



Garibaldi Secondary School Newsletter

Sept 2026

<https://gss.sd42.ca/>

Welcome Back Sept 2026

I hope you are enjoying your summer and are looking forward to start up! I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some information about school start up.

Our main communication platform is the school website. Please find it at gss.sd42.ca and make this your first point of contact with the school. The GAZETTE can be viewed on the main page and is updated daily. Here you will find all the latest school news, information including Parent Information Evenings, and **Parent Advisory Committee** agendas and minutes. All teacher email addresses and additional school contact information is posted. Newsletters will be posted to: <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/gss-newsletters> . We take pride in updating the website frequently.

This year we increase our significant efforts to **reduce cell phone use as a distraction to education pathways**. Increasing research is noted that cell phones have a negative impact on the learning environment. We will begin every class with the expectation of cell phones are away or in the storage device directed by the teacher. This is compliant with best practises that we are seeing increasing around the world. Additionally, there is a new school district policy on **“Wearable Technology”** which outlines students will not wear technology that can be used to record others, or access the Internet in a manner. **This can lead to academic dishonesty**. In past years, we have dealt with inappropriate recording of educators and inappropriate recording of peers by students. These now are a violation of school district policy and will be considered a breach of the school code of conduct.

It is important to note that without consent no employee, whether that is instructional or non-instructional activity, should be recorded without expressed consent.

We encourage you to have a conversation about technology and it's place in the school with your student(s). Information with regards to cell phone school policy and wearable tech can be found at the following links: <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/code-of-conduct/>
<https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/Procedure-5770-Wearable-Technology.pdf>

Garibaldi is an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (DP) school. There are only 3 public schools in BC to obtain this level of accreditation. We are proud of our status. This year in May, we will complete the process of a five-year review of our programming. This is a major undertaking for a staff yet I am very confident in our pending success.

Continued on the next page....



The Middle Years Programme is an INCLUSIVE, WHOLE SCHOOL programme that is offered to more than 1 million students in over 3,700 schools in 147 countries. The Middle Years Programme focuses on developing critical, creative, and reflective thinkers within a global perspective. It encourages students to make connections between their studies and the real world. The new provincial curriculum for grades 8 and 9, which are being fully implemented this year, aligns with the IB Middle Years Programme. The new curriculum places emphasis on student inquiry, big ideas, competencies, and global awareness, all part of the IB Middle Years Programme.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme challenges students in advance curriculum. Upon completion it may allow students to obtain first year university in a single or variety of subjects. IB – DP is an optional program beginning in grade 11. Students can participate in a single course “certificate” or complete diploma. The IB DP information is available online at: <https://gssib.sd42.ca>.

For Incoming Grade 8 Students:

GSS Supports the Link Crew initiative. Link Crew is a high school transition program that aims to make grade 8 students feel comfortable and connected during their first year of high school. The program is built on the belief that students can help students succeed. Link Crew follows a proven method of training senior students to be Link Crew mentors throughout the year. On the first day of school, grade 8 students will attend a special orientation led by our student Link Crew Leaders & Link Crew teachers, Ms. Biln & Mrs. Gibbs

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

9AM – Grade 8 students will arrive at the gym to meet with the link crew and staff.

10:15AM - 11:30 AM – Link Crew leaders will lead the small group activities and orientation

11:30AM – 11:45AM – Link Crew closing assembly

11:45 Approx Gr 8 Dismissal

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

A regular full day.

For Grade 9 - 12 Students:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

For all Gr 9 – 12 Students:

Grade 9 to 12 students will need to determine their homeroom / Blk A class in MyClass or, by looking at posted located in the main entrance hallway the library hallway and the theatre entrance. These lists will be inside the school.

12:30 AM – Grade 9 - 12 Report to homeroom / Blk A. At this time there will be fee collection (if fees are not paid by portal), locker distribution and paper timetable distribution.

1:30 - Approx Dismissal

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

A regular full day.

School Fees:

The following school fees apply and can now be paid on the SD 42 Parent Portal, including:

Student fee \$35 There is a FREE GSS Planner APP, download at either the App Store or Google play - Search Garibaldi Secondary

Yearbook \$65.00 (OPTIONAL)

Required supplies for each course will be outlined by subject teachers. All students require binders, paper, pens, pencils and gym strip for the first week of school.

I look forward to the upcoming school year. We have made many positive additions to our school community. Please do not hesitate to contact the school If you have any questions.



Are you interested in welcoming an International Student into your home and sharing the experience of being part of a Canadian family?

We are always looking for great host families!



