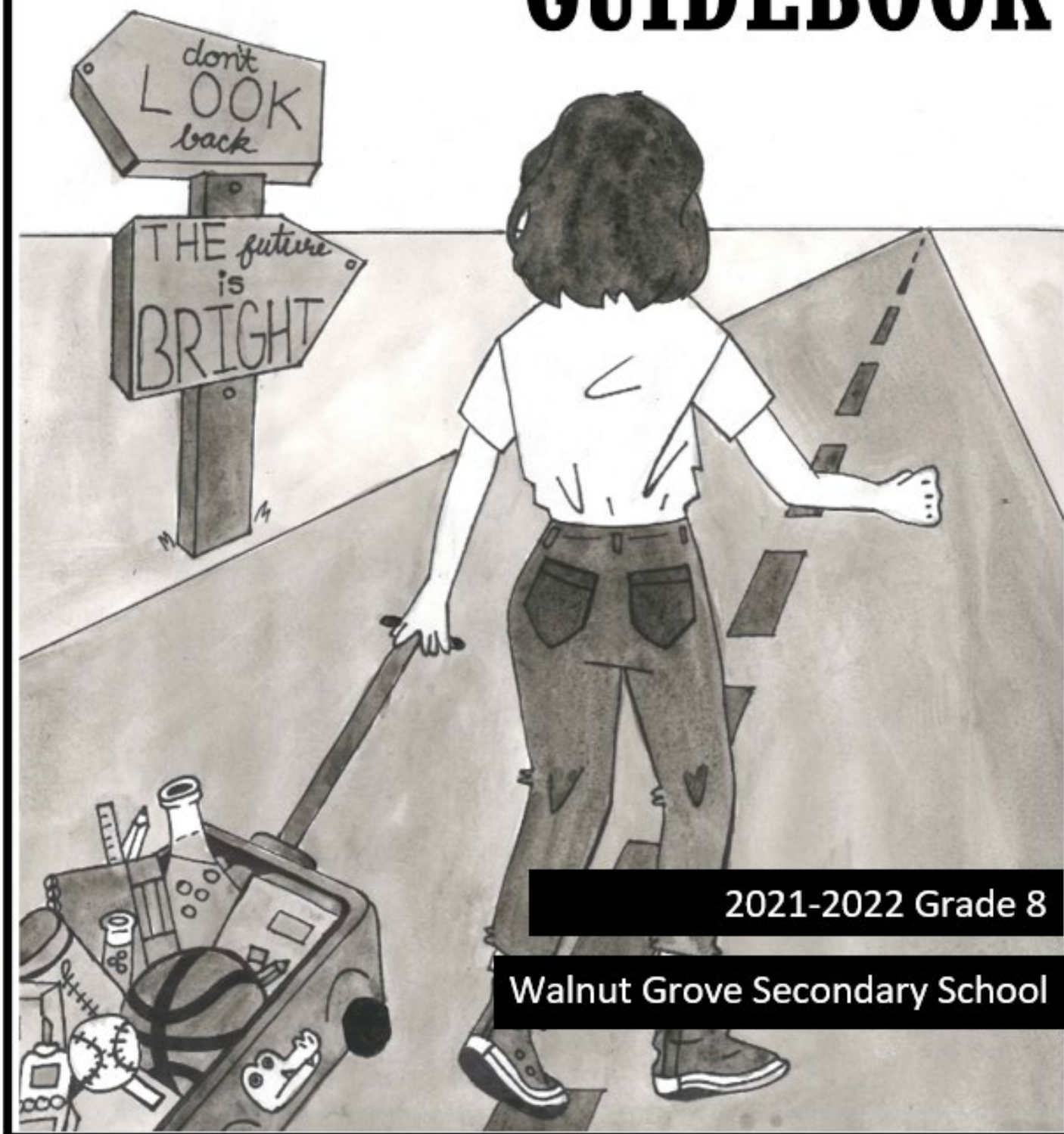


COURSE GUIDEBOOK



2021-2022 Grade 8

Walnut Grove Secondary School

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We are all very excited to welcome you as you join our amazing school. The staff, students, and parents of WGSS make it a place that people love to come to every day.

Walnut Grove Secondary School is one of the most exciting, passionate, and innovative schools in British Columbia. We feel fortunate that we can offer so many exciting opportunities for our students, as one of the largest schools in the Province. We hope that you will use this document to guide you as you make your transition from elementary school to high school. Your success as you move into secondary school is not only based on hard work, but also on choices. We urge you to use this course guide with your parents to plan your Grade 8 year.

Because Walnut Grove is such a large school, we have a comprehensive array of programs and courses to choose from. Our Counselling and Administrative team will answer your course planning questions during our school visits.

This Grade 8 Course Guidebook will assist you with making good decisions. It provides detailed information about the courses and programs that we offer our Grade 8's while also giving you a sense of what your future years at WGSS may look like. The Guidebook also provides you with answers to some frequently asked questions from both students and parents.

We look forward to having you as part of the WGSS learning community!



