

2021-22 SCHOOL CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

- 2 Orientation Day for Teachers
- 3 Professional Development (No School)
- 7 Students Begin School
- 17 Terry Fox Walk
- 27 Professional Development (No School)
- 30 Orange Shirt Day

OCTOBER

- 11 Thanksgiving Day
- 22 Provincial Conference Day (No School)

NOVEMBER

- 11 Remembrance Day (no school)
- 12 Assessment & Eval Day (No School)
- 22-25 First Term Report Cards
- 25 Evening Parent-Teacher Meetings
- 26 Parent-Teacher Meetings & Teacher PD

DECEMBER

- 21 Last School Day before Break

JANUARY

- 4 Professional Development (No School)
- 5 Students Return to School

FEBRUARY

- 21 Heritage Day (No School)

MARCH

- 14-18 March Break
- 25 Assessment & Eval Day (No School)

APRIL

- 4-7 Second Term Report Cards
- 7 Evening Parent-Teacher Meetings
- 8 Parent-Teacher Meetings & Teacher PD
- 15 Good Friday
- 18 Easter Monday

MAY

- 23 Victoria Day
- 16-27 NS Assessment Gr.3 Literacy & Math

JUNE

- 29 Assessment & Eval Day (No School)
- 30 Last Day of School

** Parents will be given advance notice of any changes from those listed above.*

Welcome to a new school year! A special welcome is extended to new families and teachers as they begin their first year at Great Village Elementary School. This agenda includes information that briefly explains the school day and procedures. Please take the time to become familiar with school expectations and routines. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the school program, please contact the school.

The agenda allows for daily communication between home and school. Students record information about school activities in the agenda. Each night, parents/guardians are asked to initial the agenda to show that they are aware of assignments and have received information being sent home. Teachers will also check and initial agendas each day.

Great Village Elementary School is a family made up of children, parents, guardians, teachers, and community members. We value the partnership between home and school and strive to make each student's school experience as rewarding as possible. We hope you have an enjoyable year sharing in the education of your child.

SAFE ARRIVAL



Safe Arrival is completed each morning at 8:30 am. **Parents/Guardians are asked to inform the school when their child is going to be late or absent by calling the school and leaving a message on the answering machine.** We have voicemail so call as early as you like. Messages will be checked as soon as possible and calls returned as appropriate. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCHOOL TIMETABLE (8-Day Cycle for Learning)



7:55	Supervision Begins
8:15	Classes Begin
9:15 - 10:30	Recess - 15 Mins/Class
11:45- 12:30	Lunch
2:00	Dismissal

Supervision begins with the arrival of the first bus or at 7:55 am.

Children are better able to learn when they have breaks during the day that allow them to get fresh air and exercise. Unless special circumstances occur, children are outside at recess and noon so they need to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

All students leave school following the 2:00 pm dismissal. There is no supervision after school.



In the event that there is a “storm” day or an unexpected school closure, the Cycle Day will be **skipped**. For example, if Phys Ed is on Day 2 and there is a storm closure on that day, when students return the following day it will be Day 3.

ATTENDANCE

It is important for all students to be in regular attendance and on time for school. Many of the learning experiences that take place in school cannot be sent home to be completed. When a student is absent, he/she misses opportunities and learning experiences that cannot be duplicated. If a student does need to be absent from school, parents are asked to please call the school by 8:15 am to report the absence. We have voicemail so call as early as you like. Messages are checked regularly.

MUSIC

Music days are Day 4 and Day 8. Students will have music in their classroom or at the gym or outside if the weather permits.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students participate in Physical Education on Day 2, Day 4, Day 6 and Day 8. On “gym days” students are asked to wear appropriate gym wear (e.g. short-sleeved t-shirts and jogging pants/leggings or shorts) to allow free movement for gym activities. Indoor sneakers are required at the gym and in the school building. Students are asked to avoid wearing sandals, Crocs®, or heeled footwear on gym days in the event that classes are held outside. It is always a good idea to dress for the weather as gym classes are held outside when possible.

SCHOOL WEBSITE www.gve.ccrce.ca

Our school’s website contains the monthly school newsletter, school calendar, teacher contact information as well as other useful information. Every effort will be made to update this site regularly.

FACEBOOK

Our school has a **Public** Facebook® Page which allows school/community members to see all of the wonderful things happening inside the Grizzly Den!

<https://www.facebook.com/Great-Village-Elementary-100508158463891/>

HOMEWORK

Research has shown that good study habits early in a child’s life will enable the child to achieve a higher level of academic performance. Parents/Guardians are asked to help their child to develop good working habits by:

- ✓ expressing interest in topics being explored
- ✓ helping to practice skills as needed
- ✓ providing encouragement
- ✓ checking that assigned work has been completed

APPEARANCE & DRESS

Students are expected to be neat and clean in their personal appearance and dress. It is important that students dress appropriately for each day’s weather conditions as students play outside at recess and noon.

