

General Criteria

“Conscientious student” standard

- To be considered for a grade 9 award, a student must demonstrate the qualities of a conscientious student. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - **Is in good standing**, including showing respect for peers and teachers and overall positive conduct both within the school and at school-sanctioned offsite activities.
 - **Classroom participation**, including asking insightful questions and engaging in meaningful dialogue related to the subject. In French Immersion and Core French classes, students must also demonstrate a consistent willingness to engage in French.
 - **Leadership**, including assisting peers or otherwise making exceptional contributions to the classroom.
 - **Positive attitude**, including resilience in the face of challenges and a growth mindset.
- To be considered a conscientious student, a student does not need to embody every single element of the standard. However, a student who consistently demonstrates all of these criteria may be given consideration for awards over a student who only demonstrates some of these criteria or who demonstrates them less consistently.

Academic Awards

Grade 9 Subject Awards (one per class/section)

- The student’s final mark must be greater than or equal to:
 - 85% average over the three terms in a full-year course; or
 - 90% in a one-term elective course.
- The student must, in the opinion of the teacher, demonstrate an exceptional understanding of the subject matter, showcasing in-depth knowledge and comprehension of key concepts.
- The teacher may choose to give this award to a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement throughout the year, or to a student who has demonstrated considerable improvement throughout the year and who ended the year with an outstanding level of achievement.
- The student must demonstrate the qualities of a conscientious student.

Music Awards

Band Award

Uses Academic Award criteria, with the following additional criteria:

- Displayed outstanding contributions to band practices and performances, in the opinion of the supervising teacher.
- demonstrated the qualities of a conscientious student.

Strings Award

Awarded to a student who:

- displayed outstanding contributions to strings practices and performances, in the opinion of the supervising teacher; and
- demonstrated the qualities of a conscientious student.

Athletic Awards

General Athletic Award Procedure

- After the end of each sports season, each coach will be asked to nominate either one or two members of their team for each athletic award. It is up to each individual coach whether to nominate one or two people. Nominations must include a brief rationale for why, in the opinion of the coach, each student deserves each award.
- If a team has more than one coach, the coaches of that team must agree on their nominations. Only one or two students from each team may be nominated in total.
- All coach nominations will be kept confidential and will not be shared with students or parents.
- The recipient(s) of each award will be chosen by a committee of teachers from the nominations received from coaches. The committee may not give the award to a student unless that student was nominated by at least one coach.
- In the unlikely event that there are fewer students nominated than total awards available, the committee may itself nominate additional students up to the total number of awards available. However, Athlete of the Year in particular may only be awarded to a student nominated by at least one coach.

School Sport Nova Scotia Recognition Awards (*externally-defined criteria*)

- Exemplary Participation Award (student-athletes)
- The Outstanding Service Award (coaches)

This is an opportunity to acknowledge those in your school who exemplify the qualities we strive to develop through participation in school sport:

- demonstration of commitment to Fair Play;
- respect for opponents and officials;
- support of team and coach(es);
- understanding that winning is not everything;
- graciousness in both victory and defeat.

It is understood that these are our "best" students and coaches and need not be MVP's or Athlete of the Year but clearly illustrate all that is good about school sport. This is also an opportunity to celebrate the role of sport in education and to acknowledge the significant contributions made by those involved.

School Sport Nova Scotia Good Sport Award (*externally-defined criteria*)

The award is intended to recognize those student-athletes who “best demonstrate commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity and who show respect and concern for others while participating in school sport.

Athletes of the Year (two awards)

- There will be two awards each year. Awards will be given regardless of gender, meaning there will not necessarily be one male athlete and one female athlete.
- The student must:
 - have been a member of at least three school teams during the most recent academic year;
 - have exhibited athletic excellence in at least one sport;
 - have exhibited leadership qualities in their sports, including acting as a positive role model for students in grades 7 and 8;
 - have exhibited “coachability”, accepting feedback from their coach and putting it into practice;
 - have exhibited graciousness in both victory and defeat;
 - have encouraged teamwork and team development; and
 - demonstrate the qualities of a conscientious student.
- All students who participate in three or more sports during the most recent academic year will be judged equally according to the criteria above. Being a member of more than three teams will not, on its own, lead to additional consideration for this award.

