

Introduction

One of the most difficult things we can ask you to do is to hang on to this newsletter until August. Yet, we are going to ask you to do just that – we have confidence in you! The purpose of this communication is to spend a little time reviewing the past year, a bit of time looking ahead to the next, and finally some refreshing your memory about things that tend to stay the same from year to year. Our request is that you please keep these papers in a safe place so that you can make reference to the material again in August and barring that, you can find an electronic copy of it on the website (guidodebres.org).

A brief year in review

The end of June marks the end of the 45th year that Guido de Brès Christian High School has been in operation. It has been another interesting year! Of course, the various shutdowns, guidelines, and restrictions tend to hog the limelight, but the year consisted of a lot more than just what we could and could not do. We were able to try out quadesters, experience flex days, welcome new families, build some new friendships, and store new memories.

Of course, the main purpose of Guido remains the education of your children. This too has gone well. In total this year over 150 courses were taught by 40 staff members to 430 students. These courses covered everything from university level English, calculus, and biology, to sewing, shop, and co-op. Some evidence of that work was put together by our co-op students as they reported on the learning that took place this past semester. If you are interested in reading about what they did, their slide presentations can be found here: [COLLECTION OF Co-op Display SLIDES 2021.pdf](#)

The Lord has blessed the school with a well-rounded program, and the students generally do well. Even with the shut down, most students were using their gifts to the honour of their Father regardless of whether we were in the building or at home.

A brief(ish) look at next year

The Lord willing, this coming September will mark the 46th time that we open the doors of the school. Of course, when we open our doors, we are still not sure what that will end up looking like. At the point of writing we plan to run a regular semester system. However, there were a few things about the quadmaster that we liked. This included having long classes where staff and students were able tackle longer projects like science labs and tests. Because of that we plan on following a bit of a hybrid system.

What that means is that starting the second week of school, students will have only two classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. What that means is that if your child has science and history class in the morning, and English and shop class in the afternoon, on Tuesdays they would have science all morning and English all afternoon, and on Thursday they would

have history in the morning and shop in the afternoon. This gives us the advantage of a long class for each period once a week which we can use to the student's advantage.

Of course, all these plans hinge on going back to a 'normal' school year (or at least a less restrictive one). At the point of writing, we do not know what, if any, restrictions will be placed on us by the Ministry of Education. We will send out a message to the community in the middle of August with those details. This will allow the Board to have the latest information possible about the current pandemic situation, what busing might look like, and the latest recommended school opening policies.

As we plan, we recognize that all aspects of our lives are in the Lord's hand. We will not act out of fear when we develop our plan for reopening, nor will we be careless. We will build a solid plan that promotes a holistic approach to the mental, physical, and spiritual health and well being of our students and community. If you have any thoughts and/or suggestions for the Board to consider when building this plan, they welcome your written input. Emails can be sent to the Office (office@guidodebres.com) or the Board secretary (angelangendoen@gmail.com).

First Day of Classes

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 7. As mentioned above, we do not know exactly what that first day will look like. However, if possible, we will have a full day of classes, and as students arrive, they are encouraged to head to the gymnasium where they will find their schedules posted on the wall. At 9:00 a.m., before the school is called down for the start of year assembly, all students will report to their Day 1, Period 1 class. After the brief assembly, students will have an orientation period and then continue with shortened periods for the remainder of the day.

Your local transportation committee will provide you with details about bus routes in the week leading up to the first week of September.

Uniforms

We only have a uniform top at Guido. Our official uniform provider is McCarthy Uniforms, in Hamilton. They provide our blue and white polo shirts, and a collared sweater. McCarthy's has the following note on their website:

We are looking forward to back-to-school 2021. Please note that due to public health guidelines that restrict in-store service, we recommend shopping online or through our call centre for fast, easy and personalized service. You may visit your home store (<https://www.mccarthyuniforms.ca/shop/school/482#allProducts>) online to obtain everything you need about product pricing, fit and uniform policy.

