OVERVIEW

1) Our School
2) Services and Programs
3) School Timetable
4) Grade 8 Program(s)
5) Clubs and Athletics
6) Advice for new students
7) Important Dates
Welcome to WGSS
Key People

George Kozlovic – Principal

Michelle Wood – Vice Principal (A-G)

Logan Kitteringham – Vice Principal (H-N)

Paul Trattle – Vice Principal (O-Z)

Andrea Ruffo – Counsellor – Grade 8

Kristine Ketter – PAC President
OUR SCHOOL

- WGSS currently has about 1930 students from grade 8-12.
- Dual Track - Regular Program and French Immersion
- 137 International Students
- WGSS is a school of many opportunities for students
- Offer a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular choices and options.
- Amazing staff/awesome students
How do we promote/build a culture of autonomous learning/empower students to take ownership of their learning

- Focus on learning; not grades
  - Assessment - focus on feedback/self-assessment
  - No % at grade 8/9

- Redesign curriculum
  - Focus on skills and building core competencies

- Building positive connections with learners

- Creating Flexible structures/learning opportunities
Website: www.wgss.ca

Email: Please ensure your son’s/daughter’s elementary school has your correct, up-to-date email address!

Synservoice: An automated parent phoning system for attendance and other messages

Gator Gossip: E-Newsletter

Twitter: @sd35wgss

GatorBlocks: Agenda app for Iphone/Android
Gator Blocks is a free scheduling app for iPhone and Android mobile devices that allow students to:

- See their class schedules, times and special days for both the day and week
- Type notes and reminders for later reference
COUNSELLING SERVICES

- Counsellors are available to help students and parents with:
  - Personal Concerns
  - School Concerns
  - Course Selection
  - Career Planning
  - Study/Organizational Skills

- Grade 8 Counsellor - Andrea Ruffo
  - 604-882-0220 - Local 236
  - aruffo@sd35.bc.ca
LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

• Our Learning Support Services Department offers a variety of services to the students of WGSS.

• Department Head - Patsy O’Dell and Kathy Keyworth

• Work with feeder schools in placing students who require academic support in the appropriate program:
  • Foundations
  • Connections Program
  • Gator Aid/Adapted
  • Explorations/Low Incidence
CAREER CENTRE

- The Career Center is available to students and parents for information on career and post secondary planning.

- Located directly across from the Counselling Office.

- Career Advisor - Ms. Christy DeBulnes
  - cdebulnes@sd35.bc.ca
WGSS TIMETABLE

- Linear Timetable
- All students carry 8 courses
- Day 1/Day 2 - four classes each day
- Day 1,3,5,7 - Blocks 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4
- Day 2,4,6,8 - Blocks 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4
- Blocks rotate depending on the day
## WGSS TIMETABLE

**WGSS – Student Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>Subject Room Teacher</th>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
<th>Day 3</th>
<th>Day 4</th>
<th>Day 5</th>
<th>Day 6</th>
<th>Day 7</th>
<th>Day 8</th>
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<th>Subject Room Teacher</th>
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<th>2-2</th>
<th>1-3</th>
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### BELL SCHEDULES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regular</th>
<th>Parent/Teacher Interview</th>
<th>Half Day</th>
<th>Collaboration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome Bell</td>
<td>8:25</td>
<td>8:25</td>
<td>8:25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>8:30 – 9:39</td>
<td>8:30 – 9:37</td>
<td>8:30 – 9:07</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>12:20 – 1:29</td>
<td>12:43 – 1:50</td>
<td>Period 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>1:36 – 2:44</td>
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FLEX TIME

- Flex time built into schedule (class time) - 42 minutes
- Students must be in classroom/learning space
- Working on school work - individually or groups
- Meeting with teachers for extra help
- Make up missed assignments/tests
- Work on passion projects
- Monthly Guided Learning Sessions (GLS)
GRADE 8 REGULAR PROGRAM

• Grade 8 students will be enrolled in a combination of the following classes:
  1. English 8 or English 8 Honours
  2. Social Studies 8
     or Humanities 8
  3. Science 8
  4. Math 8 or Math 9
  5. French 8
  6. PE 8 Boys or Girls
  7. Elective Block 1
  8. Elective Block 2
HUMANITIES 8