PEANUT/NUT AWARE

A student at our school has a life-threatening (anaphylactic) reaction when he comes into contact with peanuts, nuts, or products made with peanuts or nuts.



This means that exposure to these products by touch or taste could cause a life-threatening allergic reaction.

Parents/students are asked to check labels for ingredients and to save any products with peanuts or nuts for home. Your efforts to ensure that all our students enjoy a safe learning environment are appreciated. Information about about food allergies can be found at the following website:

<http://foodallergyCanada.ca>

HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES

Well-nourished students are able to concentrate better, remember and apply information more effectively, and are more likely to demonstrate positive behaviors with their friends. Students are encouraged to enjoy a wide variety of healthy food choices with less nutritious items available on a limited basis. Milk is sold for 40 cents and can be purchased on a weekly or monthly basis.

At school, we have a responsibility to promote and support good nutrition so students will develop positive attitudes about food, and appreciate the value of proper nutrition. The Department of Education's "Food and Nutrition Policy" was designed to improve the nutritional health outcomes for all students. This policy applies to all food items served and sold for any school related activity. Students may have a variety of food allergies, and therefore families are asked not to send in special treats for the class from home.

BREAKFAST & SNACK PROGRAM

Again this year, we have received funding to offer breakfast and recess snacks. Students can access these convenience snacks through the "Grab & Go" bin in their classroom or by asking the classroom teacher.

SCHOOL HOT LUNCH

We offer hot lunch approximately twice a month through the school. The dates and menu will be printed on the monthly school calendar. Depending on funding, there may be a small charge for hot lunch

MEDICAL PROCEDURES

Children who are ill should be at home to help prevent the spread of germs. When students return to school, they need to be well enough to participate in a regular school day. Parents are asked to inform the school of any medical conditions that affect students, and if your child should contact a communicable disease.



It is the policy of our Centre for Education that a written request must be made by the parent/guardian for the administration of any prescription or non-prescription medication at school. Completion of the "Administration of Medications/ Medical Interventions Form" is required as well as copies of any written information provided by a pharmacist and/or physician.

Parents/Guardians are asked to check their child's head regularly for the possibility of head lice, and to notify the school if nits and/or lice are found. Once a student has been properly treated for head lice, he/she can return to school. Information on the detection and treatment of head lice is available at the school or through Public Health Services (902-893-5820).



SECURITY

Reasonable precautions are taken to ensure the security of students and staff throughout the school day. During instructional time, the main entrance to the school is locked and all parents/visitors need to use the buzzer for entry to the building. Visitors are asked to report to the office located on the 2nd floor before proceeding to any other area in the school.

TECHNOLOGY & TOYS



Every classroom has computers with Internet access. Students are instructed to be responsible and to visit only appropriate websites.

Care of personal property is the student's responsibility. Therefore, it is recommended that students keep all electronic devices and other items of value at home. Students who choose to bring electronic devices to school must also use them appropriately. No type of electronic recording (e.g. photo, video) is allowed in any school space, including the bus. Games and music must be appropriate for a school setting. To avoid potential conflict around trading, students are encouraged to keep all trading cards/toys (e.g. Pokémon, Shopkins) at home.

PHOTOGRAPHS & PRIVACY

Special events held at the school can be an exciting opportunity to take photos and videos of your child's accomplishments. However, when you capture your child you may also be recording other students who may not want to have their photo/video taken. With that in mind, please be respectful when taking photos. If you choose to post images taken at school events to social media sites, do your best to post only photos and videos of your family, and if other children appear, keep comments kind and respectful.

AFTER SCHOOL TRAVEL

If a student requires alternate bussing other than their regular stop, families are required to contact the Bus Garage at (902) 896-5767. Generally, students are able to have 2 approved stops. One being the 'home' address along with 1 other stop for child care, if required. Students are unable to get off the bus at any other stop or to travel on another bus to "visit a friend". Parents/Guardians should communicate daily through the agenda



to let teachers know if their child is going home or to the sitter's house. Also, a note is required if a student that normally travels on the bus will be picked up at dismissal.

SCENT FREE

In keeping with policy, the whole school community is asked to refrain from the use of scented products when coming to the school.



TAKE A BREAK

Students are better able to learn when they have breaks during the day that allow them to get fresh air and exercise. Students are outside during recess and lunch breaks so it is important that students come to school dressed appropriately to be outside during these times.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Good school conduct means respectful behaviours in the classroom, throughout the school, and on the playground. A cooperative effort among the home, the school, and the student is essential for maintaining a positive school environment.

The Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy states that all school members share responsibility for creating a school-wide approach to maintaining a positive and inclusive school climate. All students are supported to develop healthy relationships, make good choices, and achieve success in their learning. It is expected that all students and members of a school community will feel and be safe in their school.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR *(continued)*

At our school, we support positive behaviour in various ways. We provide support for good decision making, identify choices, and encourage students to ask for help when necessary. At the beginning of the year, students are taught the expected behaviors that show respect for self, others, learning, and the school environment. Appropriate behaviours are acknowledged and reinforced throughout the year.

It is recognized that even within an optimal school environment, students may behave in a manner that does not support a safe, quality learning environment. With a restorative approach, the focus is always on building positive, healthy relationships. Responses to unacceptable behaviour occur in a timely fashion, are appropriate to the age, and developmental level of the student, and respect the dignity of all involved.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to demonstrate a commitment to their learning in partnership with their teachers and their family. Students also need to develop a sense of accountability, which requires us to allow them, whenever reasonable and appropriate, to take responsibility for their interactions with others and their treatment of others' property. We are committed to helping students understand that all people have rights and that in order for us to enjoy these rights we must all show respect for each other.

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

There may be times during the school year when parents/guardians have concerns about their child's welfare or questions about school related activities. Please share these thoughts with the classroom teacher so your concerns can be addressed. A note to the teacher or a phone call can keep us informed and allow us to work together to meet the needs of your child. Parents/Guardians who wish to meet with a teacher are asked to arrange an appointment by writing a note or by calling the school.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION / SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

We are fortunate to have interested and supportive parents and community members at our school. The Home & School Association has an active executive who meet throughout the school year to organize events and to support activities at our school. The School Advisory Council consists of parents, staff, and community members. This group discusses issues important to our school and advises the Principal. All parents/guardians are encouraged to become involved in these organizations. You will be informed of meeting times and dates in advance. Your participation will support all students.

The School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home & School are now accepting expressions of interest for the 2021-2022 school year. Reasons why you should consider joining:

- Keep up to date on what is happening at your child's school
- Forge a relationship with the Principal and other staff
- Have input on how \$5000 per year that is allotted to the SAC is spent
- Provide input on policies that govern the school
- Learn about the Student Success Plan
- Get to know other parents/community members

The benefits are great, and the time commitment is little. The group meets approximately 4-5 times a year. Please note, the option to participate by Zoom (online and easy to use meeting platform) does exist. No need to leave the house to attend a meeting, you can still tend to family, and then participate as needed. Video attendance is optional. It is entirely possible to attend via the microphone only. Should you have any questions or to express interest in joining the groups next year, please email Katie Kennedy at kennedyka@ccrce.ca.

STUDENT PERSONAL COMMUNICATION & ENTERTAINMENT DEVICE POLICY

A growing number of students own and choose to bring to school a variety of digital communication and entertainment devices. These devices include iPods, iPads, cell phones, and DS game systems. Most of these devices are able to record audio, digital photos, and video images. **All of these items are for personal use and are not needed at our school for educational purposes.**

The Department of Education and our School System require schools to have a policy regarding the use of these electronic devices. All school community members (staff, students, parents/guardians, etc.) are expected to “respect the rights of others in the school community.” This respect for the rights of others is the basis of our school policy.

Our school’s guidelines regarding electronic communication and entertainment devices are as follows:

No type of electronic digital recording is allowed in any school space, which includes the bus and bus stop.

Students who bring personal electronic devices to school do so at their own risk.

Unless requested, personal electronic devices are not needed in the classroom.

All electronic devices are to be turned off and stored out of sight during class time (kept in their personal backpack).

No electronic devices are permitted in washrooms, change rooms, or any space where students would expect a greater degree of privacy than in other public areas within the school

Any violation of these guidelines will be dealt with through the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy.



BUS SAFETY

Parents/Guardians with concerns related to bussing are first asked to contact the school at which time they may be referred to the Transportation Department.

Number One Safety Rule!

Be sure the bus driver can see you!

Waiting for the Bus:

- be on time
- walk to the bus, never run
- stand back from the road
- before crossing the road stop, look both ways, and listen for traffic
- wait patiently in line to get on the bus
- if the bus doesn't show up, return home
- never take a ride from a stranger

When Riding on the Bus:

- stay in your own seat
- place your backpack and any other personal belongings on your lap
- always listen to the bus driver and never distract him/her
- use a quiet voice and appropriate language
- be kind to others
- keep arms and hands inside the bus

When Getting Off the Bus:

- hold on to the railing
- wait patiently in line to get off the bus
- be sure the driver can see you
- be sure that you are at least 3 meters in front of the bus when crossing the road
- stop and look both ways and listen for traffic before crossing the road