

SEPTEMBER 2021

# GREEN VALLEY SCHOOL

## WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS BACK

Dear GVS School Community Members,

The time has finally arrived for our school community to be given details about how GVS plans to incorporate the recommendations and guidelines that have been put forth by our provincial government. Please know that the planning and organizing that has taken place, is following the guidelines from Manitoba Public Health, Manitoba Education, and the Hanover School Division.

This “special edition” of our monthly GVS Newsletter covers a lot of new information that we need our parents and students to be aware of. PLEASE, take the time to go over each area of the plan. If you should have further questions or comments, feel free to email either Mrs. Burntack-Schinkel ([aschinkel@hsd.ca](mailto:aschinkel@hsd.ca)) or Mr. Adrian ([madrian@hsd.ca](mailto:madrian@hsd.ca)).

Welcome Back to GVS

# We Missed You

We are excited for the start of this new school year!

*We all have a role to play in making this year a HUGE success.*

Work hard, be proud, be kind, and be safe.  
You are not alone, we are in this TOGETHER at GVS.  
HOME OF THE PIRATE FAMILY

### **September 6**

Labour Day  
(No Classes)

### **September 7**

Admin Day  
(No Classes)  
Meet the Teacher

### **September 8**

Great Expectations  
(Grade 5 & 9 Students Only)

### **September 9**

First Day of School Grades 6-12  
(Grade 5 & 9 also attend)

## GRADE 5-8 COHORTS

Each grade will be considered a “COHORT,” that our students will be part of. Students will still remain in their individual homeroom class, but they will be able to have recess, language classes, music, etc. with other students within their same grade or cohort. Students in grades 5-8 will be attending school every day.

## GRADE 9-12 STUDENTS SCHEDULE:

Grade 9-12 students will attend their regular scheduled time table.

### Bell Schedule

Middle Years	
Religious Exercises	8:50-8:57
Warning Bell	8:57
Period 1	9:00-9:40
Period 2	9:40-10:15
Period 3	10:15-10:45/11:00
Recess	Gr. 5/8 10:45-11:00 Gr. 6/7 11:00-11:15
Period 4	Gr. 5/8 11:00 Gr. 6/7 11:15
Period 5	11:40-12:15
Lunch	12:15-1:10 12:15 Inside (5/8s) Outside (6/7s) 12:45 Inside (6/7s) Outside (5/8s)
Period 6	1:10-1:45
Period 7	1:45-2:15/2:30
Recess	Gr. 5/8 2:15-2:30 Gr. 6/7 2:30-2:45
Period 8	Gr. 5/8 2:30-3:10 Gr. 6/7 2:45-3:10
Period 9	3:10-3:40
Dismissal	3:40 3:45

Senior Years	
Religious Exercises	8:50-8:57
Warning Bell	8:57
Period 1	9:00-10:10
Class change	10:10-10:15
Period 2	10:15-11:20
Class change	11:20-11:25
Period 3	11:25-12:30
Lunch	12:30-1:25
Warning Bell	1:20
Period 4	1:25-2:30
Class Change	2:30-2:35
Period 5	2:35-3:40
Dismissal	3:40 3:45

# **STAGGERED START INFORMATION (Grade 5 and 9 students ONLY)**

As in previous years, we will continue to dedicate the first day of school **Wednesday September 8, 2021** for our grade 5 and 9 students only. We have called this day "GREAT EXPECTATIONS," and will continue to do so. ALL students entering grade 5 or grade 9 will come to school on Wednesday, September 9 for a day that will be totally dedicated to a day of orientation for our grade 5 and 9 students.

## **SCHEDULE FOR START DATES FOR GVS STUDENTS**

### **Wednesday September 8, 2021:**

- ALL Grade 5 & 9 Students ONLY (GREAT EXPECTATIONS)

### **Thursday September 9, 2021:**

- ALL Grade 5-12 Students

### **Strong Connections:**

- Friday, September 17 & Monday, September 20, 2021. You will be notified on a later date on which day your child will be attending.