**MAPLE RIDGE
PITT MEADOWS**
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

www.inted.sd42.ca #intedsd42 www.facebook.com/intbd.sd42

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:**
International Education
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District
20575 Thorne Ave., Maple Ridge,
BC, V2X 9V6, Canada
604-466-6555
http://intedsd42.ca/intedstory



GARIBALDI SEC

Check
Microsoft Teams
and GSS Grad 2027

GRAD NEWSLETTER Supporting Parents and Students of the
GSS 2027 Graduating Class

Grade 12's

Please be sure to get your copy of the Grad Newsletter at the Gr 12 assembly.

Mark your calendar for the mandatory assembly dates.

Excessive absences can interfere with participation in the graduation ceremonies. Every school in the district maintains guidelines that limit absences to the equivalent of 15 days per year. Students who exceed this limit may not be allowed to participate in the grad ceremony. If you have any questions or want to review your students attendance records, please contact the office.



Yearbooks

will be sold in a separate Portal Message Starting In October. Complete the online form for \$65. This year's Yearbook will be one that you truly want to have. Last year there were many disappointed students as we sold out.

Cash payment must be made to the office within 48 hrs of the portal message.



GSS Newsletter

Fall





School Athletics

The school athletics seasons are identified as fall, winter and spring. Sign up for fall sports will begin promptly in September. The fall athletic season is highlighted by all volleyball teams, boys soccer, and cross country. More at: <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/sports-clubs>

Athletic fees are \$25 per person per team that is used to support the cost of community

Student sign out, and sign in. If a student arrives after 9 am they are expected to sign in at the office. A sign-in book is located outside the main office. Students leaving early for the day do so with parent permission. Typically a prior phone message, portal message or parent note is supplied. Text messages are not accepted as parent permission.

Communication - Gazette , Parent Portal. The Parent Portal is a SD 42 developed software that supports parental permissions, field trips and credit card payments. It is an important communication platform that we use in many situations. Please ensure that you are connected. In the event you are not receiving notifications through the Parent Portal please contact our Admin Coordinator Ms. Miller at: Terra_Miller@sd42.ca and ask for a "Linking Letter".

Maintaining contact with parents and students is important to us. We rely upon email, the parent portal, Facebook, Twitter and the planner app to keep families abreast of what's going on. You can follow us on Facebook or Instagram. The Gazette on the school website is updated daily. If you haven't been receiving emails this year, you'll need to resubscribe. We strongly encourage parents to do this by logging onto the parent portal and subscribing on the login page.

A Student fees notification will be sent the first week of school. A 35\$ mandatory fee is common in SD 42. Student fees are used to support non-curricular student activities. These are the elements of a school community that bring us connection and greater community. Elements that are more important than ever such as FUND Nights, Dances, and Leadership Events.. Although we can take cash payments at the main office, **online payment with the parent portal is preferred.**



Grade 8 Parent Night

We will be hosting a grade 8 parent evening. Grade 8 parents / guardians and students are invited to join us **September 24th between 6 and 8 PM.**

Our plan for the evening is to host an open house walk-about between 6PM and 7PM. At 7PM we will do a presentation in the school theatre outlining our school and highlight the many positive aspects of our school community.



GSS Newsletter





MicroSoft Teams will be the primary software for the digital learning support. In the first section of the school year, we will be working to ensure every student is logged in and proficient with this tool.

New Grade 8 School Email Login In an effort to assist the current grade 8 students (staying in district) with a smoother transition to grade 8, the MyEd team has reset all of their MyClass passwords (elementary students don't use MyClass passwords). Incoming grade 8 students have been emailed the

link to the MyClass login page, along with their user name and newly generated password student#@me.sd42.ca email account.

Access to the district student email accounts is important. Every Grade 8 is encouraged to log in to MyClass to re-enable all of their accounts.

Student Information Update. Please log in to MyClass to view the PDF "BC Student Information Verification Form" showing on the front page under "Published Reports".

This document contains the information we currently have on file for your student, including Parent Contacts, Emergency Contacts, any medical information, etc. If any of this information is incorrect, please print the form, handwrite the changes and sign and date the form.

Please return the corrected, signed form to the school office so that changes can be made to your student's record.

Here is the link to the MyClass Information Page: <https://myedbc.sd42.ca/MyClass> If you have any questions, or wish a printed hard copy, please feel free to contact: gssreception@sd42.ca



Parent Advisory Committee

The BC School Act gives parents the right to belong to a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) in their school, and through it to advise the board, principal, and staff on any matters relating to the school. It is a place for positive communication and an effective place to learn about the school and school community. Meetings are open for all parents to attend. Past minutes, agendas and upcoming meeting dates are posted to: <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/parent-advisory-council/>

Parent Access to the school is by appointment only, as per guidelines established to support safety. Please use staff emails to book appointments, and always report to the office as a visitor and sign in. Safety matters, for everyone.





Collaboration Days

Collaboration days allow teachers to meet, and collaborate in support of students and improved teacher planning. For the 2026 - 2027 academic year these collaborations sessions will create early dismissals or late starts for students. While students can remain in the building, teachers and EAs are otherwise engaged.