J. Lyndon
Principal
jlyndon@sd35.bc.ca

Vice Principals: Ms. Elise Rehnby (students with last names **A-G**)
erehnby@sd35.bc.ca

Mr. Logan Kitteringham (students with last names **H-N**)
lkitteringham@sd35.bc.ca

Mr. Sean Juteau (students with last names **O-Z**)
sjuteau@sd35.bc.ca

Counsellor: Ms. Andrea Ruffo (all Grade 8's)
aruffo@sd35.bc.ca

Contact: 8919 Walnut Grove Drive
Langley, BC V1M 2N7
604.882.0220 (phone)
604.882.0557 (fax)

School website: www.wgss.ca
Counselling website: www.wgsscounselling.weebly.com
Twitter: @sd35wgss
Instagram: @walnutgrovesecondary

COMMUNICATION

WEBSITE

Our website, www.wgss.ca, is the first line of up-to-date information for students and parents. Student achievement, special events, and activities are also highlighted. We encourage all students and parents to bookmark and check the school website often for updates.

SCHOOL MESSENGER

Occasionally we send home automated messages via phone and email. Please ensure that your phone number and email address is up-to-date so that you will receive these important updates. For email changes please contact the main office.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

School announcements are posted daily on the MySchoolDay app and are read over the PA every Monday and Wednesday. We do not interrupt classes during the day with student messages; only emergency messages will be delivered by an Administrator.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

The Gator News, our school newsletter, is sent home via email every second Friday. It is also posted on our website.

STUDENT TELEPHONE

A telephone for emergency student use is available in the main office.

MYSCHOOLDAY APP

MySchoolDay is a free app for iOS and Android devices that will help both students and parents keep track of the block order and class schedules. You can also keep track of homework, make other notes in the app, and review daily announcements. Links to MySchoolDay on the App Store and Play Store are on the school website wgss.ca.

MYEDBC

Students and parents each have their own account in MyEdBC. In both accounts you will be able to view student timetable, homework assignments, attendance, and report cards.

1. Go to <https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen>
2. **Login ID:** use your WGSS school student number (not your Ministry PEN #) and a password (you will use the password you used to access MyEdBC when you logged in to complete your course requests). If your account is new, you may have had an account set up with the password Student\$35.
 - a) **Attempts:** You only have three attempts before you may be locked out of MyEdBC. You will then need your password changed (see below).
 - b) **Forgotten or Change Password:** Please use the 'Forgot my Password' link to try to request a reset of your password. If this does not work, please access the MyEdBC Assistance Form, available at www.wgss.ca, top tab *Parent Community* and choose *MyEdBC Help*.
3. Parents have their own MyEdBC account. For more information, please go to wgss.ca, top tab *Parent Community*, choose *MyEdBC Help*, and access our How-To-Guides on the Course Planning page.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WGSS enrolls approximately 2000 students in Grades 8-12 including 145 international students from around the world. Our dedicated staff of 115 teachers, four administrators, and 60 various support staff is committed to the success of WGSS's students. We have an outstanding record of student achievement, provide excellent programs in specialty areas, and offer a wide range of co-curricular activities.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Our hours of operation are as follows:

- Main office 7:45 AM to 3:30 PM
- Attendance voicemail 24 hours (604.882.0220, local 224)
- Library 7:45 AM to 3:30 PM
- Cafeteria lunch service

MAIN OFFICE

The office staff is always ready to assist you from 7:45 AM to 3:30 PM Monday to Friday. Please call 604.882.0220. Please leave messages for teachers via email. A list of all staff email addresses is available on the website under the top tab "Staff Connection."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A comprehensive calendar of events is posted on our website. Please refer to this calendar for school closure dates, early dismissals, bell schedules, etc. Always check the website for the most up-to-date calendar information.

VISITORS

All visitors are required to report to the office upon arrival. Parents should not drop off items directly to classes; please bring items to the main office.

Students may not bring non-WGSS students to our school without prior approval by a Vice Principal at least 48 hours in advance. Generally, 'guests for a day' will not be approved.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

WGSS offers many opportunities for students to be involved in a wide range of clubs. Our website lists the clubs we offer each year and we encourage you to look them up and think ahead as to which one you may be interested in checking out.

Every fall we hold a 'Clubs Day' event and students can visit an information booth and ask questions about Clubs of interest to them – look forward to it!

Our Student Council organizes a wide variety of events throughout the year such as dress-up days, game shows, contests, tournaments, and more. If you are interested in organizing these kinds of events, then you may want to run for election to Student Council!

FAQ'S FOR STUDENTS

HOW DO I GET A LOCKER? DO I NEED MY OWN LOCK?

Each student is assigned a locker and a combination lock is provided. Students are permitted to occupy only their assigned locker. No personal locks (i.e. *non-school-issued locks*) may be used on your main locker. Your combination will be recorded for administrative purposes; otherwise, it should be kept confidential. **Valuables should always be secured with a lock. The school does not take responsibility for the loss or theft of items from lockers.** You are responsible for the condition of your locker and any damage that may result over the course of the year will be charged to you. If you have any concerns regarding your locker or lock, please see Mr. Juteau, our Vice Principal in charge of lockers.

WHAT IF I AM LATE OR ABSENT?

