

# Grand Forks Secondary School

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Principal: T. Eccleston | Vice Principal: J. Dowswell

## Summer 2025

### Principal's Message

As we wrap up a remarkable year at GFSS, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude and pride. This has been a year of creativity, growth, and connection.

Our young scientists, musicians, athletes, mathematicians, artists, tradespeople, and everyday leaders have made GFSS great.

We've celebrated academic excellence, deepened our understanding of Reconciliation, strengthened our inclusive practices, and shared in meaningful moments that remind us of what school is truly about: **people**.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated staff, our supportive families, and above all, our incredible students! Your kindness, courage, and curiosity give life to everything we do each day at GFSS.

As we look ahead to summer and then a new school year, I'm filled with optimism. The seeds we've planted this year (learning, relationships, community) will continue to grow. With every returning and new student who walks through our doors, we see fresh potential and new opportunities to build a school culture grounded in respect, belonging, and purpose. I can't wait to see what we'll create together.



Thank you for a great year. I wish you all a restful and joyful summer.

Warm regards,

~ Tom Eccleston, Principal



[link to previous weekly principal's reports and monthly newsletters](#)

## Grand Forks Secondary School

### Important Dates

- Jun 30-Jul 3 Pick-up Summary of Learning and fall timetable at the GFSS Office
- Jul 7 (summer) Pick-up Summary of Learning and fall timetable at the [School Board Office](#)
- Sep 2, 8:17am Learning Launch: First day of school - Early dismissal @ 11:30

## Supplies List 2025-2026



### GRAND FORKS SECONDARY SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST 2025 - 2026

All GFSS students in grade 8-12 are required to bring the following standard supplies on the first day of school:

#### **GENERAL SUPPLIES:**

Binders	Pencil Crayons	Lined Paper	Felt Markers
Eraser	Pens	Pencils	Graph paper
Black Sharpie	Pencil Case	Glue Sticks	Highlighter

#### **COURSE SPECIFIC SUPPLIES:**

##### **SCIENCES & MATH**

Scientific Calculator  
Graph paper  
Ruler

##### **TEXTILES & ART**

Project supplies purchased as necessary – fees apply

##### **FOODS**

Apron (Full or Half)  
Hair Bands (to tie hair back)  
Fees apply

##### **AUTO MECHANICS, METAL WORK & WOODWORK**

Safety Glasses (NOT Sunglasses)

##### **BAND**

Fees apply

##### **DRAMA**

Special Costumes may require fees.

##### **ATHLETICS**

Running Shoes	Shorts / Sweatpants	T-shirt
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## Bus students

If returning students will continue to ride the bus, please ensure to put your bus card in a secure spot over the Summer as you will be required to use the same card in September.

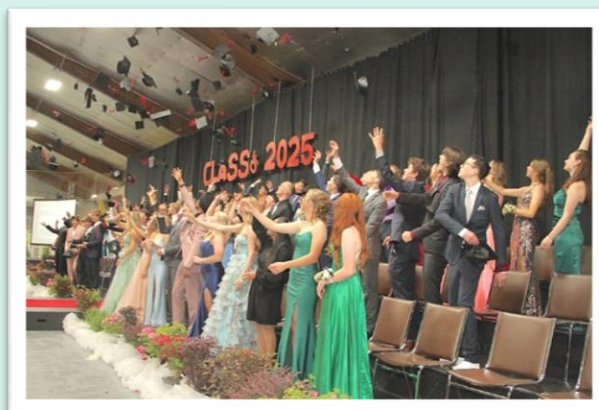
Also, a reminder that updated bus routes for the 2025/26 school year will be posted on the district website by August 29. Please confirm your bus stop times before the start of school by visiting this website: [Transportation – School District 51 – Boundary](#)

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## A day to remember: Grad 2025

We are grateful to the teacher sponsors (Ms. Erixon, Ms. Stuart, Ms. Webster), the grad executive, and every parent of a grad for your effort in making this a memorable year for our students.

To our grads and parents of grads: Thank you for your unwavering support and positive participation in making the GFSS graduation ceremony and celebrations such a meaningful and memorable event. Your encouragement, presence, and partnership helped create a once-in-a-lifetime celebration that truly honoured the achievements and growth of our graduates. Another special thanks to the dozens of volunteers who helped organize, supervise, and carry out all the festivities. We're so grateful to walk this journey with you.



*Photo: Grand Forks Gazette*

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## Honouring Our Scholarship Donors and Students

At our recent scholarship evening, we had the privilege of celebrating the achievements of some truly remarkable students and the generosity of the community members who help make their dreams possible. Scholarships are more than financial support; they are a powerful vote of confidence in a

young person's potential and character. GFSS extends its heartfelt thanks to the donors whose commitment to education continues to open doors for our students. Your investment makes a lasting difference.



Thank you also to the families and friends who joined us for the celebration. Your encouragement, love, and support are the foundation behind every success.