SCHOOL APP:

We are working aggressively this year to reduce the negative impact of cell phones; however, it is important to

acknowledge that they are brilliant planning tool.

We will continue our relationship with the My school Day - Garibaldi School app.

This is an incredibly robust app that allows push notifications to our community of students and parents who choose to sign up

Additionally, within the app, there are tools that allow students to record homework, tests assignments set reminders of study habits, and most importantly for the students it takes care of identifying the tumble pattern of the school day.

I highly recommend that both students and parents download the app and use it in an appropriate manner for school planning

I do work to try to send notifications for inclement weather such as snow day out on the app immediately following the school district notification however for inclement weather, please look to the school district website as priority.

The "My School Day" App can be downloaded at either: the App Store or Google play

Search:
British Columbia
Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows
Garibaldi Secondary

GSS Administration Changes for 2026 -2027 and beyond

In April 2026 SD 42 announced administrative changes for the 2026 -2027 academic year. This year I will be joined by Vice Principals Ms Andrea Clayton from SRT, and Tara Tait from cusquenela Elementary. Both have significant and diverse background in SD 42, I am excited to have them join our team.

Both Mrs. Thomson and Mr. Chow will positively move forward to new assignments. Mrs Thompson is now working at MRSS and Mr. Chow is now the Principal of Whonnock Elementary. I will miss them both as friends and colleagues. I wish them well.

Admin contact will follow the same pattern:

Ms Tait Gr 8 10
Ms Clayton Gr 9 11
Mr Liversidge Gr 12

Finally as students often collect partial information, as such, over the last several years rumours of my pending retirement have come and gone. I will retire after 35 years in public education in July 2027, as I have often shared.

Ian Liversidge



GSS Newsletter





First Peoples Principles of Learning. In the last decade, the British Columbia Ministry of Education has indicated an increasing commitment to including the First Peoples (or Aboriginal) perspectives of teaching and learning in British Columbia schools (British Columbia Ministry of Education, 2013-2014). Initial integration of First Peoples' content into various curricula was initially intended to support the success of Aboriginal learners; however the principles that govern traditional First Peoples' perspectives of teaching and learning have gained a more prominent place in the BC education system as educators are recognizing that they promote educational practice that is also effective for non-Aboriginal learners.

From: <https://firstpeoplesprinciplesoflearning.wordpress.com/>



GSS Counsellors are here and happy to assist you. Walk-ins to the Career Counselling Centre are again

accepted. Appointments can be booked during the process outlined at the counselling office.

Lindsey Hine (Gr 8, 10, 12)
Mel Harris (Gr 9,11,12)

Take a look at our websites for links to resources:

<https://gss.sd42.libguides.com/c.php?g=715795&p=5103795>
<https://gsscarrercentre.wordpress.com/>

Attendance: Absence reports are collected every morning and added to the daily attendance data. Once the absence is recorded by the office, all the teachers will see the "excused absence".

Grade 12 attendance matters. **Excessive absences can interfere with participation in the graduation**

ceremonies. Every school in the district maintains guidelines that limits absences to the equivalent of 15 days per year or 60 periods. Students who exceed this limit may not be allowed to participate in the grad ceremony.

Attendance Notification: If your student is ill or if you are planning a holiday, attendance notification can be added to the parent portal. <https://parents.sd42.ca/Parents/ParentLoginPage.aspx> . Failing that, you can contact the office by phone.

In school, vacations are a great challenge. Teachers cannot be expected to offer separate learning accommodations for a student who chooses to miss an extraordinary amount of time. Please look to support positive choices around schooling at this difficult and atypical time.





Inclement Weather:

The decision whether or not to

close schools due to inclement weather conditions is the responsibility of the Superintendent who must balance safety with the need to provide learning. The Superintendent will use their best judgement to make a school closure decision. The decision making process is complicated by the fact that weather conditions can vary significantly between neighbouring communities, may change and may differ from original forecasts. A final decision is made by 6:00am so that a timely communications process can be initiated.

The decision is posted on the district website <https://www.sd42.ca> and sent to major radio and television outlets such as News 1130 and CKNW 980.