If you are late, you should go directly to class. If you are absent, your parent/guardian must phone the school to excuse you or you may bring a note the next day from your parent/guardian and hand it in at the main office.

WHAT IF I GET SICK DURING THE DAY?

If you get sick, tell your teacher if you are in class or report it to the office. Do not leave the school without telling someone. A parent or guardian will need to call the school or come in the office to sign you out. If you are injured at school, please come to the office for first aid.

HOW CAN I GET SOME EXTRA ACADEMIC HELP IF I NEED IT?

You are invited to attend the Tutoring Centre which will be open for all students two days a week, after school. Free one-on-one tutoring by adult staff is available in Math, Science, English Language Arts and Social Studies. Times and location of the Centre will be announced in September, or you can ask your teacher or counsellor for details. For private individual tutoring outside the school setting at cost, you may find ideas on our website at <http://wgsscounselling.weebly.com/tutors.html>.

WHERE DO I EAT LUNCH?

If you bring your own lunch, in a typical year, you may eat in the Cafeteria, the hallways, or courtyard. You may also buy lunch in the Cafeteria. The menu is awesome, and the prices are reasonable!

WHERE DO I FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON?

School announcements are posted daily on the MySchoolDay app and are read over the PA every Monday and Wednesday. Check the hallways and classrooms for posters and announcements, follow us on Twitter and Instagram, and always check the website.

MySchoolDay is a free app for iOS and Android devices that will help both students and parents keep track of the block order and class schedules.

FAQ'S FOR PARENTS

WHAT HAPPENS IF I NEED TO CONTACT MY CHILD OR DROP SOMETHING OFF FOR THEM?

Students are not allowed to use their cell phones as personal communication devices during class time. In the event of an emergency, please call the main office at 604.882.0220. If you are dropping off an item for your child, leave it at the main office and your child will be paged during a break or at lunchtime.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE GO ON A FAMILY VACATION DURING SCHOOL?

At Walnut Grove Secondary we expect all students to attend all their classes. We recognize that occasionally students must miss class for unavoidable reasons, such as illness, family emergencies or medical and dental appointments. Therefore, parents are encouraged to telephone the school to let us know of student illness or absence.

Every day is important...from the first day of school to the last day of school. Regular and punctual attendance is a crucial responsibility of students and parents. Regular attendance is a significant factor in ensuring success in school. Absence by a student means a missed learning opportunity, which is impossible to regain in its entirety. Time lost from class cannot always be made up through homework. Discussion and explanation are often keys to learning and understanding. Make school attendance a high priority in your home!

Students and parents should connect directly with the teachers of classes they missed to find out what work was covered in their absence.

EXTRA HELP WITH SCHOOLWORK IS AVAILABLE!

Students are invited to attend the Tutoring Centre which will be open for all students two days a week, after school. Free one-on-one tutoring by adult staff is available in Math, Science, English Language Arts and Social Studies. Times and location of the Centre will be announced in September, and/or you can ask your son or daughter's teacher or counsellor for details. For private individual tutoring outside the school setting at cost, you may find ideas on our website at <http://wgsscounselling.weebly.com/tutors.html>.

WHAT IF MY CHILD FAILS A COURSE?

Students are promoted or failed by course, not grade. The failed course must be repeated in Grade 9 (the next school year) or at summer school. If a student fails English Language Arts 8, s/he/they will be reassigned to Grade 8, although s/he/they may be taking Grade 9 courses the next school year.

WHAT ABOUT SUMMER SCHOOL AS IT IS CURRENTLY ORGANIZED?

The Langley School District provides some full credit and remedial courses through Summer School, though not all courses are available. Information about Langley Summer School will be available in late April at <https://www.sd35.bc.ca/schools/summer-session/>. A student must have met a reasonable number of the learning outcomes and be recommended by their classroom teacher and counsellor. The full credit courses are full grade courses; the remedial courses are pass (the highest mark that can be achieved is 60%) or fail only.

HOW WILL I KEEP AN EYE ON MY CHILD IN HIGH SCHOOL?

Parents of children making the transition from elementary to high school will likely begin to notice changes in feelings of independence in their children. This is natural but should not be mistaken as a reason to become detached from their child's schooling. Get to know your child's timetable and teachers' names and keep a copy of their timetable at home. Better yet, download MySchoolDay! MySchoolDay is a free app for iOS and Android devices that help you keep track of the block order and your child's class schedule. Links to MySchoolDay on the App Store and Play Store are on the school website wgss.ca. All parents are encouraged to attend "Meet the Teacher" night in September.

The best way to contact a staff member at WGSS is through email. Email addresses are on our website under the top tab "Staff Connection." Talk to your child about their classes, friends, and activities. If you are concerned about academic progress, please email or phone your child's teacher.

Alert school personnel if you become aware of problems at school or problems that are otherwise out of your immediate control.

You should first discuss the problem with your child and if necessary, seek assistance from the classroom teacher. If further discussion is needed for resolution, you are encouraged to contact the Grade 8 counsellor, Ms. Ruffo, at aruffo@sd35.bc.ca.

