

*Mr. C. Lawson
Mr. P. Bernard
Ms. L. Ego
Mr. T. Gibbs*

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful summer together.

I want to welcome everyone back to school and give a special welcome to our new incoming grade 9 students as well as any other new students to G.W. Graham Secondary School. Also, a special welcome back to our grade 12 students, and I wish you all the best for a wonderful graduation year.

I would like to welcome the following new staff to our G.W. Graham Grizzly family:

- Mr. Archer – English and Philosophy Teacher
- Mr. Bernard – Vice-Principal
- Ms. Dick – Science Teacher (joining us in the second semester)
- Mr. Hetland – Science Teacher
- Mr. Ostlund – Resource Teacher
- Mr. MacFarlane – English Teacher
- Mr. Miller – Mathematics Teacher
- Ms. Olafson – Learning Assistance and Career Education Teacher
- Ms. Powell – English Teacher
- Ms. Stafford – Home Economics Teacher
- Mr. Stevens – Science Teacher
- Mr. Sutherland – Science Teacher
- Ms. Vallely – French Teacher

We have been working hard this summer on planning for the 2020/2021 school year, and I am pleased to be able to share the plan with you. I am aware that these uncertain times, along with announcements from the Ministry of Education, as well as hearing some tentative plans from other school districts leaves you guessing at how the school year will look for G.W. Graham Secondary School. Our school administration team has been working with the secondary school administration teams from Sardis Secondary and Chilliwack Secondary to come up with an overall plan for all secondary schools in the Chilliwack School District. We have worked closely with our District Health and Safety Team, and are now going over site specific protocols with the G.W. Graham Health and Safety Team. We are working with the entire G.W. Graham staff and going over many details to ensure that all students are supported with excellent learning opportunities this year.

The most significant structural change is our move away from the traditional four-block daily schedule for two semesters, to a one-block daily schedule over eight, five-week sections. The one-block daily schedule results in staff and students primarily working in cohorts of 25 – 30 students, well below the 120-student cohort constraint set by the Ministry of Education. We have also sectioned the school into four sections with designated entrances and staggered lunches in order to decrease the number of daily interactions with students and staff. Please read the

*Mr. C. Lawson
Mr. P. Bernard
Ms. L. Ego
Mr. T. Gibbs*

following attached documents to gain a full understanding of the various structures for G.W. Graham Secondary School:

- G. W. Graham COVID-19 Planning
- G.W. Graham Return to School Plan
- G.W. Graham Bell Schedule
- G.W. Graham Counselling Support and Graduation Planning
- The Beginning and End of the School Day
- Food Services
- Health and Safety Protocols

Please check our [school website](#) for regular updates and brief videos designed to build on the information shared in the attached documents. Our overall goal is to ensure that all families clearly understand the new structures we have put in place for the 2020/2021 school year. It is also very important that we include parent and student voices as we go over our plans. We are confident that we have built a thorough plan, but we welcome more voices and involvement in order to establish the strongest plan possible. Please email our clerical team at gwg@sd33.bc.ca and indicate if you are interested in joining us for a Zoom meeting for parents and another Zoom meeting for students. Below are the dates and times for our Zoom meetings:

- Parent Zoom Meeting – Tuesday, September 1st at 7:00 PM
- Student Zoom Meeting – Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 PM

Our Zoom meetings will focus on contributions from parents and students, so we will go with the following format to ensure that parent and student voices are heard:

- Brief introduction from administration to highlight some of the key points shared in our documents and videos
- Parent and Student opportunities to share thoughts or ask questions
- Administration response after listening and recording the ideas and questions brought forward

Thanks in advance for your involvement with making this a great year for G.W. Graham Secondary School.

Sincerely,

Chuck Lawson
G.W. Graham Secondary School - Principal