

GRAND VALLEY & DISTRICT PUBLIC

SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2018 INFORMATION

Welcome Back!

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of the entire staff, welcome back to Grand Valley & District Public School! We hope that all our students and families enjoyed a relaxing summer break! We would like to offer a very warm welcome to all families who are new to our community!

Parents are most welcome at the school at anytime, but to ensure the safety and security of our students, we require that visitors enter and exit the school through the main entrance doors. Visitors who will be staying will be asked to sign in before they enter the school. At dismissal time, all parents are asked to wait in the main foyer of the school, or outside, for their children. We appreciate parents or caregivers being ready to receive their children at dismissal time.

Our numbers are growing here at Grand Valley & District Public School. At this time we know that we will be adding 2 new classes to our organization. This re-organization will impact each current classroom in a different way. For each class, this means that the class sizes will be smaller for the time being. We are aware that there will be more houses in the area closing, so over the course of the year we are likely to be welcoming more families to our community.

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you to a brand new school year and we look forward to the many events and rewarding activities that await our students, families and staff.

Newsletters

This year, in an effort to reduce the use of paper in our school, our monthly newsletters and calendar will no longer be sent home, instead all information will be posted on our webpage at <https://www.ugdsb.ca/grandvalley>. There is always important information in the newsletter, so please try to find a few minutes to sit down and read it with your child(ren).

Cash in our school

For safety and efficiency reasons, the Upper Grand District School Board would like to reduce the amount of cash coming into our school. We are asking all parents and guardians to register to pay for school items such as agendas, trips, pizza and milk online. To register please go to the School Cash online homepage www.ugdsb.schoolcashionline.com and select "Get Started Today". It takes less than 5 minutes to register. If you have any questions or difficulties please feel free contact Mrs. Sevensco at the school.

Our Staff

A very special thank you goes to our staff members that have spent countless hours in the summer preparing for the first day of school. Our school organization is as follows:

JK/SK	Mrs. Stratton/ Mrs. Bridger	Resource Librarian.....	Mrs. Kocher
JK/SK	Mrs. Paterson/Mrs. Kopoulos	Core French	Ms. Bryan
Gr. 1/2A	Miss. Little	Planning Time & Kindergarten	Mrs. Scheerer
Gr. 1/2B	Ms. Hill	Educational Assistants.....	Mrs. Wale, Ms.
Gr.2/3A	Ms. Buchta	Office Coordinator.....	Mrs. Sevensco
Gr. 3/4B	Ms. Arndt	Custodians.....	Ms. Morris/Mr. Limbeek
Gr. 4/5A	Mrs. Wheeler	Principal.....	MS. Clarke
Gr. 5/6 C.....	Mr. Paterson	Superintendent	Ms. Heaslip
Gr. 6/7	Mr. Dowdall	Trustee	Mrs. Topping
Grade 7/8A	Mrs. O’Gorman	Child and Youth Worker.....	Ms. Fairfield
Grade 7/8B	Mr. Servos		
Resource Teachers.....	Miss. Butler		
	Ms. Bruce		

Balanced School Day and School Times

Regular attendance and prompt arrival are essential for students to succeed. Please make sure that your child(ren) are aware of the school hours listed below.

8:25 to 8:40	Yard Supervisors on Duty
8:40 to 10:20 a.m.	Opening Bell/Beginning of classes 1 st Instructional Block (100 min)
10:20 to 11:00 a.m.	1 st Nutrition Break
11:00 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.	2 nd Instructional Block (100 min.)
12:40 to 1:20 p.m.	2 nd Nutrition Break
1:20 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	3 rd Instructional Block (100 min.)
3:00 p.m.	Dismissal

Students Grade 6 – 8 will be permitted to leave school property during the second nutrition break only, provided they have parent permission. All students will eat for the first 20 minutes of each nutrition break. The remaining 20 minutes will be spent outside, weather permitting.

Meet the Teacher Night

Please join us on Thursday September 27th for our Meet the Teacher Open House from 5pm – 7pm. The Grand Valley Lions Club will be here to BBQ hot dogs. We look forward to meeting everyone!

Severe Allergic Reactions

We are asking for your co-operation in providing an environment at Grand Valley School that is as **free as possible of peanuts and peanut products**. Please try to avoid sending any items containing peanuts, especially peanut butter. Please call the school if you wish to discuss any aspect of this concern or the resulting request.