It helps to know what's going on behind the scenes as well. Please join us for parent/teacher interviews, visit teacher websites, sign up for email, and read our newsletter. The PAC always welcomes new parents at their monthly meetings.

HOW DOES MY CHILD KEEP THEIR PERSONAL BELONGINGS SECURE?

Your child can avoid being a victim of theft by leaving money and valuables at home, using only the assigned school lock for their locker, keeping their combination confidential, and not leaving belongings unlocked in the PHE change rooms. Cell phones are the most common item reported stolen so be particularly conscious of this. Report lost or stolen items to the office immediately in the hope they will be found and turned in, but please understand that the school cannot replace missing items.

HOW DO I PAY FOR MY CHILD'S STUDENT FEES?

Student fees and other school costs can be paid by parents using our secure online system, <https://sd35.schoolcashionline.com/>. More information is available on our website under top tab *Our School, Pay Your School Fees*.

HOW DO I PURCHASE PHE STRIP FOR MY CHILD?

All students in Grade 8 must wear school issued Gator PHE strip for all PHE classes. This allows students to be easily recognized when doing loop runs or participating in outdoor PHE classes. WGSS offers parents high quality Gator shorts and t-shirt for \$20 that can be paid along with student fees at the start of the school year. Students will receive PHE strip from their PHE teacher by bringing their student fees receipt to their PHE teacher in the first week of school.

WGSS IS SO BIG; I'M NERVOUS ABOUT MY CHILD GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE "WRONG CROWD"

Teen years are difficult ones for many kids and parents; however, if communication has been good to this point, there is no reason to be concerned that it will change. Your children will meet all sorts of new people. Stay involved by asking for surnames, addresses and phone numbers. Ask the 'new' friends over and get to know their parents. If there is a social event, make sure there is appropriate supervision. Know what is happening, how your child is getting there and home, and at what time. Emphasize that your main objective is ensuring safety and well-being. WGSS is a large high school with a large group of caring staff members to help watch over your child's well-being.

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD DO IF S/HE/THEY IS BULLIED OR WITNESSES OTHERS BEING BULLIED?

Let an adult at the school know immediately. At WGSS harassment is unacceptable behaviour that will not be tolerated. We believe that all students have the right to be educated in an environment that is free of any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination. Students should tell an adult that they trust, like a teacher, counsellor, or an administrator. Staff members are trained in detecting bullying and dealing with reports or incidents of bullying. Students' privacy will be respected.

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS RELUCTANT OR REFUSES TO GO TO SCHOOL?

Inform the school that this is, has been, or is becoming a problem. Set the expectation at 100% attendance in all classes for your child from the very beginning of the school year. Research increasingly shows that avoidance increases anxiety and lessens coping skills. Teens need to 'step into the situation' (L. Lyons) with a plan in place to build resiliency.

DO: react immediately and keep the message consistent: You will go to school. If s/he/they is not at school, home needs to not be overly comfortable with readily available WiFi and technology. Establish a way to make getting to school enjoyable such as the buddy system or a favourite stop on the way once or twice per week. Work as a team with the school. Seek outside counselling for support early on.

DON'T: give mixed messages by giving in sometimes or excusing your child from school. An unexcused absence or late should not be called in and should stand alone as an absence or late. Don't excuse them from certain courses or activities; work with the teacher, counsellor and VP to problem solve. Don't ask for a change of teacher or classes; work with the adults in the building to teach your son/daughter awareness of ways to manage difficult situations for future situations.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have more questions, please call the office and they will direct your call to the appropriate person. You may also email or call the Grade 8 counsellor, Ms. Ruffo, aruffo@sd35.bc.ca.

SERVICES AND RESOURCES

COUNSELLING SERVICES

Grade 8 Counsellor

Ms. A. Ruffo

604.882.0220, local 236

aruffo@sd35.bc.ca

Our counsellors are available to provide you with a variety of resources to meet your needs:

- Help with personal concerns
- Help with academic concerns
- Study and organizational skills
- Course selection

Students should ask at the main office or Counselling Centre the updated way to make appointments. Right now, students are making individual counselling appointments through Teams. This process can change, however, when circumstances with our timetable change.

Parents can call the main office or Counselling Centre to ask how we are currently booking appointments.

YOUTH CARE WORKERS

WGSS has two Youth Care Workers who work out of room 121 providing support to students struggling academically, socially, emotionally, or behaviourally in their high school years. The Youth Workers can provide individual support to help reduce anxiety and assist students as they settle into their new routine. If you feel your teen would benefit by connecting with our Youth Care Workers, contact the Grade 8 counsellor to advise you as to how to make this happen.

COMMUNITY YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

Youth Unlimited partners with our school to offer additional support. Find out more about this organization at www.youthunlimited.com or ask the school for information.

LIBRARY

In September, all Grade 8 classes attend a library orientation to explore the physical layout of the library, learn about its resources and expectations for use, practice how to access the computers, and become familiar with the library website www.wgsslibrary.ca. WGSS Library provides a bookable podcast studio and editing software for students to create their own broadcasts. The library also hosts a number of clubs including a games club for table-top card and board games meeting daily at lunch and after school.