Extracurricular Awards (non-athletic)

Outstanding Extracurricular Involvement Awards (two awards, working title)

- There will be two awards each year. Awards will be given regardless of gender, meaning there will not necessarily be one male recipient and one female recipient.
- The student must:
 - have been a member of at least two non-athletic school clubs in the most recent academic year;
 - have exhibited outstanding participation in at least one non-athletic school club, as defined by that club's adult leader(s);
 - have exhibited leadership qualities, including acting as a positive role model for students in grades 7 and 8;
 - have encouraged teamwork and team spirit; and
 - demonstrate the qualities of a conscientious student.
- A non-athletic school club is defined as a club that:
 - Is led by a Gorsebrook teacher, or by an external adult leader in collaboration with a Gorsebrook teacher liaison;
 - Holds regularly scheduled meetings at Gorsebrook outside regular class hours, including during lunch, for at least a significant portion of the school year;
 - Exists for a primary purpose that does not involve participation in an athletic sport; and
 - Does not directly award class credit for participation in its activities.
- For greater certainty, non-athletic school clubs include, but are not limited to, the following examples: school musical, Leadership, Debate Club, etc. Band and strings are not considered non-athletic school clubs for the purposes of this award.
- All students who participate in two or more non-athletic school clubs during the most recent academic year will be judged equally according to the criteria above. Being a member of more than two clubs will not, on its own, lead to additional consideration for this award.

Award Procedure

- The adult leaders of each non-athletic school club will be asked to nominate either one or two members of their team for this award. It is up to each individual leader whether to nominate one or two people. Nominations must include a brief rationale for why, in the opinion of the leader, each student deserves each award.
- If a club has more than one adult leader, including an external adult leader and a teacher, the leaders of that club must agree on their nominations. Only one or two students from each club may be nominated in total.
- All adult club leader nominations will be kept confidential and will not be shared with students or parents.
- The recipient(s) of each award will be chosen by a committee of teachers from the nominations received from adult club leaders. The committee may not give the award to a student unless that student was nominated by at least one adult club leader.

- In the unlikely event that there are fewer students nominated than total awards available, the committee may itself nominate additional students up to the total number of awards available.

General Awards

HRM Citizenship Award (*externally-defined criteria*)

The award is presented to 1 (one) grade 9 student from each school in the municipality who exemplifies the qualities of leadership and service in the school and community and maintains a commendable performance in their studies.

SAC Award

- Grade 9 student
- Regularly attended and actively participated in SAC meetings throughout at least the most recent academic year
- Showed willingness and dedication to get feedback from peers and actively offer constructive input to SAC

EAL (English as an Additional Language) Award (up to two awards)

- A student or students in the process of learning English as an additional language who has demonstrated exceptional skill, motivation and perseverance, and willing to take risks in the language acquisition process. Is a strong self advocate and seeks out help (tools) and resources when needed. Is open and willing to experience and embrace their new school culture.

Ursa Major Award

- Awarded to a student who:
 - is in grade 9;
 - has shown significant personal growth and achievement over their time at Gorsebrook;
 - has shown, and continues to show, consistent commitment to self-improvement and becoming a better student; and
 - demonstrates the qualities of a conscientious student.

Michael McCormick Vice-Principal's Award (two awards)

- Named for our beloved former Vice Principal who passed away in 2016.
- This award is given to two students who, in the opinion of school staff and administration:
 - Exemplify a respectful, cheerful and positive attitude toward the Gorsebrook community; and
 - Have demonstrated a consistent, strong work ethic and a passion for learning.

Principal's Award (up to two awards)

- One or two recipients
- Presented to a student or students who, in the opinion of school staff and administration:
 - Exemplifies a positive attitude towards fellow students, teachers and school staff;
 - Demonstrates an outstanding effort in all subjects; and
 - Has made an exemplary contribution in the school community.
- To be considered for this award, a student must:
 - Meet all of the criteria in the conscientious student standard;
 - Receive grades of 90% or higher in at least five grade 9 courses; and
 - Participate in a minimum of two non-athletic school clubs and/or school sports teams.

Awards Being Discontinued

Tech Service Award

Rationale: Loose criteria, and there frequently is not a student that clearly deserves this award.

Om Sharma Award

Rationale: Criteria are vague and mostly duplicative of Vice Principal's Award. Om Sharma is also no longer active in the school community. Rather than effectively creating a new award with his name slapped onto it, it makes more sense to discontinue it.

Student Centre Award

Rationale: There is great diversity in the capabilities of the students who receive Student Centre support. Rather than a competitive award, we would like to find a way to recognize all of these students for their unique contributions, like a separate Student Centre ceremony where everyone gets a personalized certificate.