



GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH COMMUNITY MEMO

THIS WEEK AT GORSEBROOK: Dec. 15th-19th, 2025

*Please read below for the week's events and other school-related information

This is: Week 2

MONDAY



- **Monochrome Monday** (wear one color, head to toe!)
- Grab & Go Breakfast available
- Chess & Strategy Games @ 12pm - Room 210
- GSA @ 12pm - Room 214
- Musical Rehearsal (Full Cast) @ 3-5:30pm
- Male-identifying Basketball Practice @ 3-5pm

TUESDAY



- **Timber Tuesday** (flannel, plaid, jeans and boots!)
- Grab & Go Breakfast available
- Debate Club @ 12pm - Room 222
- Musical Rehearsal (Full Cast) @ 3-5:30pm
- Female-identifying Basketball Practice @ 3:15-4:45pm

WEDNESDAY



- **Bear Wear Wednesday** (rock your Gorsebrook gear!)
- Musical Rehearsal (Full Cast) @ 7:30-8:30am
- Grab & Go Breakfast available
- String Ensemble @ 11:40am - in the Band Room
- Library Open @ 12pm
- K-Pop Club @ 12pm - Room 109
- Film Club @ 12pm - Room 217
- Male-identifying Basketball Practice @ 3-5pm

THURSDAY



- **PJ Day** (lounge it up!)
- Grab & Go Breakfast available
- Violin Technique @ 11:40am - in the Band Room
- Musical Appreciation Club @ 12pm - Room 211
- Library Open @ 12pm
- Math Extra Help @ 12pm - Room 216
- Staff vs. Students Volleyball Game during Period 5
- Female-identifying Basketball Practice @ 3:15-4:45pm

FRIDAY



- **Ugly Sweater Day** (wear your worst!)
- Musical Rehearsal (Full Cast) @ 7:30-8:30am
- Grab & Go Breakfast available
- Warhammer Club @ 12pm - Room 221
- French Club @ 12pm - Room 211
- Games & Conversation Club @ 12pm - Room 107
- Readers Rumble @ 12pm - Room 215

Upcoming Dates

Dec 19th - Last Day for Students before Winter Break

Dec 22nd - PD Day (*No School*)

Jan 5th - First Day Back

From the Office

- The IWK has reached out asking us to remind students who visit the hospital at lunchtime that it is currently the respiratory flu season, and a **mandatory masking policy** is in place. Students are asked to wear a mask while inside the building and, when possible, to stay in the public gallery area (near Subway/Tim Hortons) rather than the main cafeteria. If students do enter the cafeteria, please remember that many of the people there are patients, staff, or family members and may be more vulnerable during this time. Thank you for helping us support the IWK's safety guidelines.
- A huge congratulations to our female-identifying basketball team on winning the Gold Medal at the SHS Kingfisher Tournament this week! The team showed outstanding skill, determination, and teamwork from start to finish. We're incredibly proud of their accomplishment and the way they represented Gorsebrook. Way to go, Bears! 🏀🥇

From the HRCE

New educational technology resource for families

We're excited to share a new online resource designed to help families understand how technology supports student learning in HRCE. This page provides an overview of how tools like Chromebooks and Google for Education are used in classrooms, what provincially approved online platforms students may access, and how student privacy is protected. You'll also find information about Nova Scotia's guidance on the provincial cell phone expectations, tips for supporting online safety and digital citizenship at home, and an introduction to how students are learning about artificial intelligence in a thoughtful and responsible way. It also includes answers to common questions about screen time, passwords, communication during the school day, and more.



You can find the webpage [here](#).

Planning for Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours, and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all buses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If the weather deteriorates or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, an 11:00 a.m. announcement could be:

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, if you have opted in. If you aren't sure if you have opted in, text Y to the following number: 978338
- [On the HRCE website](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation. Please remember: As a parent or guardian, you always have the choice of whether or not to send your child to school.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/families/cancellations.

Support over the Winter Holidays

As we approach the winter season, families may begin looking for assistance during the holiday period. Below are three key community resources available this year:

1. Families may contact 211 to inquire what resources exist in the specific community/area where they reside
2. The Salvation Army "Christmas Help" information and application website:

<https://www.christmasdaddies.org/christmashelp/>

The website contains all the information that families need to apply ONLY online, and the documents that they need to upload to support their application. The Salvation Army applications open on October 23 and close on December 8, 2025

3. Parker Street Hamper: <https://parkerstreet.org/apply-for-hamper/>

Parker Street applications accepted until November 21, 2025

Safe Arrival Reminder

Attendance: Students are recorded as absent by their teachers if they aren't in their first class by 8:40am.

SAFE ARRIVAL: To report your child(ren) absent or late, you can use any of the following methods:

→ **Toll-Free Number:** Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report:

- Future absences using an automated system (max 5 consecutive days) at a time.
- Excuse your child(ren) for a full day (no half-day option). If they arrive late or after an appointment, their attendance will be updated in our system upon arrival.

→ **PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal:** Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the School Messenger website to report future absences.

→ **School Messenger App:** Parents/guardians can download the School Messenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

*All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. Absences can be reported any time before the start of school (9:10 am) on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. If your child will be absent for the afternoon only, please contact the main office at 902-421-6758 ext. 5451000.

Feel free to leave a message about this absence. This information can also be found on the hrce.ca website under For Families > General Information > Safe Arrival

Please do not email teachers for attendance purposes.

Communication

Other updates and important school information can be found on our webpage. <https://gbf.hrce.ca/> Gorsebrook Jr. High has a Parent-led Facebook Group – you can find it by searching for 'GJHS Community'.