The WGSS Library has an extensive and current collection of fiction, non-fiction, and graphic novel titles, as well as some novels and non-fiction books in French. The library is open every day and students are welcome to use the facilities before school, at lunch, and after school. Assistance is always available from our teacher librarian and library technician.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The department of Student Support Services offers a wide variety of supports for students with learning difficulties and/or special needs. Placement is by referral, assessment and/or recommendation. A flexible approach is taken to facilitate individual needs. Levels of support could include as-needed support by a case manager, access to resource room support for tests or assignments on a drop-in basis, or a scheduled support block as part of the timetable.

Resource support is a team-based approach for designated¹ or LA (Learning Assistance) students, in Grades 8-12 who require additional academic or socio-emotional support in order to be successful. These classes are designed to build the foundational skills for student success of organization, executive functioning, communication, self-regulation, study skills and academic support.

An important objective of the student support services is the inclusion of students, as far as is practicable, in regular school programs. Students with special needs can graduate in the traditional manner² and will be awarded graduation credentials based on their particular program(s) of study.

For specific questions please contact Sabrina Block, sblock@sd35.bc.ca or Patsy O'Dell, podell@sd35.bc.ca, the Co-Department Heads.

¹students with an official ministry of education designation (LD, ASD, PD/CHI etc.) which has been confirmed by the school district.

²students with special needs graduate in the traditional manner by either:

- meeting provincial graduation requirements and learning outcomes and graduating with a Dogwood Diploma.
- meeting the education goals stated in their individual education plan (IEP) and graduating with an Evergreen school completion certificate.

RESOURCES FOR SUCCESS

SOME IMPORTANT STEPS TO SUCCESS

1. USE YOUR AGENDA & KEEP TRACK OF YOUR HOMEWORK!
 - Record all homework in your agenda.
 - Know the criteria and due dates of all assignments. Check with your teachers for clarification. Check your teacher's website.
 - Get a "study buddy". If you are absent, check in with a classmate, and then your teacher as soon as you return.
 - REMEMBER, keeping track of your homework is your responsibility!

2. USE MYSCHOOLDAY APP!
 - MySchoolDay is a free app for iOS and Android devices.
 - MySchoolDay helps you keep track of the block order and your class schedule.
 - You can add homework or important notes into the app.
 - Links to MySchoolDay on the App Store and Play Store are on the school website (<http://www.wgss.ca>).

3. DEVELOP GOOD WORK HABITS!
 - Have a regular homework time. Develop a consistent routine.
 - Study for exams and review the material regularly.
 - Keep your binders organized.
 - Work on projects in small chunks of time. **DO NOT** wait until the last minute.
 - Choose to study smarter.

4. RESPECT DEADLINES!
 - Keep track of assignments and hand them in on time.
 - Use a calendar or agenda to keep track of due dates.
 - Ask your parents to help you with your time management.
 - Plan your homework time around your other activities.
 - Consider staying after school to get things completed and handed in.
 - Whatever you do, make sure you have a plan that works for you!

5. ASK FOR HELP!
 - If you need help, ASK your parents, your teachers, a School Counsellor, a Youth Care Worker, a GQ Ambassador, or a friend.
 - If you need a tutor, you can get a list from the Counselling Centre.

6. FREE TUTORING

- You are invited to attend the Tutoring Centre which will be open for all students two days a week, after school. Free one-on-one tutoring by adult staff is available in Math, Science, English Language Arts and Social Studies. Times and location of the Centre will be announced in September, or you can ask your teacher or counsellor for details.

7. TUTORS

- For private individual tutoring outside the school setting at cost, you may find ideas on our website at <http://wgsscounselling.weebly.com/tutors.html>

BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP

We are very excited to expand upon the Digital Learning that our students have been doing over the past year. For the 2021-2022 school year we are looking forward to having a Bring Your Own Laptop program in place for Gator Pod, French Immersion and for a selection of our Grade 8 English stream students.

These programs provide students with the opportunity, at the teacher's discretion, and with parent support, to use personal laptop computers to support learning in the classroom. We believe that the use of digital technologies to enhance student learning is a key part of preparing students for lifelong learning. The teachers of this program work cooperatively to plan, organize, and teach our students. The technology will be integrated into the classroom to help bring real-world experiences into the classroom.

Benefits of Bring Your Own Laptop:

- Enhanced opportunities to learn appropriate digital communication and citizenship skills
- Additional opportunities to create digital projects
- Access to assistive technology (e.g. speech to text)
- Ability to collaborate during class time on digital documents
- Utilizing online tools
- Improved access to online resources and digital tools
- Easy access to Office 365 and Microsoft Teams

DEVICE RECOMMENDED FOR STUDENT BYOL

We recommend that the laptop has the following minimum specifications:

Supported Hardware:

- Minimum screen size: 9.8" and up
- Hard drive size: 128 GB
- Keyboard
- Wi-Fi: 802.11 n/ac and up

Supported Operating Systems:

- Windows 10 version 1903 and up
- OSX 10.13 and up
- IOS 11 and up

Please note that expensive laptops are not needed. No purchased software is required as the District uses Microsoft Office and all our students have full access to Office 365 online.

