

Welcome Back to School



August 24, 2022

Dear Students and Families:

I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing, rejuvenating summer and that you are looking forward to the start of a new school year at WGSS!

When you arrive at WGSS, you will notice that our custodial staff has worked tirelessly to prepare the school for September. Thank you to our entire custodial team! The school looks fantastic.

The office will be open from 9:00am – 2:00pm from August 24 – September 2 and then return to regular office hours, 8:00am – 3:30pm, starting the week of September 6.

Student timetables will be published to MyEDBC on Friday, August 26 after 3:00 pm. Students can view them under Published Reports when they login to [MyEDBC](#). As there may still be timetable changes after this date, students are encouraged to view their amended timetable by clicking My Info (top tab) and Schedule (side tab) and then enter their courses into the My School Day app before they come to the first day.

New Students

Our first day of school for Grade 8 and all other new students in Grade 9 - 12, will be Tuesday, September 6.

Grade 8 students will be at school from 8:30am – 11:30am;
Grade 9-12 from 8:45am – 10:30am.

New & Returning Students

ALL students will attend on Wednesday, September 7 which will be a full day (Day 2: 1A (Homeroom) – BADC) from 8:45am – 2:55pm.

As a school community, we will continue our focus on cultivating a positive, inclusive culture for all learners. Students and staff are already planning some exciting events and activities to encourage all members of the WGSS community to engage in their school community. I also encourage parents to stay as actively involved and engaged in the school community as they can. Attending PAC meetings, attending parent-teacher interviews, parent nights, information evenings and extra-curricular activities are all great ways to stay connected to the school. Also, please stay connected with your child's teachers. The more regular the communication is

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between parents, students and teachers the more all parties will be able to support students on their path to success.

Last year we said goodbye to several WGSS staff members as they moved on to retirement or other positions in the District. We are thankful to all of them for their dedication to our students and their commitment to WGSS. We wish them well on their next adventures!

New to the WGSS staff for the 2022 – 2023 school year are the following people:

- Ms. Ruth Babao – Science / PHE
- Mr. Connor Brown – Learning Support Services
- Mr. Peter Curson – Business / Careers / Computers
- Mr. Graham Esplen – Learning Support Services
- Ms. Erin Florko – Vice Principal
- Ms. Jessica Hyde – French Immersion
- Mr. Richard Janzen – ISP Coordinator
- Ms. Deb Jarvis – Learning Support Services
- Mr. Dongsan Jung – Science
- Mr. Jake Klyne – English
- Ms. Mikaela Ramdial – French Immersion
- Ms. Christine Stephens – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Mr. Kacper Toch – PHE / Psychology / Science
- Mr. Weston Wedan – English / PHE / Edge Program
- Ms. Masako Yabuta Baobaid – ISP EA

Returning to WGSS Staff:

- Ms. Hilary Balfour – Counselling
- Ms. Emalee Braun – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Tara Brayton – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Katherine Courchesne – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Mr. Wade Findlay – English / ELL
- Ms. Erin Gatterell – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Mr. Gabriel Haney – Learning Support Services
- Ms. Karen Larsen – Learning Support Services
- Mr. Daniel Lowes – Industrial Education / Mathematics
- Ms. Chandra Micom – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Mr. Johnny Phung – Science / Computers
- Mme. Noemie Potvin – French Immersion
- Ms. Ashley Rempel – English / French / LA / Social Studies

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Welcome to our new (and some returning) WGSS Staff! We are still filling positions for the upcoming school year and will certainly be welcoming more folks to WGSS in the coming days and weeks.

I hope you enjoy the last few days of summer! Looking forward to another fabulous year at WGSS!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Lyndon', written in a cursive style.

Mr. J. Lyndon
Proud Principal
Walnut Grove Secondary School

First Day of School – Tuesday September 6 - “Becoming One of Us”

The first day of school is only for **Grade 8's** and any other **new** students to the school in Grade 9 - 12. This gives our new Gators a chance to find out about the Gator Way and get to know the school before all of our other students arrive on Wednesday, September 7. Grade 8 students should arrive at school between 8:30am - 8:45am.