## **MEET THE TEACHER**

Meet the Teacher will be on Tuesday, September 7 from 3:00-5:30 pm. Meet the Teacher will be done by booking your 10 minute appointment on the Parent Portal. Teachers will host 3 parents with their student at a time. Parents and students may bring their school supplies to this event. Parents are asked to bring only the child that will be working with that teacher to the appointment. We kindly ask that any congregating or visiting to take place outside and not in the school building.

## **RECESS AND NOON HOUR PROCEDURES FOR GRADES 5-8**

### **RECESS TIMES:**

Grade 5 & 8 students will have their morning recess from 10:45-11:00 am.

Grade 5 & 8 students will have their afternoon recess from 2:15-2:30 pm.

Grade 6 & 7 students will have their morning recess from 11:00-11:15 am.

Grade 6 & 7 students will have their afternoon recess from 2:30- 2:45 pm.

### **NOON HOUR TIMES:**

Grade 5 & 8 noon hour schedule:

- Eat lunch in classroom: 12:15-12:45 pm.
- Outside for activity break: 12:35-1:08 pm.

Grade 6 & 7 noon hour schedule:

- Outside for activity break: 12:15-12:45 pm.
- Eat lunch in classroom: 12:45-1:08 pm.

## **BREAKS AND NOON HOUR PROCEDURES FOR GRADES 9-12**

Grades 9-12 students will have a 5 minute class change that will be monitored by staff. If high school students choose to remain at GVS for lunch hour, they will be required to eat lunch in classrooms that have been designated as grade specific lunch rooms. If students leave GVS for lunch, they are to return back by 1:20 pm. The grad lounge area will be open for grade 12 students only.

## **PARKING, DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIMES**

All schools have been tasked to limit the congestion of students entering and leaving the building. This has created some opportunities to not only change up how we dismiss our students but is has also allowed us to look at the safest possible way to minimize the traffic flow on Oak Street.

During this time, we will be asking parents to NOT park or drop off students on Oak Street. We have had far too many close calls with vehicles parked, and students running across the street to get into their vehicles. Oak Street is extremely busy with bus traffic and for the safety of our students, our bus drivers and our parents, we will now ask parents to drop off students in grades 5-8 on Southwood Street. Further to that, there is also signage on Oak Street that indicates that there is to be NO PARKING on that street. YES, our students will have to walk a little further on our playground to get to the South gate, but we know it is a much safer way for our kids to get picked up. Secondly, having our kids accumulate some extra steps in their day coincides nicely with promoting Active and Healthy Lifestyles. If the need should ever arise, where a child has some mobility concerns, accommodations will be granted for those students.

If parents are picking up students that are in grades 9-12, they will be asked to pick up their children on Park Street near the fence. Please look for the banner on the fence.

Again, please honor and respect the safety measures we have put in place for our bus loop (main parking lot)

BUS TRAFFIC ONLY between 8:15 am- 9:15 am and 3:15 pm- 4:15 pm. GUEST PARKING for GVS will be off of Park Street.

## **DROP OFF TIMES FOR GVS STUDENTS**

Parents are asked NOT to drop off their children prior to 8:50 am. We need to stagger students coming into the building and we need to follow a coordinated effort in keeping the flow of students in and out of the school to a bare minimum. We will be transitioning and escorting our bus students into the building starting at 8:30 am. Students that walk to school are NOT to arrive before 8:45 am. Once a student is on school property, they must go directly into the school and report directly to their homeroom or period one class.

## **DISMISSAL TIMES AND PROCEDURES**

- All students that walk to and from school will be dismissed at 3:35 pm, so that we can stagger the departure of our students.
- All students that will be picked up by their parents will be dismissed at 3:35 pm.
- All bus students will depart at their regular times starting with first bus dismissal at 3:40 pm.

