

September 8, 2022

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

This letter is the first important bulletin for Grads...but there will be more information to come! First, I would like to introduce myself, Mrs. McWhirter, as your Grad Coordinator for 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 this year.

Login instructions: If you are new to George Elliot, please be sure that your school student "learn" accounts are activated as I will be using Google classroom for grad communication. Sign into classroom.google.com and join using the code: **ikrl7ou**

If you are having troubles, please use this link:

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/69772460?co+GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en>. Please email me jenn.mcwhirter@sd23.bc.ca if you are still having troubles or pop by room 129 for help.

FIRST GRAD EVENT

Our first grad event is scheduled for September 22 **OR** 23 at Oyama Zipline Adventure Park. Students will sign up for either Thursday, September 22nd or Friday, September 23rd. Permission and liability forms will be handed out soon. They will also be attached to our GESS Grad 2023 website. To come with us on the 22 or 23rd, your parent/guardian **MUST** attend a **MANDATORY** zoom meeting on September 15th at 7pm. The link to the zoom meeting is <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/4481924597>

GRAD COUNCIL

This is a 2-credit course, or you can choose to volunteer your time, that will run live starting September 13th with meeting times being TUESDAY MORNINGS at 7:30am. Meetings will be held in room 129. If you are interested in becoming an active member of this year's Grad Council, please see your counsellor to register or just show up! If you want to drop by for the first meeting, just to get an idea of how Grad Council works, please join us. More information will follow on our Google classroom and the communicator 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 September 9th in room 129 to discuss the process and responsibilities. We will have

time for campaigning September culminating with a short campaign speech on September 22nd, followed by a VOTE. The Grad President(s) will be revealed on Friday, September 23rd after our Grad breakfast and before our 2nd day of our grad retreat.

GRAD FEES

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

EXTRA FEES

Grad Photo sitting for picture orders - \$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 3-9th. There will be a link on the GESS Grad 2023 google classroom stream and Grad 2023 weebly on the school website 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 jenn.mcwhirter@sd23.bc.ca. We will need help with fundraisers - drive thru breakfast(s), silent auction collections, decoration for 'prom', etc. Our 2023 Grad Parent committee will be reaching out as well.

COMMUNICATION

Grads may get updates on all activities/reminders by:

1. Joining GESS Grad 2023 google classroom code: **ikr17ou**
2. Checking in regularly to the grad website (linked on the main GESS website)
3. Periodic emails from myself

Parent/Guardian(s) may get updates on all activities/reminders by:

1. Checking in regularly to the grad website (linked on the main GESS website)
2. Periodic emails from myself

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

Jenn McWhirter

GESS Grad Coordinator