Grade 8's will need to pick up a **PINK** copy of their timetable in the front foyer and then proceed to their 1A block. GQ's will be in the foyer to hand out their timetables.

New students in **Grades 9 - 12** should arrive at the school between 8:45am – 9:00am and will get their **PINK** timetable in the assigned room below:

Grade 9	Room 263
Grade 10	Room 149
Grade 11	Room 181
Grade 12	Room 208
Grade 10-12 ELL/ISP	Room 240

Grade 8's attend until approximately 11:30am

New Grade 9-12 students attend until approximately 10:30am

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All Students Attend – Wednesday, September 7

All students attend school on Wednesday, September 7 (8:45am – 2:55pm) and will go to their Block 1A homeroom for attendance from 8:45am – 9:00am. All returning students are expected to check their timetables on their **MyEd** account: www.sd35.bc.ca/students-parents/myedbc-family-portal-help/

Homeroom for the First Five Days at WGSS

It is vitally important that all students attend their Homeroom Block 1A class from **Wednesday, September 7 to Tuesday, September 13 for the first 10 minutes (please do not be late)**. They must keep attending their original Block A homeroom as this functions as your child's homeroom until September 13. We track whether the student is in attendance based on this information. Missing these homerooms may result in the student being de-registered from the school. See below schedule:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - DAY 2 8:45 – 9:00 Homeroom – Block 1A 9:05 – 10:35 Block B 10:40 – 11:50 Block A 11:50 – 12:30 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block D 1:45 – 2:55 Block C	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 - DAY 1 8:45 – 8:55 Homeroom – Block 1A 9:00 – 10:35 Block C 10:40 – 11:50 Block D 11:50 – 12:30 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block A 1:45 – 2:55 Block B
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 - DAY 2 8:45 – 8:55 Homeroom – Block 1A 9:00 – 10:35 Block D 10:40 – 11:50 Block C 11:50 – 12:30 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block B 1:45 – 2:55 Block A	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 - DAY 1 8:45 – 8:55 Homeroom – Block 1A 9:00 – 10:35 Block A 10:40 – 11:50 Block B 11:50 – 12:30 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block C 1:45 – 2:55 Block D
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - DAY 2 8:45 – 8:55 Homeroom – Block 1A 9:00 – 10:35 Block B 10:40 – 11:50 Block A 11:50 – 12:30 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block D 1:45 – 2:55 Block C	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - DAY 1 Regular Day 8:45 – 10:35 Block C 10:40 – 11:50 Block D 11:50 – 12:30 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block A 1:45 – 2:55 Block B

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Course Changes

The WGSS timetable is built taking into account the original course requests students selected in February and verified in May. The timetable is then constructed for courses to be at maximum class size. When a student has selected a specific program or has singleton or specialized courses, this significantly reduces the flexibility of changes to a student's schedule. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate requests to balance semesters or teacher changes.

COURSE CHANGE PROCEDURE

The WGSS timetable is built by taking into account the original course requests students selected in February and verified in May. The timetable is constructed for courses to be at maximum class size. When a student has selected a specific program or has specialized courses, this significantly reduces the flexibility for changes to students' timetables. The last day to submit a Change Request is **Monday, September 12**. Students need to be attending the courses on their timetable until a change has been made. Changes can be viewed through MyEdBC once the timetables have been posted.

Anticipated Timetables Available to be Viewed **August 26 at 3pm MyEdBC**

View courses and teachers through student or parent portal.
Ensure your passwords are up-to-date prior to this date.

