



Expectations at WGSS

Walnut Grove is a diverse community comprised of students, parents, and staff. We strive to maintain a safe, caring, orderly, and healthy environment. The Walnut Grove community encourages and supports behaviours expected of responsible citizens so that everyone can achieve their goals and reach their potential.

Successful learners:

- attend school regularly and are on time every day
- are prepared for class, make class time productive, do homework, and review classwork regularly
- are respectful of peers, staff members, themselves, and the building
- involve themselves in their school

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is a crucial responsibility of students. Regular attendance is a significant factor in ensuring success in school. Time lost from class cannot always be made up through homework. Discussion and explanation are often keys to learning and understanding. They cannot be duplicated outside of class.

At Walnut Grove Secondary we expect all students to attend all their classes. We recognize that occasionally students must miss class for unavoidable reasons, such as illness, family emergencies or medical and dental appointments. Therefore, parents are encouraged to telephone the school to let us know of student illness or absence.

Students who are frequently absent without good reason will lose the privilege of attending extra-curricular activities including field trips, athletic events, and Grad events.

EARLY LEAVING

Students who need to leave school early must sign out at the office. A note or telephone call from parents is required prior to leaving or at the time of leaving.

TRUANCY

Truancy is defined as "absence from class or school without valid reasons." If a student is found to be truant, parents will be contacted and the student will be required to make up the time missed. If the student continues to be truant, he/she may lose their opportunity to attend school. A student is truant if he or she:

- is absent from school without prior permission of parents,
- is absent from class without permission,
- leaves school without signing out at the office,
- is absent from class after arriving at school.

Students who are truant and in the vicinity of the school will lose their opportunity to attend school that day and the subsequent day.

LATES

We hope that you will view the matter of punctuality seriously. We do! Make a point to be on time for every class. If you are late to school, you must report to the office. Teachers will have consequences for students who are late to class. If a student accumulates unexcused lates he/she will face possible suspension.

Why I Should Not Be Late for School

1. I should not be late for school because it is inconsiderate and disrespectful to my classmates and to the teacher.
2. Often the most valuable information in a lesson comes right at the start, so being late negatively impacts future learning.
3. When I come late, it disrupts the flow of the lesson and the teacher has to stop doing what they are doing and deal with me.
4. Being late results in bad habits. Once I have a bad habit, it is really hard to break it. Being on time is an excellent habit for life!

Strategies to Ensure I am on Time

1. Put my alarm clock on the other side of the room so I have to get out of bed to turn it off. Once I turn it off, I stay up!
2. Set the alarm clock with enough time that I don't have to rush to get ready, or if I can't find something, I still have time to find it and be on time for school.
3. Have a parent/guardian double-check that the alarm is set correctly and will function properly.

4. Go to bed at a reasonable time, for example 10 pm. Be consistent with bedtime and it will be easier to get up in the morning.
5. No caffeinated beverages after 4 pm. Such things as soft drinks (pop) and energy drinks contain high amounts and should be avoided.
6. Get one hour of physical activity (active play or working out) daily. A tired body sleeps better.

USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones and other electronic devices can have a tremendously positive impact on learning, ranging from research, to collaboration, to organization and planning. While electronic devices brought from home are accepted within the building, it is important to note that they can also be very distracting to learning and, as such, we require some basic understanding around their use at school.

Our goal is to develop responsible use practices by teaching and modeling appropriate etiquette with electronic devices while utilizing them as a means to enhance student learning and support curriculum delivery.

Before school, at lunch and after school: Students may use electronic devices they have brought from home in public areas around and inside the school as long as they are not distracting to the learning atmosphere or enjoyment of the space by others.

During Class Time: Students may only use their cell phones or other electronic devices with the express permission of the teacher. If a mobile device (cellular or electronic) is found to be distracting or disruptive to the learning environment of the class or school function, teachers have the right to confiscate the device and give it to a member of the administration. Confiscated electronic devices will be returned to the student by administration on the first offense and to their parents on subsequent offenses.

The use of cell phones or other electronic devices, including cameras, to record pictures, video or audio may only be done with specific prior consent from administration. Possible educational uses of audio, picture or video recording could be to take a picture of notes on a board, to record video for a project or assignment, or to record audio for a music or language class, etc. At no time may cameras be used in locker rooms and washrooms.

Walnut Grove Secondary School is not responsible for lost or stolen phones or other electronic devices.

STUDENTS VISITING OTHER SCHOOLS

Our students may not enter any building or be on the property of any other school, elementary or secondary, at any time without obtaining the prior approval from a Vice Principal or Principal at that school.

STUDENTS BRINGING VISITORS TO WGSS

Students may not bring non-WGSS students to our school without prior approval by a Vice Principal at least 48 hours in advance. Generally, 'guests for a day' will not be approved.

DRIVING & PARKING

We expect WGSS students to drive in a responsible manner. Please remember that many elementary school students are walking to school on the roads around our school and you need to drive with extra caution around these youngsters.

We expect that students will keep the parking area clean and tidy. Drivers not obeying traffic regulations and school parking lot policies will have their parking privileges withdrawn.

USE OF SCHOOL GYM FACILITIES

Students are encouraged to use the gym facilities outside of class hours, or during Flex Time, with permission and appropriate supervision. While using the gym facilities, or weight room, students must wear appropriate gym attire. Use of the weight room is with staff supervision only. Use of the gyms may be given with permission. Should there be issues with wearing appropriate attire or if student's behavior is deemed unsuitable, permission to use the gym facilities will be revoked.

LITTER

The environment is both a personal and a group concern. If we look after our school and grounds, we will have pleasant surroundings in which to spend our time. Students are expected to keep books, lockers, washrooms, desks, and the grounds clean and attractive.

SMOKING

Smoking, which includes vaping, is not permitted in the building or on school property.

PLAGIARISM GUIDELINES

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Plagiarism occurs when a person claims someone else's work as his or her own for credit, whether it is for financial gain or academic gain.

Examples of Plagiarism

- An assignment/project that is copied directly, in whole or in part, from another source, such as a book, the internet, or another student.
- An assignment/project that has received such extensive editing from a nother individual, such as a tutor or relative, that it bears little resemblance to the original work of the student.
- An assignment/project that contains ideas and phrasing borrowed from others, such as from an encyclopedia, the internet, or other reference books that are not formerly referenced.

Consequences

If a student has been found to be guilty of plagiarism, then, at the discretion of the teacher and the administration, the following consequences will follow:

- On a first offence, the student will receive a score of "0" on the entire assignment of which the plagiarized work may only be a part.
- On a second or subsequent offence in any subject in any year, the student will receive a score of "0" on the plagiarized work and will face suspension from school.

A record will be kept of the names of all students who plagiarize. This record will be part of a student's history at WGSS.

FLEX

Flex time at WGSS is a 42 minute block following period one that enables students to have more 'flex' over their educational choices. Flex time is instructional time and if not utilized effectively students may have their ability to choose how they use their Flex time determined by administration.

LANGLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

For information pertaining to the Langley School District Code of Conduct, please refer to the appropriate section of the WGSS or Langley School District website.