- English and Social Studies combined
- One teacher for both subjects
- Have the class every day
- Subjects are blended together
- Projects/assignments cover both subject areas
- Projects tend to be more theme based and hands-on
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>MATH</th>
<th>SOCIAL STUDIES</th>
<th>SCIENCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>FRENCH</td>
<td>ELECTIVE CHOICE</td>
<td>ELECTIVE CHOICE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grade 8 students will be enrolled in a combination of the following classes:

1. English 8 or English 8 Honours
2. Sciences Humanines 8*
3. Francais Langue and Communication 8*
4. Math 8 or Math 9
5. Sciences 8*
6. Education Physique 8*
7. Elective Block 1
8. Elective Block 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>MATH</th>
<th>SCIENCES HUMAINES</th>
<th>SCIENCES</th>
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<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>FRANCAIS</td>
<td>ELECTIVE CHOICE</td>
<td>ELECTIVE CHOICE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYSIQUE</td>
<td>LANGUE (FRAL)</td>
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</table>
GATOR POD 8 PROGRAM

- Gator Pod students will be enrolled in a combination of the following classes:
  1. Gator Pod English 8
  2. Gator Pod Social Studies 8
  3. Gator Pod Science 8
  4. Computers 8 - 2 terms (plus one other term elective)
  5. Math 8 or Math 9
  6. French 8
  7. PE 8 Boys or Girls
  8. Elective Block
GATOR POD 8

Take a Bite out of Learning: Collaborate, Create, Communicate, and Consider Critically

- Innovative, engaging, interdisciplinary program
- Focus on developing skills necessary for success in 21st Century
- Skills - Collaboration, Oral and Written Communication, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Citizenship, Collection of Information, Information Analysis, Effective use of Technology
GATOR POD 8

- Cross-curricular Learning
- Hands-on Learning/Cross-curricular projects/Genius Hour/Learning Outside the Classroom/Gators Den/Terra Simulation

Students in Gator Pod are enrolled in:
- English 8
- Social Studies 8
- Science 8
- Computers 8 (Elective - 2 terms)
Terra Survival Simulation

This ambitious simulation, which runs all year, is the zenith of Gator Pod’s commitment to hands-on and interdisciplinary learning. Students are first presented with an elaborate doomsday scenario and then crash land on a distant ocean planet (ravine behind the school). Students form a government, learn water filtration techniques, practice first-aid, learn about First Contact, and build shelters in optimal locations. It is important to note that the new BC curriculum encourages more learning related to indigenous peoples and we are proud to say that our Terra Simulation allows us many authentic and meaningful opportunities to do just that.
Gators’ Den

One of our most highly anticipated events is our Gators’ Den. Students start by creating a Genius Week Project which must fall under one of the following categories: future career, inventions, philanthropy, or self-improvement. Students then present the project to all four teachers at the end of the year. Students are awarded “Gator bucks” and use this currency to select a prize. Last year’s prizes were in excess of $300 dollars!
Senior Students are Mentors to the Grade 8 Pod Students
GATOR POD 8 - APPLICATION

- Students must apply to the program
- Applications will be given out during school visits
- Applications are due in by Monday March 6
- Students will be contacted to attend interview on Thursday April 6 at WGSS
- Successful applicants will be contacted after the interviews
ACCELERATED MATH

- Students who are working at a grade 8 math level in grade 7 may challenge Math 8 if recommended by their teacher.

- Successful students will be placed in a grade 9 math class.