Bus Students

A letter reviewing the Bus Code of Conduct will be sent home and we are requesting that you review its contents with your child(ren). Board policy clearly states escalating consequences for students that do not follow the expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Please remember that **we are not able to grant requests to arrange alternate bus transportation for your child.** If you have a specific request for your child to ride an alternate bus, please contact Wellington –Dufferin Student Transportation Services at 519-824-4119. Parents are reminded that for safety reasons, buses can only transport students assigned to ride on them.

Lunch Policy

All bus students and students who eat their lunch at school are expected to remain on school property for the entire nutrition break. Some parents of grade 6-8 students may sign a letter indicating that they grant permission for their child to leave school property at lunch. This signed form will be kept on file in the office and any changes to this will need to be directed to Ms. Clarke.

If you indicate to your child's teacher that your child is to remain at school every day, you will need to provide the office with a note on any one day that this condition does not apply. Only students with a signed permission note for that day will be permitted to leave the grounds. Please note that when students leave school property there is no supervision.

School Council

School Council is an important part of our school and many programs such as pizza, hot lunches and milk would not be possible if they were not co-ordinated and run by parents who are members of school council.

School Council is comprised of parents/guardians, teacher representatives, community partners and school administration. This is an excellent way to keep up-to-date on what's happening at your child's school. We invite all parents to join the School Council. Meetings are held once a month. Executive positions are chosen annually for a one-year term. School Council is involved in, and makes a difference in a child's life. Funds raised by School Council help to pay for student field trips, playground equipment, new books in the library and many other items.

Volunteers play an important role here at GVDPS, but without ongoing parental involvement, many great events or programs will not continue. Please come out to a meeting and participate in a vibrant partnership with the school community.

Check for Head Lice

If your child has been involved in group activities over the summer, please check for head lice. They are common in summer and spread quickly among children who are in close contact with one another. Please check all children under bright lights, parting and lifting strands of hair and looking close to the scalp. The nits (eggs) are sesame seed shaped and are usually found in the fine hair behind the ears, at the back of the head and above the forehead. If one child is found to have lice, please check everyone in the family and notify playmates and babysitters. Students who have head lice will be asked to remain at home until their hair has been treated.

Student Accident Insurance

Parents or Guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises during school activities. Accidents can and do happen, and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial Health Care or employer group insurance plans. The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under the Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

Information will **be sent home beginning on September 11th** with respect to Student Accident Insurance provided by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. You should receive the Director's letter, an Acknowledgment to be signed by parents (and returned to school) and a Student Accident Insurance application form (to be mailed directly to Old Republic Insurance Company). Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada offers a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents or guardian.

Town Safety

Parents are asked to please take a few minutes to review proper safety habits when walking to and from school with their children. We will be encouraging our senior students to set a good example for our younger students. We will continue to have a crossing guard on Main St (in front of the school) during the second nutrition break and students should be directed to use this crossing.

Medication taken at School

It is a requirement of the Ministry of Education that we receive the signature of the parent/guardian **BEFORE** any medication can be administered by school personnel. A form must be filled in by the parent, and then sent to the school office. This applies to both prescription and non-prescription drugs and must be completed on a yearly basis. If you require a Medication Form, please contact Mrs. Sevensco in the office.

Breakfast Program

Our Breakfast Program will again be offered this year to our students. This program provides a number of our students with a nutritious beginning to their day. The breakfast program will begin in early October. We are currently looking for volunteers that can help with our breakfast club program, if you are interested in helping out please contact the school office.

Nutritional Break Supervisors

We are currently looking for substitute Nutritional Break Supervisors. If you would be interested in having your name added to our list, please contact the office. This is a paid position and we would require you on an occasional basis. A police check will also be needed and kept on file.

Agendas

Agendas are being distributed to students for use throughout the 2017-2018 school year. Parents are asked to pay **\$6 per student** to cover the cost of the agenda. Payment can be made through school cash online.

Immunizations

It is important to keep your child's immunization records up-to-date with Public Health. Students who do not have up-to-date immunization records, may be suspended from school. Please report your child's immunizations to Public Health by calling 1-800-265-7293 ext.4396.