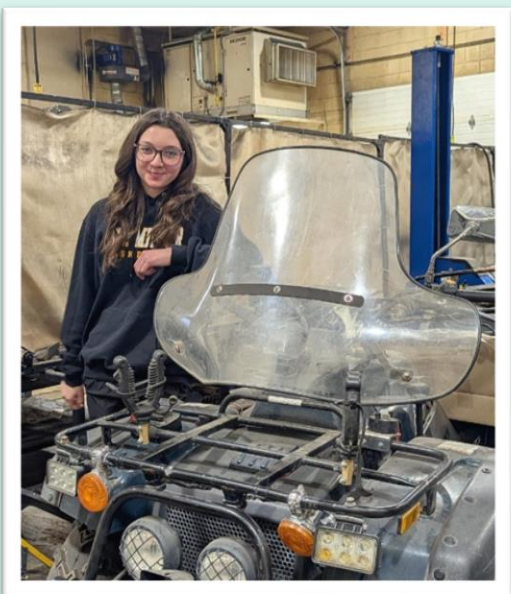
## Culture and Connection: National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration

GFSS came together to honour **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. This day was an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples across Canada and right here in the Boundary.

The celebration included music, speeches, and a shared meal. We're grateful to Elder-in-Residence (Joanie Holmes) and the GFSS Indigenous Education Team who helped guide this day and shared their teachings with us. GFSS continues Canada's journey toward reconciliation through days grounded in respect, relationships, and learning.



## Auto Program Builds Skills and Engines



Our high school's Auto Mechanics Program is giving students a head start with hands-on careers. In the shop, students repair small engines like lawnmowers, restore and resell used vehicles, and learn the ins and outs of diagnostics, maintenance, and safe repair practices.

Led by experienced Teacher, Mr. Lindsay, our program focuses on practical skills and real-world problem-solving. Several students have already earned job placements or are exploring apprenticeships in the trades. One of our students, has even started a [car detailing business](#) and donates his services to GFSS's car reselling program.

It's exciting to see our students building much more than engines, they are building confidence, expertise, and bright futures.

## Enhancing Inclusivity and Accessibility in our Washrooms

This spring, GFSS received a grant to renovate our washrooms over the summer. Schools must provide free and fair access to facilities to all students, without discrimination. (e.g., mobility/gender identity). This requirement includes all spaces. Washrooms are often overlooked, yet they are central to students' well-being, safety, & sense of belonging.

In September, we will have a total of 5 washrooms: 2 Boys, 2 Girls, and 1 Universal. Information about their location and signage will be shared in late August so students are aware on their first day back.



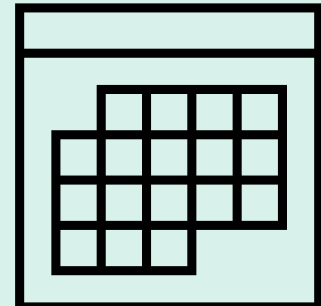
## School Fees 2025-2026

	Amount \$
<b>SECONDARY</b>	
Athletics: Curling (based on ice rental cost)	TBA
Athletics: Golf	150
Athletics: Grade 8, Volleyball, Basketball	150
Athletics: Jr Basketball, Volleyball Soccer, Ultimate	200
Athletics: Mountain Biking Team	200
Athletics: Sr Basketball, Volleyball Soccer, Ultimate	250
Athletics: Swimming (based on rental cost)	TBA
Athletics: Uniform Deposit	TBA
Clubs: E-sports	175
Elective: Art 9-12	15
Elective: Band 8-12	15
Elective: Foods 9-12	40
Elective: Outdoor Education	50
Elective: Woodwork (special project)	varies
Foods 8	15
Grad: Ceremony Fee	100
Locks (optional)	8
Student Council Fee	22
Yearbook (optional)	50
<b>Financial Hardship Information:</b> Participation will not be denied due to financial hardship. Any student unable to pay fees is invited to speak with the school principal. This is regularly communicated with families.	
<b>Comments:</b> Athletic fees do not cover the costs of tournament accommodations or travel expenses.	

## From the Counselling Suite...

Mrs. Webster will be doing new registrations and taking some appointments on Thursday, August 28. Appointments can be arranged through the office. Students who would like to make changes to their timetable are encouraged to fill out a course change form in the office and hand it in to the box in the office.

Course changes will be made in the order in which the are handed in. Students will have until September 9 to make changes to their first semester timetable.



## Lupine Awards: Honouring Student Excellence and Character



Each year, the Lupine Awards shine a spotlight on students who exemplify the values that make GFSS great: kindness, leadership, service, citizenship, and a commitment to learning. These awards celebrate strong character and strong achievement.

Student recipients were nominated and selected by staff for uplifting others, the bold ways they pursue their goals, and the everyday choices that inspire those around them. Whether in the

classroom, on the field, on stage, or behind the scenes, these students make our school better simply by being who they are.

