

Introduction

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 time 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, because we know how difficult that may be, 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 49th year that Guido de Brès Christian High School has been in operation. It has been another interesting year! Under the Lord's care we were able to provide 464 students with a Christ centred education. The courses covered everything from university level English, calculus, and biology, to phys-ed, sewing, shop, co-op, and food and nutrition.

The big highlight of the year was, of course, the move from Crerar drive to Albright Rd. Much has been said about that move already, but it is worth brining up again how richly blessed we feel as staff to have a community that supported us so thoroughly. Whether through prayer, with fundraising, or by taking the time to be here in person, it was a wonderful community building event.

A brief look at next year

Lord willing, when we come back there will be a few more changes in and around the building. Those in the know anticipate that the new gym will be close to completion, as will the new shop spaces and the student lounge. Once those are completed, work will shift to the lower level of the school and the current shop will be converted into two classrooms and a storage space and a computer lab will be added as well. It will be an exciting year for that alone!

Each year we also have some sort of special event. This past year we were entertained by the hard work of the cast and crew of "Murder on the 518". It was wonderful to have so many people in the school as we tried out the new space for the first time. Next year is an Art's Alive year, where students are given the opportunity to display their artistic talents in a formal way.

It will also be a special year for some of the musicians in the school. There is another mass band event being held in Winnipeg over Easter Weekend. If your child has an interest in attending, please have them keep their ears open for announcements, or speak with Mr. Kingma.

Added to that, we will be celebrating our golden anniversary! Plans are in place to make sure that we celebrate Grace upon Grace for 50 years. More information about what that looks like will be released in the coming year. Beyond that, we have also included a calendar to this package so you can see the other events and important dates that belong to the year. First Day of Classes

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 3. As students arrive, they are encouraged to head to the gymnasium where they will find their names and their first class and room number posted on the wall along with their locker assignments. At 8:50 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. Then, at 9:00am the students will be called to the gymnasium for the Opening Assembly. After this, 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 school.

Dress Code Reformation

As was mentioned by Mr. Tomlin at the spring membership meeting, we are going to be having a dress code reformation in September. What follows outlines the policy that has changed and is taken from the latest version of the parent handbook:

- a) *Students must wear shirts and sweaters with the school logo and name (supplied by R.J. McCarthy), hoodies (purchased through the school and bearing Guido's name or logo), or other shirts or sweaters purchased through a club or team.*
 - i) *Team or club shirts or sweaters must be ordered by the teacher sponsor of the club or team, have a standard colour scheme (blue or grey with white or gold lettering), have a standard style (hoodie, crew neck, or golf shirt), and must prominently display the Guido logo or the names "Guido" or "Gryphons."*
 - ii) *The only exceptions are the Student Leadership Team and the Athletics Council; their shirts may be a different standard base colour, have different standard coloured lettering, and may display their team or council name rather than "Guido" or "Gryphons."*
- b) *Only plain (non-patterned, one-coloured) T-shirts may be worn under the compulsory tops. If the compulsory top has a zipper, it needs to be zipped up.*
- c) *For pants and shorts, only jeans or smart-casual pants or shorts may be worn. Ripped, distressed, torn, defaced, stained, or unhemmed items are not permitted. Jogging pants, yoga pants, leggings, leisurewear, and athletic wear are not permitted.*
- d) *Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be at least lower thigh in length and loose-fitting.*
- e) *Boys are not allowed to wear earrings or have other facial piercings while in the school building or participating in school activities.*
- f) *Girls may wear earrings and modest nose rings (i.e., studs) but no other facial piercings.*
- g) *Students may not have any visible tattoos.*
- h) *Hats and sunglasses are not to be worn anywhere in the school building.*

The major change that this reformation brings can be summarized as:

1. All the old play sweaters (think Annie, Sound of Music, Play About a Dragon) and sports sweaters that are not the standard colour (think 2024 Girls Soccer, Jr. Boys Volleyball) are now retired as uniform options
2. Pants that are distressed (meaning that they have been manufactured to look old and frayed, or those that are old and frayed) will no longer be an option to wear. Even if there is no skin showing.
3. The pants options are back to the basics. You won't go wrong with jeans or khakis that have no holes or distressed patches.

