

August 23, 2024

To our newest Gleneagle students and families:

As another school year nears, we'd like to thank the office staff, caretakers and district workers who spent July and August finalizing the year that was, while simultaneously organizing for the first day of school on September 3rd. The work completed over summer is often unseen by the greater community but very much appreciated and integral to our school operations.

Next week (the week of August 26th) our administrators, coordinators and counsellors return to school and we will send a lengthier email in advance of Friday, August 30th with start-up information to highlight specific dates and procedures for the first few weeks.

There is a lot of information to share with families about the start of a year at secondary school and we will do our best to chunk the general information in a few manageable correspondences from now into September.

For grade 9 students we have a grade assembly on September 3rd presented by administration, followed by an orientation led by our student leaders. This is a time where a lot of valuable information is shared, and individual questions can be addressed. Please arrive in time for a 1:00PM start by entering our cafeteria / MPR located at the west end of the building. Staff and student leaders will be present to assist you in getting situated. The end time is scheduled for 3:00PM.

As our first correspondence of the year, we've identified below some of our most common September questions we answer:

Question - Do you have a school supplies list?

No. Teachers will indicate course specific materials when introducing the course syllabus at the start of the semester. In general, the regular supplies of binders, paper, pens/pencils, dividers, and a calculator are sufficient. Proper gym strip is required for students in a PHE course and personal locks to secure belongings in the change room. Additionally, all students may choose a school locker (optional) and lock by following some basic steps online to secure a locker situated throughout the school hallways. This information is on our [website](#) under the Quick Links section and only locks provided by the school are to be used for the school hallway lockers.

BYOD – Like most secondary sites in the district, we are a “BYOD” school which stands for “Bring Your Own Device.” Each student will need to bring a laptop to school each day as a daily school supply. Some courses require regular laptop use, while others will only need them occasionally; however, it is important to be in the habit of bringing a fully charged laptop. Most teachers will be utilizing Office 365 in the classroom and students will be trained in how to use Microsoft Teams, as well as many other features of Microsoft. Office 365 software (which includes Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and more) is available free of charge to each student once they log in with their student account. Note: Tablets, smartphones, Google Chromebooks, and gaming laptops are **not** recommended. Please ensure that the laptop has a keyboard and Wi-Fi capability. Screen size and other features are up to you, but we do recommend Windows, at least 8GB of RAM, 128 GB of storage, a battery life of 6-8 hours, and a well sized screen.

If you do not have a suitable device, please contact your student's vice principal once school commences.

Question – How can I get my schedule?

Gleneagle has been using the student and family MyEd online portal for over four years and most schools in the district have now moved to it. This system is where we post schedules, report cards and other documents previously issued on paper.

Students continuing at Gleneagle from last year had preview schedules posted in June and course corrections reviewed by counsellors at that time.

If you are coming from a middle school that used the [MyEd portal](#), your account is the same and your updated 2024-25 Gleneagle schedule will be viewable at the end of day Thursday, August 29th. Previous posted schedules were from June 30th and it is common to have changes occur. We also provide all new students and grade 9s account information, log on/ activation instructions, and paper schedules at the start of the semester grade assembly session on Tuesday, September 3rd.

Annually in August there is a period when schedules previously viewable are not due to MyEd provincial maintenance. The provincial team has indicated the system is now back online and timetables will be viewable in advance of school start up. If you have forgotten your password, please use the “forgot password” feature on MyEd as repeated failed attempts will lock you out and require a manual reset by our clerical staff. Please do not email your counsellor for assistance in resetting your password.

Question – When is the school open?

Every July and August our main office is open with limited clerical staff and amended hours. What is somewhat confusing is the district summer school program runs out of Gleneagle so while the school appears occupied, the staff on site are not affiliated with our program and unable to assist with Gleneagle questions (similarly we are unable to answer summer learning questions which often get sent to us by email). I highlight this for summers ahead that the best thing to do is first confirm we are on site by phone or email rather than arrive only to be turned away by the summer school staff.