A small number of District provided laptops will be available for those families who would like to take part in these programs but are facing financial hardship. We do not want any students excluded from these opportunities due to financial need. If a family is not able to provide their own laptop, please contact Sean Juteau, WGSS Vice Principal at sjuteau@sd35.bc.ca to arrange for an alternative. Students borrowing District laptops are responsible for damage and loss and will be assessed accordingly for repair and/or replacement.

GRADE 8 SCHEDULE

COURSE SELECTION

Please make sure you:

- View our information and instruction videos online under *Presentations*.
- Fill in the Grade 8 Course Planning form and submit it to your Grade 7 teacher by Friday, February 26, 2021.
- Enter your course selection into MyEdBC online by Sunday, February 28, 2021.
- Read our How-To-Guides on our Course Planning page if you have questions about entering courses online or MyEdBC log-in.
- Apply for any of our specialty programs you may be interested in.

WHAT COURSES DO I TAKE?

1. English Language Arts 8, English Honours 8 or Humanities 8
2. Social Studies 8 or Humanities 8 or Science Humaines 8 (French Immersion)
3. Mathematics 8 or Mathematics 9
4. Science 8 or Sciences 8 (French Immersion)
5. PHE 8 or EPS 8 (French Immersion)
6. French 8 or Francais Langue 8 (French Immersion)
7. Elective Rotation
8. Elective Rotation

PLEASE NOTE:

- Students in Gator Pod or Band will only get one elective rotation
- Students with Learning Services Support will take Resource in place of French or an elective rotation in consultation with the Counsellor and Resource Department.
- Gator Pod, Math 9 and English Honours all have a selection process.

Please note admittance to the following courses depends on department criteria for eligibility and number of spaces.

**ELA 8 Honours writing assessment will be held at WGSS
on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 3:30 PM in room 166.**

**Gator Pod application forms are due at WGSS by Friday, March 5, 2021.
Gator Pod interviews will be held at WGSS on Thursday, April 22, 2021.**

Math 8 challenge exam will be held at WGSS on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 3 PM in room 175.

PROGRAM AND COURSE OPTIONS

BYOL

Students in the English stream have the option to select Bring Your Own Laptop on their application form this year. BYOL students will utilize their laptops in their core academic classes this year. Further information can be found above. Gator Pod and French Immersion are both BYOL programs so students do not need to indicate their interest on the application form.

MATH 9

Students who have strong work habits and ability in mathematics and wish to accelerate their study at WGSS have the option of enrolling directly in Mathematics 9 in their Grade 8 year. S/he/they must write the math challenge assessment. There is also an application form and teacher reference that must be completed. Both forms are available on our website.

ELA 8 HONOURS

This course provides enrichment for talented students. Students will have opportunities to express their creativity and imagination through a wide variety of strategies and choice of topics. Individualized assignments and projects are a feature of this course. **All** applicants are required to complete a writing assessment and need a recommendation from their Grade 7 teacher.

MATH 9 & ELA HONOURS ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

Candidates will be selected based on recommendation by the teacher of a previous related course and permission of the subject department. The final determination of student placement in these programs resides with the Administration.

HUMANITIES 8

This course combines English Language Arts 8 and Social Studies 8. Reading and writing skills are closely integrated in the historical context of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and the Age of Exploration, including early contact between the French and English with the indigenous people of Canada. Small group activities and judgement activities will lead off the year followed by individual and group work featuring hands-on activities. This specialized examination of history leads to a deeper understanding and appreciation for historical concepts and themes while at the same time developing critical thinking, geography, media, poetry, paragraph writing, the mechanics of writing, and short group-based class presentation skills. This course does not have a selection process.

FRENCH 9

French Immersion students who choose to switch to the English track for Grade 8 are encouraged to take French 9. Please check the box on the course selection form to indicate former Immersion student or contact Ms. Ruffo, aruffo@sd35.bc.ca.

PHE 8

Students in the English stream may choose between Boys, Girls or Co-Ed PHE class. We will do our best to accommodate the request, but the selection is not guaranteed. All students in Grade 8 must wear school issued Gator PHE strip for all PHE classes. WGSS offers parents high quality Gator shorts and t-shirt for \$20 that can be paid along with student fees at the start of the school year. See page 9 for more details.

GP 8: GATOR POD 8

Gator Pod is an innovative, engaging, and interdisciplinary program that encourages students to develop the skills necessary for success in the 21st century: critical thinking, collaboration, effective use of technology, oral and written communication, and information analysis.

In Gator Pod, students work with a team of four teachers with specialties in Social Studies, English Language Arts, Science and Computers (as a full year elective). Students engage in inquiry-based learning wherein they take initiative and responsibility in many aspects of their learning, while reinforcing the essential skills listed above. Students can expect regular access to technology to help support and inspire their learning. Please note that Gator Pod is a Bring Your Own Laptop program. See page 15 for more details.

Gator Pod is built upon the notion that students are engaged and empowered by their own passions and hands-on learning. Students can look forward to many student-centered tasks such as Caine's Arcade, Genius Week, Terra Outdoor Survival Simulation, Build Your Own Viking, Amazing Race, and Gators' Den.

