



WGSS NEWS BULLETIN

PLANNING FOR 2015/16

January, 2015

Dear Grade 7 Parent,

Your family is part of the Walnut Grove Secondary School catchment area and I am pleased to welcome you. Your son or daughter will be in grade 8 in September 2015. Grade 8 is the first of five important high school years; we look forward to sharing these years with you. I am confident these will be successful years for your son or daughter. Together with your child you have important decisions to make about the courses he or she should take in grade 8

WGSS provides a caring, nurturing environment with a wide selection of courses in all areas and a large number of extra-curricular activities. In addition to regular core courses, we will offer your son or daughter:

- gifted, enriched, accelerated and advanced placement courses
- modified or adapted programs
- French, Spanish, Italian and Japanese languages courses
- a great variety of electives in music, art, drama, computer technology, computer animation and graphics, business education, technology (woodwork, metalwork, drafting, electronics and automotive), physical education and home economics.

As our past graduates demonstrate, when your son or daughter graduates he or she will be well prepared for:

- Canadian, American and European colleges and universities
- university and college scholarships
- apprenticeship programs
- technical colleges and schools

WGSS Planning Process

Your child has likely asked you about grade 8. They are almost certainly thinking about: What will grade 8 be like? What courses should I take? What electives can I take? Will I make friends?

Students have important decisions and choices to make. Wise planning will enable them to take maximum advantage of the educational opportunities available at Walnut Grove. We have a thorough course selection and transition program for grade 7 students to prepare them for grade 8. We encourage parents to become involved in the course selection process with their children.

We are planning an open house/informational evening for parents and students on Thursday, February 5. The presentation will be given by myself and Andrea Ruffo (grade 8 counsellor) in the WGSS gym. The schedule for this evening will be:

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|------------------|------------------------------|
| 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. | School tours and open house |
| 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. | Presentation in the main gym |

Touring can be done independently but we will also arrange group tours guided by our senior students. There are displays arranged in different departments throughout our building and the senior students will answer questions about programs and other specifics as they guide you through the building.

An agenda for the evening is attached. We hope that you will join us and that your son or daughter will accompany you. As well, our Chomp Shop, which sells WGSS clothing, will be open throughout the evening for any students who want to purchase some Gator Gear.

To further prepare your child for grade 8, WGSS staff will meet three times with each grade 7 class at their own elementary school.

Visit #1

- An introduction to WGSS
- Counsellor, Principal and a few current grade 8's meet at elementary school with grade 7's to give information about programs

Visit #2

- Course selection sheets will be filled out by students under the direction of our grade 8 counsellor.

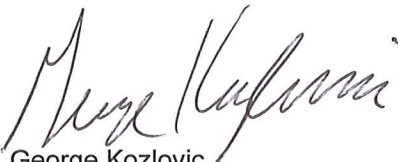
Visit #3

- Completed and signed (by parent and student) course selection sheets will be picked up at feeder schools by a Vice-Principal.

We would like to offer every student in our catchment area a place at WGSS in the Fall of 2015. Please note that course selection forms will be collected in your son's/daughter's class, **on our third scheduled visit**. After this point, parents will need to drop forms off in the Counselling Centre at WGSS **no later than Friday, March 6.**

The Counsellor, Vice-Principals and I are looking forward to meeting you and your child and welcoming you to WGSS. After our visits to the elementary schools, we can answer any further questions you may have by phone or email.

Sincerely,



George Kozlovic
Principal

**GRADE 8 INFORMATION EVENING/
OPEN HOUSE
FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

**Informational Meeting/Open House
All Grade 7 Parents & Students are Invited
Lots of Things You Want to Know About Grade 8 and WGSS**

**Thursday, February 5
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
WGSS**

Open House - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Learn about

- Grade 8 electives
- Accelerated Math and Science programs
- Humanities, English and Social Studies
 - Enrichment programs
 - Extra-curricular opportunities
- Elective opportunities in grade 9-12
 - Chomp Shop open

Tour the School or Ask Individual Questions

This will provide an opportunity to have a tour of WGSS,
or speak to a counsellor if you
have questions or wish to arrange an interview.

Presentation in the Gym - 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

A formal presentation for all parents with information about
Walnut Grove Secondary, grade 8 and the
course choices that must be made for grade 8.

**First of Three Meetings
With Grade 7 Students & the WGSS Counsellor**

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|-----------|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| Tuesday | 10 February | West Langley | Ms. A. Ruffo |
| Wednesday | 11 February | Gordon Greenwood | Ms. A. Ruffo |
| Thursday | 12 February | James Kennedy | Ms. A. Ruffo |
| Friday | 18 February | Alex Hope | Ms. A. Ruffo |
| Monday | 16 February | Dorothy Peacock | Ms. A. Ruffo |
| Tuesday | 17 February | Topham | Ms. A. Ruffo |