Course Change Requests Priorities

Priority 1: Incomplete Timetables (less than 8 courses - Blocks A-D)

Priority 2: Incorrect Timetables (doesn't have pre-requisite; already has credit for a course on timetable)

Priority 3: Course Required for Graduation

Course Change Process For Priority 1, 2 and 3 **September 1--September 9**

Submit on-line **Change Request**

Available **Monday, August 29, @ 9:00 am** on WGSS Course Guide Website: **Course Change Process**

Priority 4 Course Change OPENS September 8

Priority 4 Request -- Elective Change. Review Full/Cancelled courses through Course Offering tab. Submit on-line Priority 4 change if course still available. Attend courses on timetable until MyEd reflects requested change.

Contacts

MyEd Bc Problems
•MYEDBC – Family/Student Portal Help -

Resource Team
•Ms. P. O'Dell
•Ms. S. Block

ELL / ISP
•Mr. P. Lincke
•Mr. R. Janzen

Student Aide Requests
•Ms. A. Sargeant (main office)

WGSSCOURSEGUIDE.CA

INFO tab --> **Course Offerings** (shows full/cancelled courses); **Course Change Process** (links to submit change)

Communication with Parents at WGSS

All of our communication with parents is done through email. To stay informed about school events, please be sure the school has your most updated email address. Visit our social media frequently for updates on news and events in our school community. A bi-weekly newsletter is

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e-mailed home every other Friday afternoon as well as posted on our website under [Gator News](#) - so please look for it! If you need to update your email, please contact the main office at 604-882-0220.

School Website and Twitter

Please check our website at www.wgss.ca for updates and information and for those of you on Twitter, you can follow what's happening [@sd35wgss](#)

Student Fees

The Langley School District has moved to an online payment system that allows parents to pay for most school related items online. We are asking all WGSS families to pay their school fees using our online KEV payment system (<https://sd35.schoolcashonline.com/>). Please see the [handout](#) for more information on how to pay student fees at Walnut Grove this year.

Locker Distribution

Grade 8 students will be assigned their lockers during homeroom on Tuesday, September 6.

NOTE: Grade 9-12 students will select their lockers using our online locker management system:
<http://wgss.lockerassignment.com/>

User ID = WGSS Student Number

Password = Initials followed by student number (ie. John Smith would be JS12345).

Our online locker management system will allow students to first login according to the following schedule. Once a student chooses their locker, they will not be able to change it. Lockers are **optional**, if your student doesn't want a locker, do not select one.

Friday, Sept. 2 @ 8:00am	Grade 12s	full and top lockers
Saturday, Sept. 3 @ 8:00am	Grade 11s	top lockers
Sunday, Sept. 4 @ 8:00am	Grade 10s	top and bottom lockers
Monday, Sept. 5 @ 8:00am	Grade 9s	top and bottom lockers

Note: If you have outstanding library/textbooks or fees from previous school years, you must have this cleared before you will be able to select a locker. To check if a student has outstanding fees from previous year(s), they can sign-in to their [School Cash online](#) account.

School Messenger Attendance Calls

For those of you who are new to WGSS, SchoolMessenger is our phone and email contact system that we use to communicate with families. In addition to allowing us to send home messages, it will also call home each evening to report any unexcused student absences to

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parents. Therefore, parents should contact the school office to let us know when your child will be absent, arriving late or leaving early from school. Students must sign out at the office when they need to leave early. Parent permission is required for students to sign out early and this can be done by phoning the school office in advance or having the student contact a parent by phone when they are signing out at the office. If parents would like SchoolMessenger to contact a different number than the home phone number, please contact the school office (604-882-0220) to update your main phone number.

My School Day – Agenda App for Students/Parents

Students have access to the electronic agenda called [My School Day](#). This is a free scheduling app and is designed to allow students to put their courses into our timetable so they'll always know their schedule while at school or home. It includes all of our 2022/23 calendar information including holidays and professional days. The app also enables notes to be put in for each block so it can act as an agenda to keep track of homework, create to do lists, and set reminders for particular classes. Parents are also welcome to download the app so they can keep track of what class their child is in during the day while they are at work!