- Students wanting to accelerate in math by taking Math 9 in their grade 8 year must have a teacher recommendation, submit an application and write an exam at WGSS.
  - Accelerated Math 9 Testing – Tuesday March 7 at 3:00 pm – Room 175
ENGLISH 8 HONOURS

- With a grade 7 teacher’s recommendation, a student may write the English 8 Honours Exam

- Honours English - same skills, but faster paced with more emphasis on critical thinking and analysis

- Students wanting to take English 8 Honours must have a teacher recommendation, submit an application and write an exam at WGSS.
  - English 8 Honours Testing – Monday April 3 OR Tuesday April 4 at 3:30 pm – Room 166
FRENCH 9

- Grade 7 students currently in French Immersion planning to go into English Program
- Advised to select French 9 instead of 8
- Please contact Ms. Ruffo to make the change
- Will be placed in grade 9 class - may or may not be other grade 8 students in that class
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Introduction to a variety of team and individual sports

- Regular Program
  - Separate classes for boys and girls
  - All students required to wear Gator PE Strip
  - Purchased at beginning of school year

- French Immersion
  - Co-Ed - Boys and Girls together
  - Taught “En Francais”
GRADE 8 ELECTIVE COURSES

• Each Grade 8 student will have two blocks of elective courses

• Two types - Grade 8 students must take at least one of each of these:
  • Applied Skills
  • Fine Arts

• Two lengths:
  • Term electives - 3 per block/one each term
  • Full Year electives - 1 per block/full year
APPLIED SKILLS ELECTIVES

- Computer Studies (term)
- Computer Studies (full year)
- Clothing and Textiles (term)
- Foods and Nutrition (term)
- Drafting (term)
- Woodwork (term)
- Electronics (term)
- Metalwork (term)
- Technology (term)
FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

- Art Survey (term)
- Drama Survey (term)
- Art (full year)
- Band (full year)
- Drama (full year)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>MATH</th>
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<th>SCIENCE</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>PE</td>
<td>FRENCH</td>
<td>ELECTIVE CHOICE</td>
<td>ELECTIVE CHOICE</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERM 1</td>
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## All Term Electives

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foods</td>
<td>Woodwork</td>
<td>Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Clothing and Textiles</td>
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## ONE FULL YEAR ELECTIVE

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<td>ART</td>
<td>ART</td>
<td>ART</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELECTRONICS</td>
<td>FOODS</td>
<td>TECHNOLOGY</td>
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## BAND STUDENT

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BAND</td>
<td>BAND</td>
<td>BAND</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRAMA</td>
<td>METALWORK</td>
<td>WOODWORK</td>
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<tr>
<td>TERM 1</td>
<td>TERM 2</td>
<td>TERM 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMPUTERS</td>
<td>COMPUTERS</td>
<td>ART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRAMA</td>
<td>METALWORK</td>
<td>WOODWORK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSES OUTSIDE THE TIMETABLE

- Run before or after school
  - Choir
  - Jazz Band
  - Drumline

- These courses receive a mark and count as a course credit.

- They are not required credits for grade 9
CLUBS AT WGSS

- Humanitarian Club  * ME to WE
- Relay for Life  * STEM
- Green Team  * Global Partnership Assoc.
- GLC - Gator Leadership  * LAC - Library Advisory Coun.
- Student Council  * Debate Club
- PKSS  * Chess Club
- Ultimate Frisbee  * GNN - Gator Nation News
CLUBS AT WGSS continued

- Mountain Bike Club
- Intramurals
- Photography Club
- Toastmasters Internat.
- Cartoon Illustration Club
- WGSS Cosplay Club
- Badminton

* Pride Club
* Robotics
* Duke of Edinburgh Club
* Textiles Club
* Lunch Buddies Club
* E-Sports Club
* Insert your idea here
SPRING MUSICAL
APRIL 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
ATHLETICS AT WGSS

- Fall Season
  - Boys and Girls Volleyball
  - Boys and Girls Cross-Country
  - Boys Soccer

- Winter Season
  - Boys and Girls Basketball

- Spring Season
  - Track and Field
  - Golf
  - Ice Hockey
  - Boys and Girls Rugby
  - Girls Soccer
BEST THINGS ABOUT GRADE 8

- Seeing all your friends!
- Lockers
- Meeting new people
- Variety of courses/electives/choices/different teachers
- Coming to a new school and starting fresh with new friends
- Bigger school
- More freedom/open campus
- School clubs/teams/intramurals
- First Day of school - Becoming One of Us
ADVICE FOR NEW STUDENTS