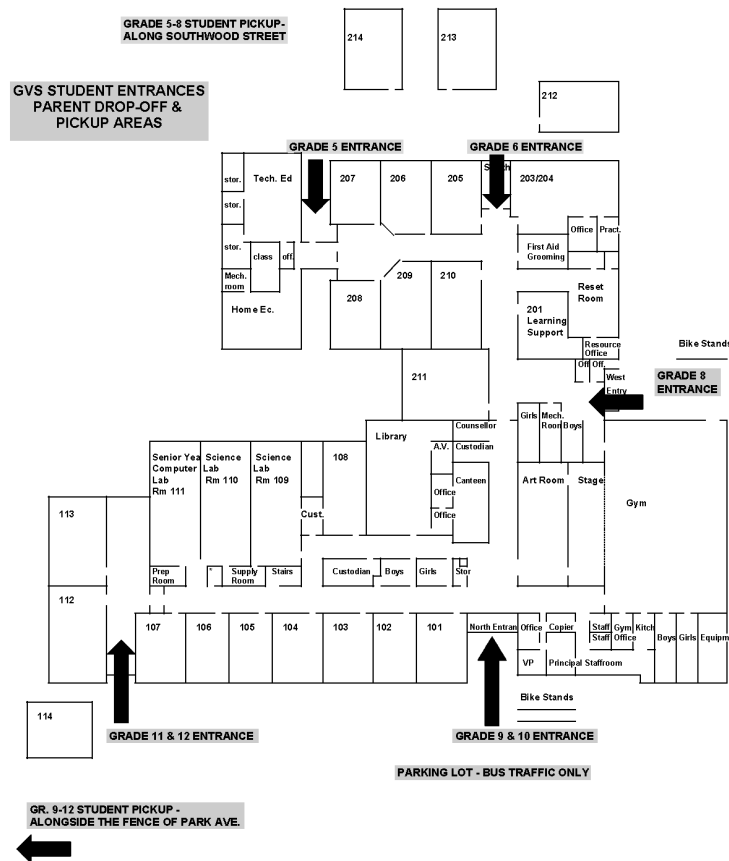
# ENTERING AND EXITING GVS

Parents are reminded that if they need to drop off anything for their child, clear containers will be placed in front of the North (Main Entrance). Please call into the office to inform our staff that you have delivered something for your child. Your child's name and homeroom/grade must be clearly labeled on item you have dropped off.

We will not be permitting parents into the building, unless they have a pre-arranged meeting with a staff member. When a parent comes into the building for their scheduled appointment, we kindly ask that all visitors wear masks (masks will not be supplied by the school), sanitize their hands and follow the distance decals that will be placed on the floor.

ALL students will be expected to enter and exit through assigned doors. PLEASE refer to the school map, to see which entrance your child will be using to start the school year.

- **GRADE 5:** Entrance located in between our Tech Ed. area and our grade 5 & 6 classroom wing.
- **GRADE 6:** Entrance located on the South side of the school where the boot racks are located.
- **GRADE 7:** When you need to gain access to the main building you will use the same entrance as our grade 6 students.
- **GRADE 8:** Entrance located on the West side of the school.
- **GRADE 9 & 10:** Main entrance on the North side of the school.
- **GRADE 11 & 12:** Far North entrance near the outside portable classroom.



Students that park in the church parking lot will **NOT be permitted to enter GVS from the middle years end.** They will now be required to enter and exit GVS through their designated entrances. It is important for parents to preview and go over the assigned entrances with their children. We must plan and implement entering and exiting procedures that minimize the number of students that use any one entrance at any given time.

## **OTHER CHANGES/UPDATES TO EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES**

- Students will NOT be allowed to meet or visit friends in the hallway prior to the start or at the end of the day.
- The gymnasium will NOT be open for free-time activities.
- Students in grades 9-11 will need to report to a designated Study Hall if they have a spare in their timetable. This information will be shared on their first day of classes.
- There will be NO microwaves available for any student use.
- There will be NO hot water or food utensils available for instant noodles or soup.
- Pizza Friday's will commence in October.
- Extra-curricular activities will resume for practices and skill development sessions.

## **SELF-ASSESSING**

COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Most infected people will develop mild to moderate illness and recover without hospitalization.

### **Most common symptoms:**

fever  
dry cough  
tiredness

### **Less common symptoms:**

aches and pains  
sore throat  
diarrhea  
conjunctivitis  
headache  
loss of taste or smell  
a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes

### **Serious symptoms:**

difficulty breathing or shortness of breath  
chest pain or pressure  
loss of speech or movement

Seek immediate medical attention if you have serious symptoms. Always call before visiting your doctor or health facility.

People with mild symptoms who are otherwise healthy should manage their symptoms at home. On average it takes 5–6 days from when someone is infected with the virus for symptoms to show, however it can take up to 14 days.