Uniforms

Our official uniform provider is McCarthy Uniforms, in Hamilton. They provide our blue and white polo shirts, and a collared sweater. If you plan to purchase some new uniforms, you can visit McCarthy's physical location, at 125 Nebo Road, Hamilton, ON, L8W 2E1. Or, you may visit our home on-line store (<https://www.mccarthyuniforms.ca/shop/school/482#allProducts>) online to obtain everything you need about product pricing, fit and uniform policy. (You will need to set-up an account to see pricing and complete orders.)

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 26, 2024. 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 August 29, 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 (\$35.00 for the comfort fit, and \$58.00 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/>

Cell Phones

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!). In fact, there is a growing number of parents who are making that choice with/for their children due to the overall negative impact that these devices and, through them, access to social media has had on their children.

If you feel that your child would benefit from a phone, please keep in mind that they will not be able to connect 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.

As teachers we have also been having discussions about the use of cell phones in our classrooms. While these devices do have their uses, they have also developed into a major distraction from our chief

purpose – teaching and learning. Independent of the increasing parental support for not having phones in the classroom, we as staff have also noted a marked increase in students’ dependency on these devices, and the increasing distraction that they have become. If you are interested in some of our thoughts, this article, <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2022-06-06-the-case-for-making-classrooms-phone-free>, while not written by our teachers, summarizes our teachers thoughts well. As a result of that discussion, we ask that students place their phones in the phone pockets at the front of their rooms.

Will there still be times when students are asked to use a device in class? Yes, there will be. But teachers will continue to control it, and for those who choose not to have a device, teachers usually work to have a few extra devices (like a Chromebook) around so that all students can participate when that happens, and they won’t be penalized for not having one with them.

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 11:38 – 12:27. 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 a trained counsellor, who will be available for students one morning a week. 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 is out of school for a reason that is not a legitimate absence (meaning they are not 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 before 9:30 am. This can be done through a planned absence on

Edsby, or the office can be informed through an email (office@guidodebres.com) or phone call (905-574-4011).

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. Thanks.

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 7 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 3 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. Joesse or Mrs. Tenhage in the office.

Other Items

1. **Student Timetable and Locker** – The timetable was handed out to all students already, and it will be available to check on Edsby as well (but likely not before August 26th). Another paper copy of their whole schedule will be made available on the first day of school. Student locker numbers are assigned and will be listed behind students names along with their first classes that they can find

on the gymnasium wall on the first day of school. Student may only use lockers assigned to them.

2. **School Calendar** – Key dates throughout the year are shown in the calendar below. Please consult this calendar when making vacation plans.
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** – Also 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

Once again we are going to ask that you do the close to impossible, and see if you can hang on to this newsletter until August. Almost impossible 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. J. 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. Art

Students in grade 11 and 12 Art are asked to contribute \$25 to help cover some of the cost of the materials used in this course.

3. 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.

4. Math

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

5. Woodworking/Shop Courses

The fee has been set as \$50.00 per student for wood and other materials, but with recent cost increases, it is likely that this will go up. Individual projects may add additional costs as well.

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
- \$100... senior basketball
- \$80 ... senior volleyball, outdoor soccer, junior basketball
- \$60 ... junior volleyball
- \$50 ... track & field (+ \$20 for indoor),
- \$40 ... cross-country
- \$30 ... junior badminton, senior badminton (+\$20 for uniform if required)
- \$20 ... Baseball, Novice: soccer, badminton, and basketball
- 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.

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.