French Immersion, Gator Pod and BYOL for Grade 8's & 9's

This is a reminder to parents of our Grade 8 students in Gator Pod or French Immersion and for Grade 9's in French Immersion or that chose BYOL English/Social Studies Combination. All of these students will need to have laptops for their classes this year. These programs provide students with the opportunity, at the teacher's discretion, and with parent support, to use personal laptop computers to support learning in the classroom. We believe that the use of digital technologies to enhance student learning is a key part of preparing students for lifelong learning. The teachers of this program work cooperatively to plan, organize, and teach our students. The technology will be integrated into the classroom to help bring real-world experiences into the classroom.

RECOMMENDED SPECS FOR STUDENT BYOL DEVICES

Supported Hardware:

- Min screen size: 9.8" and up
- Hard drive size: 128 GB
- Keyboard
- Wi-Fi: 802.11 n/ac and up

Supported Operating Systems:

- Windows 10 version 1903 and up
- OSX 10.13 and up
- IOS 11 and up

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We do not want any students excluded from opportunities at Walnut Grove. If a family is not able to provide their own laptop, please contact Sean Juteau, WGSS Vice-Principal at sjuteau@sd35.bc.ca to arrange for an alternative.

Medical Alert – Life Threatening

We want to ensure the school is up to date on any student life threatening illnesses. If your child has a new or updated life-threatening illness, please request a [Medical Alert form](#) from Ms. Sargeant (asargeant@sd35.bc.ca) to complete and return to the office.

Parent Consents

This year, we will be collecting parent consents through an online form rather than on paper. At the beginning of the school year, an email with Instructions will be included in that email to the primary guardian of each child as indicated in MyEd.

Self-Identification of Aboriginal Ancestry - (First Nations, Metis Or Inuit)

Aboriginal Ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification. This includes First Nations (Status or Non-Status), Metis or Inuit Ancestry. Please see the form in this package for details.

****Please fill out only if student has Aboriginal ancestry – one form per child****



ABORIGINAL PROGRAM
Langley School District #35
4875-222nd Street, Langley, B.C. V3A 3Z7



Self-Identification of Aboriginal Ancestry (First Nations, Metis or Inuit)

****Please fill out only if student has Aboriginal ancestry - one form per child****

*Aboriginal Ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification. This includes First Nations (Status or Non-Status), Metis or Inuit Ancestry. **No documentation other than this self-identification is required and the ancestry can go back several generations.***

Student Name: _____ Aboriginal Ancestry: ____Yes

Specify Ancestry if known: _____ (e.g. Sto:lo, Cree, Inuit, Metis, etc.)

School Attending: _____ Grade: _____

Student Birth Date: _____ (month/day/year) Male: _____ Female: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____ Email: _____

Siblings: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____
(with ancestry)

***By signing below I acknowledge that my son/daughter is of Aboriginal Ancestry (First Nations, Metis or Inuit)**

Parent/Guardian Consultation and Consent to Service

Aboriginal Education Programs/Services

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Academic and Personal Support | • Early Literacy/Numeracy Intervention |
| • Home-School communication (letters, phone calls, etc.) | • PALS Program |
| • Monitoring of academic progress and attendance | • Newsletter |
| • Cultural enrichment | • In-class Cultural Presentations/Events |
| • Graduation/Scholarship/Bursary/Post-Secondary Info | • Leadership Conference/Transition Conference |

Comments: _____

*I give consent for my child to access the programs and services available through the Aboriginal Program.

*This signature is considered consent for the duration of the student's enrollment in their current school.

*Consent can also be given verbally by phone or by email to your Aboriginal Support Worker. *To revoke this consent you must contact the Aboriginal Program office at 604-888-4819.

*I give permission for my son/daughter's picture to be used in newsletters, webpage, etc. ____Yes____No

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date Signed)

(Print Parent/Guardian Name)

(Address - if changed)

***Please return this form to your child's school ASAP. If you have any questions, please call 604-888-4819.**