If your child experiences any of these symptoms they are to remain home. If a child becomes sick while at school, they will be brought to an isolation area until parents or approved guardian picks them up. PLEASE plan and arrange for a friend or family member that lives in close proximity to the school to pick up your child, in the event you are unable to do so.

# **PROCEDURES IF COVID CASES SHOULD OCCUR WITHIN THE SCHOOL SETTING**

All schools in the province will be notified by Manitoba Public Health if there is a COVID-19 case within our environment. At that point, the investigation and contact tracing will be done by Manitoba Health. This public health matter does not fall under our education mandate. All information that needs to be shared or any measures taken, will be done by Manitoba Health not GVS or HSD. Notifications will be sent home to parents when Manitoba Health deems it necessary.

## **OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT**

In the event of the confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with a school, public health will lead the response and ensure appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. Contact tracing involves identifying the contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals who may have been exposed.

Public health may:

- request records that identify cohorts/groups of staff, students, volunteers and visitors in the school for a specified time frame.
- contact students, staff and families if they have been in close contact with a confirmed or probable case, and confirm whether they need to self-isolate or self-monitor, and when they can return to school.
- recommend testing following established guidelines to staff, students, volunteers and visitors who may have been exposed to a positive case.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF A CHILD EXHIBITS SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL?**

If a child develops symptoms while at school, the child should be isolated in a separate room. If a separate room is not immediately available, the child needs to be kept at least two meters or six feet away from other children and staff. A medical mask will be provided to be worn by the sick student (over two years of age only), unless there are safety issues that prevent the student from wearing a mask. The parent should be notified to come and pick up the child immediately. Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill. Ask the parent or guardian to contact Health Links-Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or the child's health care provider for direction, if required. If the child is young and requires close contact and care while isolated, caregivers can continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick up the child. Caregivers should be mindful of hand hygiene and avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the child. A medical mask should be worn by the staff person caring for the child. If a parent/caregiver is unreachable to pick up a sick child, school staff should keep the child isolated in a separate room until the parent or caregiver arrives. If the medical condition requires urgent assessment, or if the parent cannot be located, they should follow standard procedures. Anyone in close contact with the child while waiting should wear personal protective equipment, including a medical mask. Once the student is picked up, the staff member should practice diligent hand hygiene. Additional environmental cleaning will be required. Focus should be on high-touch areas and areas where the child spent time. All items (e.g. bedding and toys) used by the child while isolated should be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the child has been picked up. A sick child can return to the school once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that child has a positive test, further direction will be provided by public health.

## **STAYING HOME WHEN SICK**

Individuals should self-isolate and not enter schools or education facilities if they:

- are experiencing symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
- have traveled outside Manitoba in the previous 14 days (outside of areas excluded by public health orders, which currently exclude locations in Western Canada, the territories, and Ontario west of Terrace Bay)
- are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19
- are awaiting a COVID-19 test result (excluding persons tested as part of voluntary asymptomatic surveillance for COVID-19, as they do not need to isolate) An up-to-date list of symptoms can be found at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/about/index.html>. Screening for symptoms is critical to identify any potential cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible before exposure to others. If someone is unsure whether they or their child should be tested and self-isolate, they should be directed to the COVID-19 Screening Tool at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>. All screening that identifies suspected cases of COVID-19 should be referred to Health Links – Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257. Symptom and exposure screening must occur at the start of each day.
- Staff must self-monitor daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Staff who have any symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home, isolate, and be excluded from work. Schools must maintain records of staff absenteeism.
- Schools must communicate that parents and caregivers need to monitor their child daily for symptoms and exposures before sending them to school. Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school or on the bus. Schools can also support children with self-screening upon arrival at school. Signage, with exclusion criteria, must be posted at all entrances to the school. A student or staff member who meets any of the exclusion criteria will not be admitted to the school and will be advised to immediately isolate and consult Health Links – Info Santé or their health-care provider. Those with symptoms should be tested. If the test is negative for COVID-19, they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve. If individuals do not get tested, they should isolate for 14 days from symptom onset, and they may return if symptoms have resolved at that time. A chronic stable cough, sneeze, runny nose or nasal congestion that is unchanged and clearly linked to a known medical condition such as asthma or allergies, is not an absolute requirement for exclusion. As well, children who are crying can exhibit a runny nose. Changing or worsening of chronic symptoms require isolation and contacting Health Links – Info Santé. Staff should exercise judgment based on the symptoms, but when in doubt, err on the side of caution by excluding the child and advising the parent or caregiver to contact Health Links – Info Santé or their health-care provider. Routine screening or monitoring of temperatures with a thermometer or other device to assess for fever is not recommended. Normal temperatures can vary throughout the day and can be different between individuals. It is recommended that parents and staff focus on monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19, as outlined in the Screening Tool and poster at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool>.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