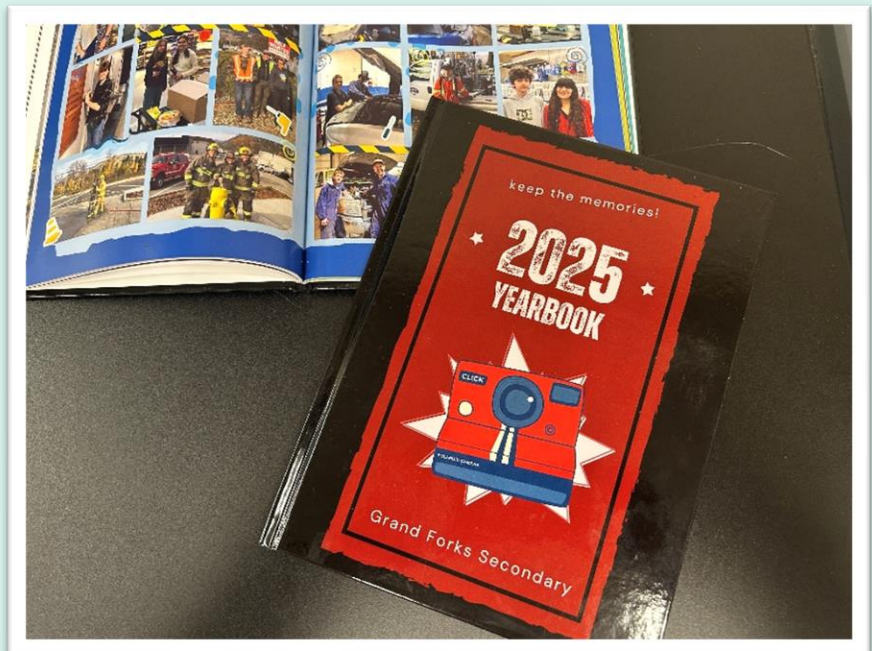
Congratulations to all our Lupine Award recipients. You remind all of us of what it means to grow with purpose, and to lead with heart.

## Get Your Copy of the Yearbook!

This year at GFSS has been filled with unforgettable moments, incredible achievements, and so much laughter. It's all captured in our beautiful yearbook! From spirit days to sports, performances to everyday snapshots, this is your chance to own a piece of our school's 2024-2025 story.

Thank you, Ms. Doyle and the students from the Yearbook Club for your time in creating such a wonderful collection.

Don't miss out! Come by the office (June 30, July 2,3) next week and buy your yearbook! \$40.00. Relive the memories for years to come!



## Celebrating Student Artists: Bringing Colour and Community to GFSS

The walls of our school have come alive with creativity, thanks to the incredible work of our student artists. From vibrant murals to hand-painted lockers, from a newly designed welcome sign to original artwork displayed throughout our hallways, these visual expressions are transforming GFSS into a space that feels more welcoming, personalized, and uniquely ours.

Beyond the beauty of the art itself, these projects have had a powerful impact on school culture. When students create art our school, they're doing more than just painting. They're claiming ownership, making a mark, and telling their stories. This kind of student-led beautification fosters a deep sense of pride and belonging. It says, "GFSS is our place."

We want to thank every student who picked up a paintbrush and shared their talent and vision. Your work has brightened our halls and our hearts. We can't wait to see what you create next!





## Students Achieve Top Scores in the University of Waterloo Math Contest

We are proud to recognize a group of exceptional students who participated in the University of Waterloo's prestigious Mathematics Contests. These national-level competitions challenge students to think creatively, apply advanced problem-solving strategies, and demonstrate mathematical reasoning beyond the regular curriculum.

This year, several GFSS students rose to the occasion with outstanding results. Their performance placed them among the top scorers in the region and, in some cases, across the country.

Teegan Lalande (grade 8) received the *Pascal School Champion Medal* for earning the highest score on the grade 9 contest. Sara Paul (grade 10) was awarded the *Certificate of Participation* as the top student on the grade 10 contest. Kent Armstrong was awarded the *Fermat School Champion Medal* for earning the highest score on the grade 11 contest. Emily Wang (grade 11) was awarded the *Euclid School Champion Medal* for earning the highest score on the grade 12 contest. Kent and Emily also each received the *Certificate of Distinction* for scoring in the top 25% of students across the country.

The top three students for each contest formed the school team. The cumulative scores of those students are compared against the other school teams in the region to determine zone champions. Sara Paul, Kanan Evers and Cole Praski have been declared the *Kootenay Zone Team Champions* for the grade 10 Cayley contest. Emily Wang, Julia Hugh and Kent Armstrong have been declared the *Kootenay Zone Champions* for the grade 12 Euclid contest.

Thanks go to our two sponsor teachers, Mr. Houlton and Ms. Tarrant for organizing the contests at GFSS. Whether it was the Pascal, Cayley, Fermat, or Euclid contest, our students demonstrated perseverance and a genuine love of learning.