SCHOOL SAFETY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM
MAPLE RIDGE - PITT MEADOWS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 42

Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 has developed a School Safety Notification System in collaboration with the Ridge Meadows RCMP. The revised notification system follows provincial recommendations and covers the six following scenarios:

- DROP, COVER, AND HOLD**
 - Used in the event of an earthquake, explosion, or any event that shakes the school.
 - Qualify staff, study team should be ready.
 - Drop - get to the ground.
 - Cover - take cover under a sturdy desk, bench, staircase, or other temporary cover.
 - Hold - hold on to the base of your cover and stay flat until the shaking stops.
 - Drop, cover, and hold for 10 seconds and then crawl to the shelter area.
 - Remain in the designated shelter area.
- LOCKDOWN**
 - Used to prevent intruders from entering occupied areas of the school, or in times when it is necessary to isolate students and staff from a danger outside of within the building.
 - Follow the instructions of the "lockdown" team.
 - Students should stay in their classrooms.
 - Teachers should stay in their classrooms.
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- SHELTER IN PLACE**
 - Used as a short-term measure to protect students and staff from potential dangers outside the school (e.g. environmental weather-related emergencies, dangerous wild animals on school grounds, or a missing child).
 - Use an alternative measure to protect students and staff from potential dangers outside the school.
 - Students should stay in their classrooms.
 - Teachers should stay in their classrooms.
 - Students should stay in their classrooms.
 - Teachers should stay in their classrooms.
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- EVACUATE**
 - Used to move people out of the school in a case of a fire, explosion, or other emergency.
 - Students should stay in their classrooms.
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 - Students should stay in their classrooms.
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 - Students should stay in their classrooms.
- ROOM CLEAR**
 - Used to move people out of the school in a case of a fire, explosion, or other emergency.
 - Students should stay in their classrooms.
 - Teachers should stay in their classrooms.
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 - Students should stay in their classrooms.
- HOLD AND SECURE**
 - Used to prevent intruders from entering occupied areas of the school, or in times when it is necessary to isolate students and staff from a danger outside of within the building.
 - Follow the instructions of the "lockdown" team.
 - Students should stay in their classrooms.
 - Teachers should stay in their classrooms.
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School Safety Notification System Updated 2019:

The Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District has updated its *School Safety Notification System* in collaboration with the Ridge Meadows RCMP. The revised notification system follows provincial recommendations and covers the six following scenarios:

Drop, Cover, and Hold – Used in the event of an earthquake, explosion, or any event that shakes the school.

Hold and Secure – Used when there is a security concern, such as a police incident, in the neighbourhood of the school.

Lockdown – Used to prevent intruders from entering occupied areas of the school, or in times when it is necessary to isolate students and staff from a danger outside or within the building.

Shelter in Place – Used as a short-term measure to protect students and staff from potential dangers outside the school (e.g. environmental weather-related emergencies, dangerous wild animals on school grounds, or a missing child).

Room Clear – Used to move people away from a hazard contained in one room/area.

You can find more information about the revised *School Safety Notification System* on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/school-safety-notification/>



About Provincial Assessments

As we begin the school year, I would like to provide information about the Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment, Grade 10 Literacy Assessment, and Grade 12 Literacy Assessment, which are required graduation assessments for all students in British Columbia. These assessments are an important part of the BC Graduation Program and are required for students to earn their Dogwood Diploma. You can find information on the following website

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/assessment>

Unlike a traditional classroom test, these provincial assessments are designed to measure how well students can apply and demonstrate essential literacy and numeracy skills developed across many subjects and grade levels. They focus on the skills students need for success in school, post-secondary education, the workplace, and everyday life.

Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment The Numeracy Assessment evaluates students' ability to apply mathematical thinking to real-world situations. Students are asked to interpret information, solve problems, analyze data, communicate their thinking, and apply mathematical concepts learned from Kindergarten to Grade 10. This assessment is not based on one specific math course but on numeracy skills developed over time.

Grade 10 Literacy Assessment The Grade 10 Literacy Assessment measures students' ability to think critically, analyze information, make meaning from a variety of texts, and communicate their ideas effectively. Students engage with texts such as articles, stories, blogs, infographics, and other forms of communication, demonstrating their reading and writing skills.

Grade 12 Literacy Assessment The Grade 12 Literacy Assessment builds on the skills assessed in Grade 10 and focuses on students' ability to use critical and reflective thinking, analyze complex information, and communicate effectively. This assessment reflects literacy skills developed across all subject areas throughout a student's educational journey.

These assessments provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate key competencies that extend beyond individual courses. Strong literacy and numeracy skills are foundational for:

- Success in post-secondary education and training
- Future employment opportunities
- Problem-solving and decision-making in everyday life
- Effective communication and critical thinking

The results also help students better understand their strengths and provide valuable information to support their continued growth as learners.

Parents and guardians play an important role in helping students feel confident and prepared. We encourage you to:

- Ensure your child attends school regularly and arrives rested.
- Encourage positive study habits and a healthy balance between school and personal commitments.
- Reassure your child that these assessments reflect skills they have developed over many years and do not require last-minute studying or extensive preparation.
- Review practice materials available through the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care for [numeracy](#) and [literacy](#) if your child would like additional familiarity with the assessment format.

Our school staff will provide students with information about assessment dates, preparation opportunities, and supports available throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting student success. Should you have any questions about the graduation assessments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