- Keep work and binders organized
- Do your homework and hand it in on time
- Learn the bell schedule
- Don’t be scared - it is not scary!!!
- Obey hallway traffic rules - stay to the right!!!
- Be yourself and have your own style
- Get to know your teachers in September by speaking up in class.
- Get involved in your school!
- Have fun!
WELCOMING OUR GRADE 8’S

- First Day of School in September - “Becoming One of Us”
  - Only for grade 8’s and new students
  - Orientation/Tour
  - Assigned Lockers

- GQ Ambassadors
  - Group of 6 senior students (grade 11/12) assigned to each grade 8 homeroom class
  - Mentor grade 8’s on first day and all year long
GATOR SHADES PROGRAM

Summer transition program for early connections at WGSS
GATOR SHADES

School related:
- Find your way around school
- Get your locker and keep it for the year
- Get to know some of the staff at WGSS

Social reasons:
- Make new friends
- Go on excursions
- Make a technology project
Gator Shades

- 3 week program:
  - Monday to Friday
  - 9am to 2pm
  - July

Save the dates - Applications coming soon!

For more information contact Ms. Fiola or Ms. Kerr
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeder School</th>
<th>Parent Meeting at WGSS</th>
<th>1st Meeting (Intro/Gr 8 guests &amp; samples, Gr 7 students-all together)</th>
<th>2nd Meeting (Explain &amp; Handout Registrations &amp; meet Admin VP)</th>
<th>3rd Meeting (Entering courses into MyED and Collect Registrations)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Hope</td>
<td>Thursday February 2</td>
<td>Monday February 6th 8:45 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Thursday February 16th 8:45 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Thursday March 2nd 9:00 - 10:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WGSS - 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topham</td>
<td>Thursday February 2</td>
<td>Tuesday February 7th 8:50 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Friday February 17th 8:50 - 10:15 am</td>
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<td>WGSS - 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Kennedy</td>
<td>Thursday February 2</td>
<td>Thursday February 9th 9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Monday February 20th 9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Monday March 6th 9:00 - 10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WGSS - 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Langley</td>
<td>Thursday February 2</td>
<td>Friday February 10th 8:45 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Tuesday February 21st 8:45 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Friday March 3rd 1:00 - 2:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WGSS - 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorothy Peacock</td>
<td>Thursday February 2</td>
<td>Tuesday February 14th 8:45 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Wednesday February 22nd 1:00 - 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Friday March 3rd 9:00 - 10:15 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>WGSS - 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordon Greenwood</td>
<td>Thursday February 2</td>
<td>Wednesday February 15th 8:45 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Thursday February 23rd 8:45 - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Monday March 6th 1:00 - 2:15 pm</td>
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<td>WGSS - 6:30 pm</td>
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All course selection forms and forms for accelerated math, English 8 honours and Gator Pod should be handed in to your Grade 7 teacher no later than Monday February 27, 2017.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>1st Visit</th>
<th>2nd Visit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Hope</td>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
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<td>Topham</td>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
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<td>James Kennedy</td>
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<td>Feb. 20</td>
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<td>Feb. 21</td>
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<td>West Langley</td>
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<td>Topham</td>
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## IMPORTANT DATES

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time/Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Course Selection Forms</td>
<td>No later than Monday Feb. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>and Forms for Accelerated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math, English 8 Honours and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gator Pod should be handed in</td>
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<tr>
<td>to your Grade 7 teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 7 ELL Testing</td>
<td>Thurs. March 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gator Pod Interviews</td>
<td>Thurs. April 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accelerated Math 9 Testing</td>
<td>Tues. March 7 3:00 pm Room 175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Honours Testing</td>
<td>Mon. April 3 &amp; Tues. April 4 3:30 pm Room 166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Students need only attend</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one day or the other)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ms. Ruffo - Grade 8 Counsellor at:

604-882-0220 Local 236

aruffo@sd35.bc.ca

Contact the Main Office to book appointments with Counsellors.

You can find this entire presentation at:

www.wgss.ca - under Departments (Counselling)
Welcome To WGSS!

You are our High School Graduates of 2022!