We also have a decent selection of uniform tops that have been donated back to the school. If you wish you may have a look at our stock to see if there is something that will work for you during the week of August 30, 2021. These shirts are \$5 apiece.

Physed clothes are purchased through the Physed Department and details for that are below.

Hoodies

Since hoodies are not ordered through McCarthy, we will be taking hoodie orders for new families and Grade 9 students during the New Student Open House on September 2, Lord willing. We will have the different styles and sizes available on display so that we can take orders and have them available before the cold weather hits. We expect that the pricing will be close to the same as it was last year (\$30 for the comfort fit, and \$50 for the sport fit – names on the back and numbers on the sleeve are each an additional \$5 option.)

For those who will not be at the Open House, we will also be taking orders during the first few weeks of September.

Communications

Communicating well with students and parents has been high on our list of priorities this past year. For school/home messages we use a program called *Edsby* as our primary communication tool. More information about how to sign-up with Edsby will be coming out closer to September (because new students are not in the system yet), but if you are curious about what *Edsby* looks like you can find more information here: <https://www.edsby.com/>

While on the topic of communications, it is a myth that all high school students need to have a phone. If your family feels that your child is better served by not having an electronic device, we respect that decision – and your child **will not be alone**, though they will tell you otherwise! Will there be times when students are asked to use a device in class? Yes, there will be. But teachers will usually work to have a few extra devices (iPods, Chromebooks, and the like) around so that all students can participate when that happens, and they won't be penalized for not having one with them.

If you feel that your child would benefit from a phone, please keep in mind that they should not be connecting with you during class time. We know that it is difficult to control, but if you could limit texts and phone calls to lunch time, or before and after school, it saves staff from having a conflict with your child about who is more important to listen to during class time – mom, or the teacher.

A few reminders

What follows can be found in the Parent Handbook as well. However, we have noted that, well utilized though the handbook may be, it is also good to have some of this information available to parents in this newsletter.

Some related items to take note of:

1. Please ensure that your child is dressed in accordance with the entire Student Dress Code (included in this package). Our dress code strives to uphold the important principles of decency and modesty.
2. While students are permitted to use their cell phones and similar electronic devices at school, they may not use them during class time. Please assist us in this by not calling or texting during class time. Note that lunch time is from 11:45 – 12:30. If a student is going to be absent for an appointment, or if they feel ill and wish to be picked up, it is not enough to communicate with them

on their phones. **The office needs to be notified before a student is dismissed.**

3. Students need to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service hours before graduating. Copies of forms are available on the school website or at the office. We continue to encourage students to get hours outside of their local school and church communities, thereby assisting them in their task of being a salt and light in the world. Also please take note that for the past couple of years we have not accepted regular babysitting duties, operating sound system, and other regular duties during Sunday worship services as community service hours. Incoming Grade 9 students may begin accumulating their hours once they have finished Grade 8.
4. The school and the Christian Counselling Services sponsor two trained counsellors, Mr. Keith Verburg and Mrs. deJonge, to be available for students on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, respectively. The plan is to continue to offer this service in the coming year.
5. With respect to attendance, please remember that students are expected to be in school when school is in session. If your child will be out of school for a reason that is not a legitimate absence (meaning they are here but not too sick to attend) the office should be notified well in advance. This will help us communicate the possible consequences these absences will have on your child's schooling. If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please notify the office on Edsby or by email before 9:30 am.
6. In addition to the above, you are reminded from the Parent Handbook that "Students cannot seek parent permission to attend events that school policy dictates that they cannot attend. For example, only team members and managers can attend a tournament or game, unless permission has been granted by the principal." Open and honest communication with respect to this is expected and appreciated.

Update of Information

If you have had a change in phone number, e-mail address, home address, emergency contact information, etc., since sending in your registration forms, please send this new information to the office so that our records are up to date. As a rule of thumb, any changes in the last 12 months should be sent in to be sure that we have the correct information.

