



Principal: Mark MacPhee

GORSEBROOK JUNIOR HIGH

5966 South Street, Halifax, NS

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

Twitter: @GorsebrookJHS

902-421-6758

Vice Principal: Patricia Fee

School Counsellor : Mary Mallon

September 2023

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 7th. 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

Mark MacPhee
Principal

Class Change Requests

Many factors go into placing your child into the classroom they are assigned to. We consider academics, behavior, gender balance, 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.

September 7th – 1st 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. They will go 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 until 10:40 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: https://gbf.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/gbf.hrce.ca/basic-page/2021/08/bell_schedule_2021-2022.pdf

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 ahead 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.

School Supplies

Our school supply list can be found at:

https://gbf.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/websites/gbf.hrce.ca/news/2023/06/supply_list.pdf

School Fees

There are no school fees for the 2023-2024 school year. From time to time student may be required to pay fees to attend trips or athletic fees. We recommend you sign up for school cash online as that is how we collect money. The school cash website is at: <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/>

School Population Growth

Our school population continues to grow. As of Aug 31st we have 371 students. We have converted an unused space to an additional classroom and have installed some additional lockers. We appreciate your patience as we work out any issues that our increased enrollment may present.

Cell Phones

Gorsebrook's expectations around cell phone is that students either leave their cell phone in their locker or if brought to class they place it into the cell phone hotel at the start of class and retrieve it at the end of class. They are free to use their phones during lunch time. If there is an emergency, we will make a phone available to them. If you need to reach them at school in the event of an emergency, please contact the main office at 902 421 6758 and we will go and get them out of class. Please do not text or call your child during instructional time.

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. We will have the option to buy pizza once per week but it won't be starting until October. More information will come out in the weekly memo about how to sign up if you are interested.

School Photos

Our photographer will be at the school on the morning of September 11th to take school pictures. Information on how to order the pictures will follow.

Curriculum Night

Curriculum night will be held September 21st from 6:30-7:30. All parents are invited to attend.

School Musical

The school musical tradition at GJH will continue with the production of *High School Musical Jr.* in February 2024. Auditions will take place Wednesday, September 20th - beginning at 3pm. The show is scheduled for February 12 & 13th.

More information about auditions, along with the sign-up sheet and permission form will be posted the week of September 11th, the cast list will be posted by September 22nd and rehearsals will begin the week of September 25th. Rehearsals this year will be held Monday and Friday mornings before school and Wednesdays from 3-5pm. The mandatory parent volunteer meeting for those in the cast will be held within the first 2 weeks of rehearsals.

The PTA will be hosting our annual **cake walk** fundraiser at Orientation Night on Thursday, September 21st. Please email tjbarry9@gmail.com if you can donate a cake to support the musical. We are hoping to offer over 20 home or store made cakes.

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 Friday with information about upcoming events. Please keep an eye on your inbox.