

Welcome Back to School



August 23, 2023

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 – 2:30pm from August 23 – September 1 and then return to regular office hours, 8:00am – 3:30pm, starting the week of September 5.

Student timetables will be published to MyEdBC on Friday, August 25 after 3:00pm. 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 5.

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

New & Returning Students

ALL students will attend on Wednesday, September 6 which will be a full day (Day 2: Block A (Homeroom) – ABCD) 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 between parents, students and teachers the more all parties will be able to support students on their path to success.

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I would also like to introduce our PAC Executive for the 2023 – 2024 school year:

- President: Anushcka Brhelle
- Vice President: Steven Northrup
- Treasurer: Julie Croft
- Secretary: Vacant
- DPAC Rep: Kristen Faulkner

We are very appreciative to our PAC and the Executive for the support that they provide for our students and our school! The first PAC meeting of the year is on September 12th at 7:00pm in the WGSS Library/Learning Commons.

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!

We welcome the following new (and some returning) WGSS staff for the 2023 – 2024 school year:

- Ms. Sarah Alexander – Counsellor
- Ms. Sachini Ariyaratne – Teacher, Science
- Mr. Colin Bailey – Teacher, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Hema Bali – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Carleigh Banford – YCW, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Mariana Bezede – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Stephanie Boswell – Teacher, French Immersion
- Ms. Tara Brayton – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Katherine Courchesne – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Mr. Blair Cumming – Teacher, PHE, Science
- Ms. Joanna Dorland – Office Assistant
- Ms. Bailey Dueck – Teacher, English, ELL
- Ms. Merih Ekici – Library Tech
- Ms. Siobhan Fee – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Mr. Wade Findlay – Teacher, English
- Ms. Julia Gabriel – Teacher, Art, English, Yearbook
- Ms. Erin Gaterell – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Brooke Halme – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Cindy Hardy – SEA, Learning Support Services
- Ms. Taegan Jacob – Teacher, Science

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- Ms. Aviva Kaminski – SEA, Learning Support Services
 - Ms. Nikki Kenyon - Teacher, Resource
 - Ms. Rachel Kurrein – Teacher, French Immersion, PHE
 - Mr. Andrew Lawson – SEA, Learning Support Services
 - Ms. Selina Lees - Teacher, English, PHE, French Immersion
 - Ms. Elizabeth McIlffaterick – Teacher, Social Studies, Spanish
 - Ms. Chandra Micom – SEA, Learning Support Services
 - Mr. Mike Miller – Teacher, Technology Education
 - Ms. Dominique Miller – Counsellor
 - Mr. Kyle Olsen – Teacher, Careers, English, Edge Program, Social Studies
 - Ms. Kim Owen – SEA, Learning Support Services
 - Ms. Raiya Park – Teacher, Mathematics
 - Ms. Jamie Park – ISP EA, International Student Program
 - Ms. Noemie Potvin – Teacher, French Immersion
 - Mr. Neil Powell – Vice Principal
 - Ms. Jamie Quirante – Teacher, PHE, Science
 - Ms. Mikaela Ramdial – French Immersion
 - Mr. Ben Richardson – Teacher, Computers, Mathematics
 - Ms. Emma Sweeney – Teacher, English
 - Ms. Suzie Yoo – SEA, Learning Support Services

We are still filling positions for the upcoming school year and we 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,

Mr. J. Lyndon
Proud Principal
Walnut Grove Secondary School

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First Day of School – Tuesday September 5 - “Becoming One of Us”

The first day of school is only for **Grade 8's** and any other **new** Grade 9 – 12 students to the school. 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 6.

Grade 8's should arrive at school between 8:30am - 8:45am and pick up a **PINK** copy of their timetable in the front foyer and then proceed to their Day 2 Block A. 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 106
Grade 10	Room 149
Grade 11	Room 181
Grade 12	Room 151
Grade 10-12 ELL/ISP	Room 121

Grade 8's attend until approximately 11:30am

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

All Students Attend – Wednesday, September 6

All students attend school on Wednesday, September 6 (8:45am – 2:55pm) and will go to their Day 2 Block A homeroom for attendance from 8:45am – 9:00am. All returning students are expected to check their timetables on their **MyEd** account: <https://www.sd35.bc.ca/students-parents/myedbc-family-portal-help/>

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Homeroom for the First Five Days at WGSS

It is vitally important that all students attend their Homeroom Day 2 Block A class from **Wednesday, September 6 to Tuesday, September 12 for the first 10 minutes (please do not be late)**. They must keep attending their original Day 2 Block A homeroom as this functions as your child's homeroom until September 12. 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 6 - DAY 2 8:45 – 10:35 Block A 10:40 – 11:50 Block B 11:50 – 12:25 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block C 1:45 – 2:55 Block D	THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - DAY 1 8:45 – 8:55 Homeroom – Block 2A 9:00 – 10:35 Block C 10:40 – 11:50 Block D 11:50 – 12:25 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block A 1:45 – 2:55 Block B
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 - DAY 2 8:45 – 8:55 Homeroom – Block 2A 9:00 – 10:35 Block D 10:40 – 11:50 Block C 11:50 – 12:25 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block B 1:45 – 2:55 Block A	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - DAY 1 8:45 – 8:55 Homeroom – Block 2A 8:55 – 9:55 Block A 9:55 – 10:35 REP Time 10:40 – 11:50 Block B 11:50 – 12:25 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block C 1:45 – 2:55 Block D
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 - DAY 2 8:45 – 8:55 Homeroom – Block 2A 9:00 – 9:55 Block B 9:55 – 10:35 REP Time 10:40 – 11:50 Block A 11:50 – 12:25 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block D 1:45 – 2:55 Block C	WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 - DAY 1 Regular Day 8:45 – 9:55 Block B 9:55 – 10:35 REP Time 10:40 – 11:50 Block A 11:50 – 12:25 Lunch 12:30 – 1:40 Block D 1:45 – 2:55 Block C

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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.

The last day to submit a Change Request is **Monday, September 11**. 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.

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 11**. 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 25 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 August 28 - September 8

Submit on-line form for **Change Request**
Gr 11/Gr 12 Study Block forms -
submit via email to kethier@sd35.bc.ca or
paper copy to Counselling office.

Available **Monday, August 28, @ 9:00 am** on
WGSS Course Guide Website: **Course Change Process**

Priority 4 Course Change OPENS September 7 - 11

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)

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Locker Selection:

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 1 @ 8:00am	Grade 12s	full and top lockers
Saturday, Sept 2 @ 8:00am	Grade 11s	full and top lockers
Sunday, Sept 3 @ 8:00am	Grade 10s	top and bottom lockers
Monday, Sept 4 @ 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 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. Our new phone system will allow parents/guardians to leave a student absence/late message anytime by pressing "1" when you call the 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 listed MyEdBC 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 2023/24 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.

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Medical Alert – Life Threatening

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

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****

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 and 10's in French Immersion or Grade 9's 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

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.



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.**