Starting August 26th our office is open to the public Monday to Friday, 8:00AM – 3:30PM except for statutory holidays. During vacation periods we will post our amended hours.

We remind everyone that any visitor is to first check in at the office and no student visitors from other schools are to be on property during school hours unless participating in a known school event supervised by adults.

For students - You’ll quickly notice that once school starts it feels like we are always open what with all the extracurricular events and we strongly encourage participation in our clubs and teams, as well as supporting your classmates by showing up to cheer them on during scheduled events. However, increasingly high schools are seeing students arriving well in advance of their first class or later into the evening asking to stay beyond when staff are leaving. This is due to a variety of considerations – parent work schedules being one. But more so the comfort of already being here with your friend group, available Wi-Fi and food delivery have changed student habits where what was once socializing and studying “after school” at each other’s homes, a coffee shop or library is being conducted here. We will talk this through with all our student body, but in general if one’s school day has concluded, and you are not attached to a supervised school event, we kindly request you depart in a timely manner. Further to this, our district’s night school program runs at our site all year which adds to the feeling of the school being always open, but this is not the case for our students.

Our counsellors and administration team will all return on Monday, August 26th. The counselling department’s focus next week will be registering new students, language testing and updating

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timetables in relation to courses taken during summer school. For any international students arriving after our scheduled orientation and language testing sessions, not to worry we will schedule you for an appointment individually upon your arrival.

In general, students at secondary are assigned alphabetically to one of our three counsellors and three vice-principals. Staff email addresses are available [HERE](#)

Alpha	Counsellor
A – H	Kevin Henry
I - P	Victoria Butterfield
Q – Z & International Students	Leah Bosello Roberto Ramogida

Alpha	Vice Principal
A - H	Kathryn Jung*
I - P	Todd Smith
Q - Z	Shawn O'Brien
	Glen Conley (Principal)

* Ms. Jung is currently on leave. Please contact Mr. Bingley jbingley@sd43.bc.ca

Question – When does school start?

During the week of August 26th, the school administration and counsellors will be scheduling meetings with families who have recently moved into the area over the summer and require assistance with registration and class scheduling. Should any family wish to connect in advance for any reason, then please email your vice principal and/or counsellor.

The first day of school for all students is Tuesday, September 3rd and we have an amended schedule. Students attend by grade level and are not in session for the entire day. Grade 12, 11, & 10 students will come to school for one (1) hour where they will first report to the MPR for an assembly.

Assigned grade level times:

Grade 12	9:00 – 10:00AM
Grade 11	10:00 – 11:00AM
Grade 10	11:00 – 12:00PM
Grade 9	1:00 – 3:00PM**

**During the grade 9 afternoon, students will be introduced to secondary scheduling & courses, introductory school routines followed by an orientation and tour of the school from our student leaders. More details will be sent home by email during the week of August 26th.

Wednesday, September 4th - our regular bell schedule is in effect and all students attend their assigned classes. It is strongly encouraged that families prepare for the increased traffic congestion in the local community as of this day and preplan your respective drop off/ pick up routines. While we recognize surrounding roads and school parking lots get quite congested due to volume in the morning and after school, we do expect drivers to adhere to the designated drop off areas, follow posted speed limits, and not block fire lanes and curb cuts.

During this first week of school, important start up information is introduced and repeated daily. At the start of period 2, students will hear the “Talon Talk” announcements which are also posted around the school and on our [website](#).

We fully expect to be assisting some wandering students the first few days as everyone gets settled and used to navigating their way around school. Students not in attendance for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday will be contacted by our office to confirm registration at Gleneagle.

Please note: families who do not communicate their child’s excused absence prior to the first week of school, and whose child does not attend any classes in the first week, risk losing placement in courses previously assigned.

Question – Is it true cell phones are banned at school?