The Gator Pod program has a limited enrollment capacity. As a result, students will have to meet certain criteria and go through an application and interview process. Application forms will be available during course planning and are due back by **Friday, March 5, 2021**. Interviews will be held on **Thursday, April 22, 2021** at WGSS. The Gator Pod program is open to students of all ranges of academic abilities. The program is, however, designed for students who possess certain personal and learning qualities. The final determination of student placement in Gator Pod resides with the Administration.

Who would thrive in this program?

- Students who enjoy working collaboratively with their peers.
- Students who demonstrate leadership skills.
- Students who are keen to hone their skills in computer technology.
- Students who show initiative in their own learning.
- Students who have an interest in enriching their community.
- Students with strong organizational skills.
- Students who want to learn oral presentation skills.

For more detailed information please explore our brochure or visit our website: <http://www.wgss.ca/gatorpod>

Students who enroll in Gator Pod 8 will receive credit for English Language Arts 8, Social Studies 8, Science 8, and Computers (full year). Students who wish to apply to English Language Arts 9 Honours or Science 9/10 Honours will have the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to do so while in the Gator Pod Program.

ELECTIVES

ELECTIVE ROTATION

All Grade 8 students receive elective rotations that give them a taste of the course options available to them in future grades. Each elective rotation offers experience in four different electives. Most students will receive eight different experiences over the course of the year. The elective rotations could include any of the following courses: Art, Drama, Foods, Woodwork, Drafting, Metal Work, Electronics, Computers, Textiles

BAND 8

Prerequisite: Elementary Band or permission of instructor

Building on previous musical experiences, emphasis is placed on the teamwork of playing in a larger ensemble, yet still concentrating on individual skill development. A variety of musical styles (eg. concert, pop, rock) will be presented and performed throughout the year. Folder Cost is \$20. Music costs may include concerts, festivals, and trips. Students will be expected to pay a uniform cleaning fee to the Music Parents' Association (cost TBA).

JAZZ BAND 8

Prerequisite: Band 8 co-requisite/permission of instructor

Jazz Band 8 is an extended day course, designed to introduce the student to jazz through listening and playing its various forms: swing, blues, funk and jazz-rock; to introduce and apply basic jazz improvisation theory and skills; introduce the student to jazz literature; and give the student opportunities to perform publicly both as a soloist, and as a member of the ensemble. Music costs may include concerts, festivals, and trips. This is an extended day course and is offered outside the timetable. Students will be expected to pay a uniform cleaning fee to the Music Parents' Association (cost TBA)

CHOIR 8

The students in this course will be members of the Walnut Grove Choir. Traditional choral music in many styles will be studied and performed. Emphasis will be placed on developing the healthy singing voice, music literacy and ear training. The Choir will participate in regular Music Department concerts, community concerts, festivals, competitions, and concert tours. Music costs may include concerts, festivals, and trips. This is an extended day course and is offered outside the timetable. Enrollment in the Choir or Chamber Choir is a prerequisite for membership in Jazz Choir.

CAREER EDUCATION 8

In Grade 8 students explore concepts such as identity, leadership, personal planning, and transferable skills. As students build on the foundation developed from their experience in K-5, they begin to explore in greater depth their skills and passions and begin to determine possible routes to their goals. The concepts started in Career Education 8 will build toward the knowledge needed to start the Capstone project in Grade 10. Students will continue to collect artifacts of learning for their Capstone as well.

Career Education 8 is embedded in Grade 8 elective courses at WGSS.

FRENCH IMMERSION

Students in French Immersion take four courses throughout the year as a part of the program. The courses are: Francais Language, Sciences Humaines, Sciences Naturelles and Education Physique et Sante. French Immersion students are still able to apply for Math 9, English Honours and can take Band.

Please view the French Immersion video on our website.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Our **English Language Learning** classes are designed to ensure our students have the support they need to become more proficient in reading, writing, and communicating in English. We test all our ELL students to make sure they are placed in the right support level. ELL testing for the 2021/2022 school year will take place between April 19-21, 2021 in the library at WGSS. Current Grade 7 students may be tested at their current school and test results will be sent here. We look at comprehension skills, vocabulary, and writing skills. At that time, a student may test out of the ELL program based on their mark for the combined ELL tests given. Each student is assessed on their individual effort.

At Walnut Grove Secondary, students are not required to take all our ELL courses listed below. Each student is assessed independently through the ELL testing procedure as well as on their performance in their regular classes. The ELL program is a placement program; students will be enrolled in the classes that best support his/her/their educational needs.

DESCRIPTIONS OF ELL COURSES AVAILABLE FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS

Beginner (Level 1) and Developing (Level 2)

ELL BEGINNER COMMUNICATIONS - ENGLISH (XAT--00---EN)

This course is designed to introduce ELL students to the four main English language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. It also encourages the viewing and representation of materials. The course focuses on developing strategies needed to read, write, and extract information successfully in English.