Co-op Meeting

If your child hopes to be involved in the Co-op program this year, the co-op information evening may be of interest for you. An evening information session has been scheduled for Thursday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. before the Fall Membership meeting. Attendance is required for parents whose children are signed up for co-op. Attendance by students in the co-op program is also recommended as there will be important information about the requirements for the program explained. Even if your child is not signed up for co-op now, you are welcome to attend if you would like to learn more about this popular senior program.

September 7 materials list

1. Students will receive their first semester textbooks on the first day of school.
2. Locker assignments will be posted in the gym on the first day of school for all students in Grades 9-12.
3. Students are expected to bring school supplies (pens, pencils, paper, binders, etc.) with them on the first day.
4. All students should have a copy of the 2014 Book of Praise and an ESV Student Study Bible and bring them to school. If your child does not have one or both of those, copies of the ESV Student Study Bible and the Book of Praise are available at the school for purchase – contact Mrs. Joosse or Mrs. Tenhage in the office.

Other Attached Items

1. **Student Timetable** – This timetable shows the student schedule for Day 1 (odd numbered calendar days) and Day 2 (even numbered calendar days). Please check your timetable carefully. Student locker numbers are also assigned and written on the schedule. Student may only use lockers assigned to them.
2. **2021-2022 School Calendar** – Key dates throughout the year are shown. Please consult this calendar when making vacation plans. Also take note of the Open House for parents of Grade 9 students on Wednesday, September 22, 2020.
3. **Specific Expectations for Students** – this is a summary of expectations. Please review them with your children and impress upon them the need to conduct themselves in a God glorifying manner.
4. **Student Dress Code** – a reminder that school uniform pieces can be purchased from R.J. McCarthy at 125 Nebo Road in Hamilton.
5. **Extra Fees and Materials** – Please take note of those that apply to you.

A few final words

One of the most difficult things we can ask you to do is to hang on to this newsletter until August. Yet, we are going to ask you to do just that – difficult things are achieved all the time! However, if it gets lost, you can find an electronic copy of it on the website (guidodebres.org).

As a staff we look forward to your support and prayers and the Lord's guidance in teaching your children. It is an awesome responsibility that you have entrusted to us, and we take it seriously.

Thank-you for the support and encouragement.



Jason Heemskerk

Extra Fees and Materials

The school pays for the textbooks that students use. However, some courses require extra materials or equipment that students need to pay for at the beginning of the course. The fees are listed and explained below.

1. Sewing

The school supplies most of the materials needed for this course. The students are expected to have some money available for the purchasing of fabric from time to time.

2. Music Department

Students in grade 10 and 11 vocal music courses will pay a non-refundable course fee of \$20 for choir shirts, and to cover sheet music for a solo project. Students in grades 10 and 11 instrumental courses will pay a non-refundable maintenance fee of \$20, and a refundable instrument rental deposit of \$50.

3. Math

Grade 9 students are asked to purchase Students in grades 10 to 12 must purchase a TI-83 Plus (or TI-84 plus) Graphing Calculator.

4. Science

Students in SBI3C will pay \$5.00 for a sketch book.

5. Woodworking/Shop Courses

The fee is \$50.00 per student for wood and other materials. Individual projects may add additional costs.

6. School Trips

The associated costs of the various class trips are usually raised through fund raising efforts. You will be informed about additional costs as necessary.

7. Physical Education

All students in the Phys. Ed. classes must wear the school phys. ed. shorts and T-shirts during their practical sessions in the gym or on the field. Orders can be made in the first week of each semester. The shorts will cost \$14.00 and T-shirts \$10.00. Students in all phys. ed. classes must also purchase their own badminton racquets. They can be ordered through the school at costs ranging from \$15.00 to \$45.00.

Additional Phys. Ed. fees:

- Grade 9,10: \$20 for out of school activities
- Grade 11: \$40 to pay for activities outside of school like skating, curling, golfing.
- Grade 12: \$50 to cover similar activities as in grade 11, plus a compulsory first aid course.

8. Sports Teams

Students who participate in school teams will pay fees to help cover the cost of referees, facility rental, travel, and uniforms. Currently these costs look as follows, but they may fluctuate slightly as the need arises.

