

UGDSB TOGETHER

Monthly communications updates from the Upper Grand DSB

Mental Health and Education Week

Mental health and education are connected. We know that classrooms and spaces that foster a positive environment are the soil from which mentally healthy students can grow. May 1-5 is Mental Health and Education Week. MHEW is about building strong foundations of wellness, connections and skills for managing stress. We at the UGDSB are committed to supporting strong and efficient mental health spaces, and dedicated skill building for our students. Stay tuned to the [UGDSB website](#) and [Twitter feed](#) for updates throughout the week!

School & Board Information

Student Attendance at School: Tips and Strategies for Families

In the UGDSB, we know how important school attendance and established routines are for students to build knowledge, skills and confidence. We also recognize that ensuring consistent attendance at school relies on strong home/school relationships and consistent communication.

Every day that a student is absent from school is a lost opportunity for that child or adolescent to learn, build social skills, and receive the benefits associated with the sense of community found within our schools. Chronic or prolonged absenteeism can also result in decreased academic success and related employment prospects later in life. Increased feelings of anxiety following long periods away from school are also common as students begin to worry about their grades, lost credits, catching-up on missed assignments, as well as interactions with their peers who may wonder where they have been.

For students struggling with attendance, the UGDSB offers many supports including access to Attendance Counsellors, Social Workers, referrals to community agencies and support staff in schools, in addition to many ways to ensure students keep connected and on top of their learning for periods when they have to be absent from school.

Please know there are many supports and resources available to you at the school to promote regular attendance with your children. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have questions or concerns. In addition, [please refer to the list on the UGDSB website of home-based practices that can help encourage attendance with your child\(ren\)](#), should attendance issues arise.





Policy Input

The UGDSB is seeking public input on the following board policies:

- [215 Public Concerns](#)
- [501 Out of Area and Out of District Attendance](#)

Please review the draft documents and submit feedback by May 25, 2023.

To view all UGDSB policies, visit www.ugdsb.ca/policy.

News around the UGDSB

John F Ross CVI presents Urinetown: The Musical

John F Ross CVI is pleased to present "Urinetown: The Musical" - a satirical comedy musical that satirizes the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility and more. Performances will be from May 11-13 in Guelph starting at 7:00pm. Tickets for the production can be purchased in advance through School Cash Online or at the door. [Learn more on the UGDSB website.](#)

National Accessibility Week

UGDSB is getting ready for National Accessibility Week (May 29-June 2). It's an opportunity to celebrate the contributions and leadership of those with disabilities, highlight the work being done to remove barriers and reflect on efforts to make our spaces more inclusive and accessible. Students and staff will be engaging in meaningful activities that highlight accessibility barriers and achievements in our school communities and beyond. Follow hashtags #UGAccessibility and #WeAllHaveAbility during National Accessibility Week to see some of the amazing things UGDSB students and staff are doing. [Learn more about National Accessibility Week here.](#)



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