



Principal: Mark MacPhee

GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH

5966 South Street, Halifax, NS

<https://gbf.hrce.ca/>

Twitter: @GorsebrookJHS

902-421-6758

Vice Principal: Kelsey Johnston

School Counsellor : Mary Mallon

September 2026

Dear Parent & Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you had a restful summer. We are looking forward to welcoming your children to our school on September 3rd. The information below should answer the most common questions you have. We look forward to your support in our efforts to support your child's learning and development.

Kind Regards,

Mark MacPhee

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Principal

Class Change Requests

Many factors go into placing your child into the classroom they are assigned to. We consider academics, behavior, gender balance, information from previous schools, class caps, and learning needs to name a few. We must consider each of these factors both individually and for the class as a collective when making decisions. We will only look at making a class change if it is an extraordinary situation and even then, only at the end of September once our class sizes have been finalized. Many of our classes are already at cap which doesn't allow for any movement at all. We appreciate your understanding and support in this matter.

School Fees

Each student is asked to pay a \$20 student fee. This is available to be paid from today until the end of the day on Sept 12th. The school cash website is at: <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/>

If you have difficulty setting up your school cash account, please contact Ms. Daley at

carolann.daley@hrce.ca

If you have a financial need and are unable to pay please contact Mr. MacPhee at mmacphee@hrce.ca

School Supplies

Our school supply list can be found at: [7-9 School Supply List](#)

If you are in financial need and cannot purchase your child's supplies, please contact Mr. MacPhee at mmacphee@hrce.ca

September 3rd – First day for Students

We ask that on the first day of school all students gather behind the school by Gorsebrook Park. At 8:30 we will start calling kids in by grade level. Parents are not permitted to follow their children into the school. Students will go to the gym where we will welcome them and after that, their homeroom teachers will call out their name and take them to the classroom. They will remain in their homeroom class for the morning and then move into their scheduled classes for the remainder of the day. We know many students will be nervous and we will be attentive to their needs as they settle into a new school.

Our bell schedule can be found at: [Gorsebrook Bell Schedule](#)

Safe Arrival/Attendance

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call 1-833-582-6940 or go online at: [Safe Arrival Sign In](#)

Please note, you can only mark your child absent for a full day. If they arrive to school later in the day we will go in and edit their attendance.

If your child needs to leave school early, we must have notification from a parent or guardian. Please e-mail gjh@hrce.ca or call 902 421 6777, option 0 to speak to Ms. Daley.

Please note PowerSchool is not available for login access until Sept 3rd.

Late Arrivals

Please help us in establishing a routine that allows students to arrive to school on time. We have many parents dropping their kids off late each day. Please plan for traffic. These late arrivals mean your child misses instructional time with their teacher and it is a disruption to the learning of all students in their classroom.

Cell Phones

Gorsebrook follows the provincial cell phone policy. Our schools cell phone plan can be found here: [Cell Phone Directive](#)

We will spend time speaking to students on the first day of school about the cell phone directive so that they have a clear understanding of what we are asking of them. Cell phones are not permitted in locker rooms or washrooms at any time.

Washrooms

Students will be required to sign out of their class (with teacher permission) to use the washroom. Backpacks are not allowed in locker rooms or washrooms at any time for safety reasons. Students should not loiter in washrooms or make excessive requests to go to the washroom (unless medically necessary). Feminine hygiene products are available at any time through the main office for individuals who require them.

Team/Clubs

Our teams and clubs will get start in the next few weeks. Watch the weekly memo sent out each Sunday and watch for your daily announcement slide from your teacher at 10:35 each day.

Scooters/Bicycles

Scooters and bicycles are not allowed in the building. They must be stored outside in the bike rack and students are strongly encouraged to bring a lock and ensure their item is locked securely. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen scooters/bicycles.

Lunch

All students are allowed to stay at school for lunch. A form will be sent home to all parents asking you to indicate whether you want your child to stay or leave (or both) at lunch time. Students will eat in their home room classes. We do not have a cafeteria or microwaves so students should bring their lunch with them.

The first day of the provincial school lunch program will be Sept 8th. The deadline to order for the next ordering period is Sept 2nd. Orders can be placed at [Nova Scotia Lunch Program](#).

Students will have a 5-minute snack break each day from 10:35-10:40 while they listen to daily announcements. Students are encouraged to bring a small snack from home which they can carry to their classes as they will not be permitted to go to their locker during snack time.

School Photos

Our photographer will be at the school on the morning of Friday, September 4th to take school pictures. Information on how to order the pictures will follow.

Curriculum Night

Curriculum night will be September 15th from 6:00-7:15. All parents are invited to attend. More information will follow in the weekly memo.

School Musical

The school musical tradition at GJH will continue with the production of *Lightening Thief Jr* in February 2027. The show is scheduled for February 22 & 23rd. More information to follow in the weekly memo.

Power School Enrollment

By logging onto to your own private online account, the new student-parent portal will enable you to see attendance, grades, assignments, teacher's comments, and school bulletins – in real-time. You'll be able to access the portal at home, work, school, or the public library – wherever there is Internet access.

[Parent Login to PowerSchool](#)

Weekly Memo

Our school sends out a weekly memo on Sunday with information about upcoming events. Please keep an eye on your inbox. Reviewing this information weekly is appreciated. Students also receive a copy to the GNSPES account and a copy is posted on our website.

Communication

We encourage ongoing home and school communication. Teacher e-mails are available by signing into power school. We also encourage phone communication by calling 902 421 6758. You can also send a message to the school e-mail address at gjh@hrce.ca and we will forward it to the appropriate teacher.

Volunteering at Gorsebrook

If you wish to volunteer or coach at Gorsebrook you will require a Criminal Records Check completed within the past three months (with vulnerable sector check) and a Child Abuse Registry Check. Both take time to complete so we recommend starting the process now and having them on file with the school so there is no delay when you want to be involved.

For the Criminal Records Check, you have two options:

- Visit your local police station and request one directly
- You can obtain the Child Abuse Registry Check at the following link:
[Apply for Nova Scotia Child Abuse Registry Search](#)

For the safety of our students, no one will be permitted to volunteer until the appropriate checks are received. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Gorsebrook Parent Teacher Association

The Gorsebrook PTA meets one evening per month to talk about fundraising and supporting student life at Gorsebrook. The first meeting of the year is September 10th at 6pm. We meet in the school conference room.

Save the date! The PTA will put on it's first event of the year on Sunday October 4th from 5-7. All student and families are invited to our International Potluck where we ask guests to bring a food from their country/culture to share with others. More information to follow in our weekly memo.

School Advisory Council

We are looking for grade 7 and 8 parent members for our school advisory council. We meet 8 times a year to talk about issues affecting Gorsebrook and the broader community. If you want more information, please contact Mr. MacPhee at mmacphee@hrce.ca