

September 6, 2023

Welcome, Grade 12 students, to your grad year! Please read and share this information with your parents/guardians.

This letter serves as the first important bulletin for Grads, but there will be more information to come later in the year. First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Ms. Lisa Marples, and I have the pleasure of being your Grad Coordinator this year. Together with your elected Grad President(s) and Grad Council, we will try our best to bring our Grad class together in creative ways. It is especially crucial that all grads sign into our GESS Grad 2023 Google classroom to stay informed on everything grad-related this year.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

If you are new to George Elliot, please ensure that your school student "learn" accounts are activated, as I will be using Google Classroom for grad communications. Sign into classroom.google.com and join using the following code: **74ktw7p**

If you are having any trouble joining, please use this link instead:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MjEyNjE4MzgZnJEW?cjc=74ktw7p>

If neither of those options are working, and you are still having trouble joining, please email me at lisa.marples@sd23.bc.ca. Alternatively, you can swing by to see me in rm. 302 (out in the annex).

FIRST GRAD EVENT

Our first grad event is scheduled for September 21 OR 22 at Oyama Zipline Adventure Park. Students will sign up for either Thursday, September 21st or Friday, September 22nd. Permission and liability forms will be handed out soon. They will also be attached to our GESS Grad 2023 website. To attend this retreat on either of the days, your parent/guardian **MUST** attend a **MANDATORY** Zoom meeting on Wednesday, September 13th at 7pm. The link to the zoom meeting is <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/66338858857>.

GRAD COUNCIL

This is a 2-credit course. Alternatively, you can choose to volunteer your time. Meetings will be **TUESDAY MORNINGS** at 7:30, starting on September 12th. Meetings will be held in room 129 (Mrs. McWhirter's room). If you are interested in becoming an active member of this year's Grad Council, please see your counsellor to register for the class, or just show up to volunteer! If you were unsure, but wanted to drop by for the first meeting to get an idea of how Grad Council works, please join us! More information will, as it becomes applicable, be posted on our Google Classroom page, and on the communicator (TV) at school.

GRAD PRESIDENT(S)

Every year, the grad class elects a Grad President(s), who really becomes the key communicator/go to person(s) for the Grad class. If you are interested in taking on this highly respected and visible role, please consider running for this position. We will have a meeting at **LUNCH** on Friday, September 8th in rm. 129 to discuss the process and responsibilities. We will have time for

campaigning in September, culminating with a short campaign speech on Thursday, September 21st (prior to the first day of the grad retreat to Oyama), followed by a VOTE. The Grad President(s) will be revealed on Friday, September 22nd after our Grad breakfast (and before the second day of the grad retreat to Oyama).

GRAD FEES

We have set grad fees at \$125. This fee includes the costs associated with our retreat day at Oyama Ziplines, as well as all fees associated with convocation (cap and gown ceremonies).

EXTRA FEES

Grad Photo sitting for picture orders is \$60 (payable to the photographer at the time of the picture – cash, debit or cheque). This fee is a REFUNDABLE deposit, and/or can be used as a credit towards the purchase of photos. Photos will be scheduled from January 29th - February 9th. There will be a link on the GESS Grad 2023 Google Classroom stream, as well as the Grad 2023 weebly page on the school website, in order to sign up for a time. We strongly encourage EVERY grad to have their photo taken to be included in the composite (hung on the wall). The link will be posted closer to the photo dates.

Other fees will arise throughout the year. If a family needs financial assistance, please contact Mr. Laird, the principal, to have a discussion.

GRAD PARENT/GUARDIAN VOLUNTEER

If any parent/guardian(s) are interested in being involved, please email me at lisa.marples@sd23.bc.ca. We will need help with fundraisers such as drive thru breakfast(s), silent auction collections, decoration for 'prom', etc. Our 2023 Grad Parent committee will be reaching out as well.

On another note, if you have any bottle returns, please take them to the recycling depot on Ocoola Road and let them know the money is for **Dry Grad 2024**. Our Dry Grad Parent committee will use these funds to help offset costs for prom.

COMMUNICATION

Grads may get updates on all activities/reminders by:

1. Joining the GESS Grad 2024 Google Classroom using the code: **74ktw7p**
2. Checking in regularly to the grad website (linked on the main GESS website)
3. Periodic emails from myself

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Thank you. I look forward to sharing your grad year with all of you!

Lisa Marples

GESS Grad Coordinator