The short answer is no. Cell phones are allowed at Gleneagle, and we will share what this looks like during our grade assembly as the expectation for appropriate use of cell phones during class time has been in place at secondary schools for some time. Where this recent question comes from is that new government policy came into effect as of April 12, 2024 and was reported in the news.

In British Columbia, the Provincial Standards for Codes of Conduct Order was updated to include specific restrictions on the use of personal digital devices in schools. The policy mandates that codes of conduct must address the use of such devices, including cellphones, during instructional hours. The restrictions aim to reduce classroom distractions, foster online safety, and outlines the appropriate use of devices for educational purposes, considering factors like age, developmental stage, and equity to support learning outcomes.

Question – What is the bell schedule in a semester system?

In general, a regular day for students is a four-block day (80 mins each); attending blocks 1, 2, 3, and 4 with a common lunchtime. Some music, ELL, drama/musical theatre, PHE and leadership classes meet at times outside the regular schedule and are reflected on the schedule as ‘x’ (0) and/or ‘y’ (5). At semester turnaround, students will end one set of courses and commence a new set.

Semester 1: September 3rd to January 24th

Semester 2: January 27th to June 26th

Two learning updates and a summary of learning (report cards) will be posted to MyEd portals each semester

Student Bell Schedule 2024-2025			
BLOCK	REGULAR (80 minutes)	EARLY DISMISSAL (65 minutes)	Assembly Schedule (60 minutes) <small>These dates will be announced as assemblies occur</small>
0	7:36 – 8:56	8:00-9:00	7:55 – 8:55
1	9:00 - 10:20	9:00 - 10:00	9:00 – 10:00
2	10:25 – 11:50	10:05– 11:10	10:05 – 11:05
Assembly			11:05 – 12:25
LUNCH	11:50 - 12:30	11:10 – 11:50	12:25 – 1:05
3	12:35 – 1:55	11:55-12:55	1:10 – 2:10
4	2:00 - 3:20	1:00-2:00	2:15 – 3:15
5	3:25 – 4:45	2:05-3:05	3:20 – 4:20

Question – What clubs and sports does the school offer?

Gleneagle offers a combined total of over 70 clubs and sports teams as well as many other extracurricular opportunities and school events. With that amount of choice, the issue we see often becomes (1) knowing when and how to access information/ get involved and (2) before you sign up and make a commitment to others, to first confirm that you can manage your existing academic and home/ community responsibilities while adding a school team’s full season schedule. It is a challenge for coaches, sponsors, and teammates to have an interested student athlete register and tryout, secure a roster spot, only to change their mind about participating once the season has started. With many of our sports, student interest exceeds our roster space and tryouts are necessary.

Mr. Comeau is our Athletic Director and he provides ongoing information to students about current and upcoming teams and events. We also promote registration details on our app, social media and with our school daily announcements. Our seasons are generally defined as Fall, Winter, Spring.

For your Fall considerations we anticipate offering:

Cross Country Running; Field Hockey; Volleyball; Boys’ Soccer; Swimming.

The Fall seasons start right away so listen to announcements, read the bulletin boards, check in with the office or coach if you have questions, and attend the sign-up meetings as scheduled.

Regarding clubs - each year in September we have a monthlong process where we first register clubs using an application process which includes securing a staff sponsor. Once the club applications are reviewed and approved our student leaders host a “Club Day” (tentatively set for September 27th) in the gym where the sanctioned clubs have a table display and our entire student body can circulate and sign up. Our website has a clubs tab listing the 2023.24 opportunities and many of them will run again this year.

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As previously stated, we know there is a lot to absorb moving from middle to high school and you are not expected to have it all figured out after Labour Day. The good news is that in our experience most students are pretty settled with their routines by the third week of school and by midyear many of you are taking on leadership roles throughout our school community.

For now, we welcome you to Gleneagle and look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours truly,

Gleneagle Administration Team