ELL BEGINNER COMMUNICATIONS – SOCIAL STUDIES (XAT--00---SS)

This course is designed to introduce ELL students to the skills required for success in Social Studies. It is designed to extend a student's ability to use various learning strategies to meet the learning outcomes and core competencies in Social Studies courses. Skills include historical perspective, historical significance, continuity & change, primary sources, and cause & consequence. All content will be adapted to the appropriate ELL level for students.

ELL BEGINNER COMMUNICATIONS - SCIENCE (XAT--09---SC)

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn about major fields of science with language adaptations. Students will look at the characteristics of life, cellular respiration, climate change, atomic theory, matter, properties of sound and light, and major geological events. While exploring these big ideas, students will learn the scientific skills of questioning, predicting, and analyzing data to prepare students for regular grade level Science classes. Topics such as biology, chemistry and physics will be adapted from the regular Grades 8 and 9 Science courses.

ELL BEGINNER COMMUNICATIONS – ORAL LANGUAGE (XESL-09)

The ELL Oral Language course prepares English Language Learners for daily conversations and oral presentations in the classroom. Speaking English takes practice, and many ELL students are nervous about speaking in public because of errors in pronunciation. This class addresses pronunciation and provides much needed opportunities to practice verbal speaking in a safe and comfortable environment.

Expanding (Level 3)

ELL ACADEMIC LANGUAGE – ENGLISH (YESFL0C)

This course is designed to enable ELL students to extend the four main English language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in content areas. The focus is on expanding the strategies needed to read, research, and write successfully in English for academic success.

ELL INTRODUCTION TO SCIENCE 10 (XAT--00---SC)

This course prepares students for regular Science 10 classes. The focus is on developing reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills related to science content. Topics such as biology, chemistry and physics will be adapted from the regular Grade 10 Science courses. Upon completion, the teacher may decide the student is strong enough to receive Science 10 credit.

Consolidating (Level 4)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT 8/9 (XAT--00---LD)

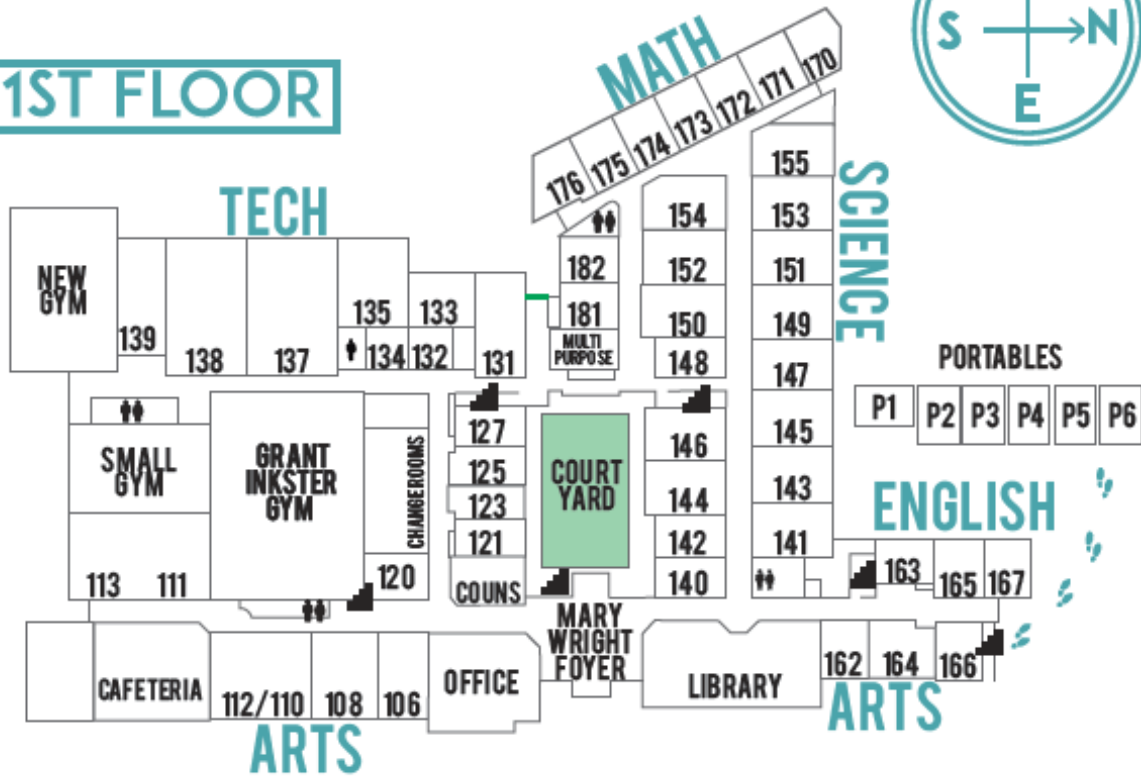
This course is designed for Grade 8 and 9 ELL students who are enrolled in regular academic courses but require further academic support. It is designed to improve student's knowledge base and increase comprehension and writing skills needed to become fluent in the English language. Emphasis will be on the use of study strategies, building on key academic concepts, and increasing the foundation of reading and writing skills.

WALNUT GROVE

S E C O N D A R Y



1ST FLOOR



2ND FLOOR





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