- a) Students must wear shirts and sweaters with the school logo and name (supplied by R.J. McCarthy), hoodies (purchased through the school and bearing Guido's name or logo), or other shirts or sweaters purchased through a club or team.
 - i) Team or club shirts or sweaters must be ordered by the teacher sponsor of the club or team, have a standard colour scheme (blue or grey with white or gold lettering), have a standard style (hoodie, crew neck, or golf shirt), and must prominently display the Guido logo or the names "Guido" or "Gryphons."
 - ii) The only exceptions are the Student Leadership Team and the Athletics Council; their shirts may be a different standard base colour, have different standard coloured lettering, and may display their team or council name rather than "Guido" or "Gryphons."
- b) Only plain (non-patterned, one-coloured) T-shirts may be worn under the compulsory tops. If the compulsory top has a zipper, it needs to be zipped up.
- c) For pants and shorts, only jeans or smart-casual pants or shorts may be worn. Ripped, distressed, torn, defaced, stained, or unhemmed items are not permitted. Jogging pants, yoga pants, leggings, leisurewear, and athletic wear are not permitted.
- d) Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be at least lower thigh in length and loose-fitting.
- e) Boys are not allowed to wear earrings or have other facial piercings while in the school building or participating in school activities.
- f) Girls may wear earrings and modest nose rings (i.e., studs) but no other facial piercings.
- g) Students may not have any visible tattoos.
- h) 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 electronic of conventional 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 2024- 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Semester 1

* indicates no school for students

Monday, August 19	School Office Opens
Thursday, August 29	Open House 1:00-2:30pm
Tuesday, September 3	First day of school
Tuesday, September 10	Grade 9 outing
Saturday, September 14?	Guido golf tournament
Monday, September 16	Student picture day
Wednesday, September 18	Grade 9 Parent Open House & College and University info. evening
Friday, September 20	SLT Retreat
Friday, October 11	Thanksgiving Day Assembly
Friday, October 11	Guido hosts grade 7,8 cross-country meet
Monday, October 14	*Thanksgiving Day
Monday, October 21	Student picture re-take day
Wednesday, October 23	Parent/Teacher conferences
Thursday, October 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday, October 25	*PA Day, Teachers' Convention
Wednesday, November 6	First day of term 2
Thursday, November 7	Co-op information evening, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 7	General Membership Meeting 8:00 p.m.
Monday, November 11	Remembrance Day (Moment of Silence - No Assembly)
Thursday, November 14	Mid-semester Reports
Friday, November 15	*High School Teachers' Conference
Friday, November 29	Student Banquet
Friday, November 29	Guido hosts Grade 7/8 volleyball tournament at Dofasco Centre
Friday, December 20	Christmas Assembly
Mon., Dec. 23 to Fri., Jan. 3	*Christmas holidays
Mon., Jan. 20 to Fri., Jan. 24	First semester exams
Mon., Jan. 27 to Tues., Jan. 28	*Teacher preparation days
Monday, January 27	Grade 8 Parent Meeting

GUIDO DE BRÈS 2024- 2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Semester 2

* indicates no school for students

Wednesday, January 29	First day of 2 nd Semester
Tuesday, February 4	1 st Semester Reports handed out
Monday, February 10	Grade 8 day
Monday, February 17	*Family Day holiday
Mon., Feb. 24 to Fri., Feb. 28	Graduation Pictures
Fri., March 7 to Fri., March 14	*March Break holidays
Friday, March 21	Guido hosts grade 7&8 basketball tournament at the Dofasco Centre
Wednesday, March 26	Gr. 10 Literacy Test
Wednesday, April 2	Parent/teacher conferences
Wednesday April 9	Term 2 begins
Friday, April 11	Career Day
Thursday, April 17	Mid-semester reports
Thursday, April 17	Easter Assembly
Friday, April 18	*Good Friday
Monday, April 21	*Easter Monday
Thursday, April 24	Grandparents Day
Thu. April 25- Fri. April 26	Arts Alive
Thursday, May 1	Membership Meeting
Friday, May 2	*PA day
Monday, May 19	*Victoria Day
Tuesday, June 10	Year End Assembly
Thursday, June 12	Last Day
Friday, June 13	*Exam Preparation Day
Mon., June 16 to Fri., June 20	Second semester exams
Tuesday, June 24	Commencement at Hamilton Convention Centre
Friday, June 27	School Office closed for summer