As per Manitoba Health and Manitoba Education, all students attending public schools in Manitoba will be required to wear a face mask at GVS. ALL students K-12 that take divisional transportation MUST wear their masks while on the bus.

GVS Parents are asked to purchase comfortable masks that their children will be required to wear at GVS during transition times, (entering and leaving the school, in the hallways) and when a student can not maintain the 2 metres physical distance during class time or during recess and noon hour.



# PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Physical distancing of a minimum of 1 meter between all individuals should occur whenever reasonably possible.

- GVS will manage the flow of people in common areas, including hallways, to minimize crowding and allow for the ease of people passing through. For example, arrows have been taped to the floor to show staff and students which direction they must walk in. Posters and visual aids will be used to help educate and teach students about the distance they need to keep in different areas of the school.
- GVS has assigned different entrances for different grades. Parents are asked to remind their children to respect all staff and student's personal space. No hugging, or handshaking.
- GVS Staff will also model physical distancing by having our staff assigned to different areas of the school for their breaks and lunch hours.
- Physical barriers can be used, where appropriate, when physical distancing cannot be maintained. This includes plexiglass barriers for high-traffic areas, such as reception desks and check-out counters. These will be frequently cleaned and sanitized for infection prevention and control.
- Fire drills and lock-down requirements will still be done. They will only happen on a per grade basis. The entire school will not practice at once. In the event of an actual fire/lockdown situations, distancing will be practiced, only when safe to do so.

## COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19

Parents are encouraged to check the following websites for updates and for further information pertaining to COVID -19.

For Hanover School Division updates and protocols please go to:  
[www.hsd.ca](http://www.hsd.ca)

For Manitoba Education updates on the latest information regarding COVID, go to:  
[www.edu.gov.mb.ca](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca)

Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools:<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/rss-practice-guidance.html>

For information about health concerns please visit the following links:  
[www.manitoba.ca/COVID19](http://www.manitoba.ca/COVID19)

Caring for your Mental Health:  
[www.manitoba.ca](http://www.manitoba.ca)

School related information, please visit:  
[www.gvs.ca](http://www.gvs.ca)

Please watch this video to help prepare your child for PICTURE DAY:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LevtvXI9I2Q>

# CARING FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

As students return back to GVS, our staff recognize that they have all gone through a rather traumatic experience in the last five months. The social and emotional well-being of our students is paramount. Our teachers and school staff will continue to provide a supportive education model that will help our students transition back to their learning routines.

GVS will have a HSD Social Worker on site for three days a week, to help support the work of our in house Guidance Department.

Our Health Curriculum in grades 5-12 will concentrate on more Mental Health topics, to help support our students with their social/emotional health and growth.

We will continue to follow all Manitoba Health and Manitoba Education protocols and procedures for cleaning and sanitizing high traffic areas, and all learning environments.

## Physical Distancing How to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

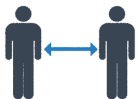
### What does physical distancing mean?

This means making changes in your everyday routines in order to minimize close contact with others.

### Here's how you can practice physical distancing:



Stay home as much as possible, except to get medical care.



Keep 2 arms lengths (6 feet/2 meters) between yourself and others.



Use virtual options to connect with others.



Greet with a wave instead of handshakes and hugs.



Limit contact with others when outside your home.

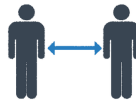
## Stop the Spread of Germs COVID-19 Standard Precautions



Clean your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and water and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact, putting approximately 2 meters distance between yourself and other people.



Stay home if you are sick, use shared health screening tool.



Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hands, then immediately wash your hands.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.