- \$110.. ice hockey
- \$90 ... senior basketball
- \$80 ... senior volleyball, outdoor soccer, junior basketball
- \$50 ... junior volleyball, junior badminton, senior badminton, track & field (+ \$10 for indoor),
- \$40 ... cross-country, midget badminton

- \$20 ... baseball
- \$15 ... grade 9 soccer
- Red-shirt fees will be up to 50% of regular player fees
- OFSAA – to be determined as necessary

If the players on some teams decide to add a warm-up jersey, then the cost goes up per player to cover the cost. Consumables like soccer socks will also be extra.

9. Food and Nutrition

Students require a full apron.

10. Computer Use

To encourage stewardly use of printing resources, each student is allocated \$3.00 per semester. The costs for printing are \$0.05 black and white on one side of a page, and \$0.08 for double sided. Colour printing costs are \$0.25 per page and \$0.48 for double sided. When the student's account falls to \$0, the student will not be able to use the printer until extra funds are paid to the computer office.

11. Drama

\$35 – cost of a trip to a drama production, often in Stratford.

12. Miscellaneous Class Trips

Fees are collected in various classes for class trips to cover entrance fees and a portion of transportation costs. Notes are normally sent home from the teacher for these trips.

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Students are expected to reflect a Christian lifestyle in dress and appearance. They should be well groomed and wear neat and clean clothing. Modesty is an essential requirement. This means that clothing must not be distracting to others or sexually provocative. At school, the students' clothing should be practical and functional, and should not be confused with beach attire or other styles inappropriate to a school setting.

1. During school hours and on school property, and while on school-sponsored day trips, all students must wear shirts and sweaters with the school logo and name supplied by R.J. McCarthy, or hoodies bought through the school and bearing Guido's name that show their participation in a school team or group.
2. Only plain (non-patterned, one-coloured) T-shirts can be worn under the compulsory shirts. Sizes must avoid excessively baggy or tight fits. Clothing must be worn so that modesty is always maintained.
3. Shorts must be at least lower thigh in length. Skirts must also meet this minimum length.
4. Pants and shorts must be tidy and modest and suitable for an academic environment. Ragged cut-offs, pants with holes, leggings worn as pants, yoga pants, and sports shorts are examples of clothing that do not fit these criteria and may not be worn.
5. Boys are not allowed to wear earrings while in the school building or participating as members of a school team. Any form of face piercing is also not permitted. Except for the wearing of modest nose rings or earrings, the same applies to the girls.
 1. Students may not have any visible tattoos.
 2. Hats and sunglasses are not to be worn anywhere in the school building.

In all cases of disagreement concerning any student dress and appearance, the school administration's decision will be final. Parents are requested to support the school in its attempt to uphold an acceptable standard for both boys and girls.

SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

When entering school property...	When entering the school building ...	When entering the classroom ...
<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drive cars carefully and park in the designated area. ▪ Make sure they do not have in their possession cigarettes, other illegal substances like drugs, and alcohol. ▪ Obey the rules established to keep the school smoke-free during school hours and school-sponsored trips. ▪ Wear school regulation shirts and sweaters, including on field trips. ▪ Make sure that their clothing meets school standards of modesty and decency. ▪ Interact with teachers and other students in a positive way to promote a safe environment. ▪ Follow the rule that Grade 9 and 10 students will remain on property throughout the day. ▪ Show respect for the neighbourhood houses and stores when leaving property at lunch time or study periods. (Grade 11 and 12 only) 	<p>Students will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove their hats ▪ Remove any non-regulation jewelry. ▪ Be courteous to teachers and other students. ▪ Leave room in the halls and by main doors so that movement by other people is not obstructed. ▪ Place garbage and paper in designated containers. ▪ Respect other students' lockers and possessions. ▪ Treat all school property with care. ▪ Refrain from dangerous pushing and running. ▪ Listen for the bells and organize books and all other classroom materials on time. ▪ Not disrupt any classes when walking through the halls ▪ Ensure that the lockers are locked with a school-authorized lock; use only magnets to attach paper to the inside of lockers. 	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make sure that they are not chewing gum, and have no food or drink with the exception of water bottles. ▪ Not be wearing jackets, coats, non-Guido sweaters unless there is a problem with the heating system in the classroom. ▪ Be in the classroom before the second bell rings. ▪ Organize books and materials so that they can be ready for work. ▪ Move desks or adjust windows and blinds only after receiving permission from the teacher. ▪ Listen when the teacher is talking or a classmate is asking a question or doing a presentation. ▪ Complete assigned work without disrupting the class or other students. ▪ Take along a Bible and Book of Praise for period 1. ▪ Listen attentively to the announcements at the end of period 2. ▪ Have cell phones and any portable audio players, etc. properly put away.

