December 1 - 22, 2021**.

We request that families complete this anonymous and confidential survey between December 1 - 22, 2021.

There are three ways to access the survey:

1. There is a "Take the Family School Culture Survey" button on the school website
2. You can go to the [DSBN Equity website](#) to access the survey
3. You can follow [this link that will take you to the survey](#)

Once you have accessed the survey, you will enter our school code when prompted to do so in the first question. Our school code is **GSS**.

Your participation will help us achieve an equitable and inclusive school culture where everyone feels safe and accepted, has a true sense of belonging, and feels their identity and lived experiences are valued.

It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The survey will be entirely anonymous and confidential. Although the survey is voluntary, we encourage all students learning in-person and families



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to take part. The more responses we receive, the more effective the DSBN can be in supporting everyone moving forward.

To accommodate students and families with varying exceptionalities, the survey can be completed using voice recognition software such as Google Read & Write. If you have concerns about your own access to technology or require support with language translations, please contact your school.

Your school may be contacted for any additional questions as well, or visit [the DSBN Equity website](#) where you will find Frequently Asked Questions and other helpful information. The DSBN is committed to providing safe, caring and inclusive spaces for everyone to help students learn and succeed. Your partnership is an important part of that.

Sincerely,
Teri Thompson, Principal