GUIDO DE BRÈS 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Semester 1

* indicates no school for students

Monday, August 23	School Office Opens
Thursday, September 2	Open House 1:00-2:30pm
Tuesday, September 7	First day of school
Tuesday, September 14	Grade 9 outing
Friday, September 17	Student picture day
Saturday, September 18	Guido golf tournament
Wednesday, September 22	Grade 9 Parent Open House & College and University info. evening
Thu. Sept. 23 – Fri. Sept. 24	SLT Retreat
Saturday, September 25	*Commencement (2021 Graduands)
Wednesday, October 6	Research and Development Days begin: School ends at 2:00 pm on Wed.
Friday, October 8	Guido hosts grade 7,8 cross-country meet
Monday, October 11	*Thanksgiving Day
Friday, October 22	Grade 9 Early Progress Report
Wednesday, October 27	*Parent-teacher conferences/Flex Day for Students
Thursday, October 28	*PA Day, High School Convention
Friday, October 29	*PA Day, Teachers' Convention
Monday, November 1	Student picture re-take day
Thursday, November 4	Co-op information evening, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 4	General Membership Meeting 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 10	First day of term 2
Thursday, November 11	Remembrance Day Assembly
Friday, November 19	Mid-semester Reports
Friday, November 26	Guido hosts Grade 7/8 volleyball tournament at Dofasco Centre
Wednesday, November 24	*Flex Day/Last Research and Development Day
Friday, December 17	Christmas Assembly
Mon., Dec. 20 to Fri., Dec. 31	*Christmas holidays
Mon., Jan. 24 to Fri., Jan. 28	First semester exams
Mon., Jan. 31 to Tues., Feb. 1	*Teacher preparation days

GUIDO DE BRÈS 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Semester 2

* indicates no school for students

Wednesday, February 2	First day of 2 nd Semester
Monday, February 7	Grade 8 Parent Information Evening
Tuesday, February 8	1 st Semester Reports handed out
Friday, February 11	Winter Banquet
Monday, February 21	*Family Day holiday
Tuesday, February 22	Grade 8 day
Wednesday, March 2	Research and Development Days begin: School ends at 2:00 pm
Mon., Feb. 28 to Fri., March 4	Graduation Pictures
Fri., March 11 to Fri., March 18	*March Break holidays
Friday, March 25	Guido hosts grade 7&8 basketball tournament at the Dofasco Centre
Wednesday, April 6	*Parent-teacher conferences/Flex Day for students
Thursday, April 7	Gr. 10 Literacy Test
Friday, April 8	Career Day
Wednesday, April 13	Term 2 Begins
Thursday, April 14	Easter Assembly
Friday, April 15	*Good Friday
Monday, April 18	*Easter Monday
Friday, April 22	Mid-semester reports
Wednesday, April 27	*Flex Day/Last Research and Development Day
Wed. April 27- Sat. April 30	Sound of Music
Thursday, May 5	Membership Meeting
Friday, May 6	*PA day
Thursday, May 12	Grandparents Day
Monday, May 23	*Victoria Day
Friday, June 17	*Exam Preparation Day
Mon., June 20 to Fri., June 24	Second semester exams
Tuesday, June 28	Commencement at Mohawk College
Friday, July 1	School Office closed for summer