

# THE GIBSON GAZETTE

Aug. 28



## Website

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## **Welcome back everyone!**

The Gibson staff is looking forward to the start of another great school year and to not only seeing our students again; but also meeting all our new Gators next week! Attached you will find the **J. A. Gibson School Expectations Information Sheet**. Please review this and the information in the Gazette for some important school information. If you have any questions related to September start-up, please feel free to contact the office this week anytime between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE** – As storm drainage and road improvements continue in Maple and in the J. A. Gibson area, we have been informed by the City of Vaughan that the walkway access at the back of the school at the intersection of Gram Street and Naylor Street will be closed until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please avoid using this area during morning drop off and afterschool pick up.

**If you are driving your child to school in the morning, the parking lot is closed between 8:15 and 8:30 am for bus arrivals. No cars are permitted in the parking lot area during this time in order to ensure the safety of all our students.**

Students will need a **nut-free, healthy snack and a healthy lunch** on the first day of school – in addition to indoor shoes that can remain at the school. Other materials and items that may be required, will be shared with you by your child's teacher.

Gibson will once again have some **optional hot lunch programs** to offer to our students. Families will be informed of other options once we have confirmed days and vendors. Currently, pizza and milk orders are available for purchase on School Cash online.

Communication is important at Gibson and we strive to ensure our families are kept informed of school initiatives and events through our school website, Welcome Screen, school sign, the bi-weekly Gibson Gazette and through regular teacher/class communication.



Looking forward to celebrating your child's successes with you this year!

## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
<b>Sept. 1</b>	Class placement emails sent out to families
<b>Sept. 5</b>	First Day of School - <b>SK (Year 2) to Grade 8 attend all day</b> - <b>JK (Year 1) students attend from 10:45-12:15 only (see more information below)</b>
<b>Sept. 6</b>	All students attend school all day
<b>Sept. 12</b>	Gibson Gazette is sent out bi-weekly starting on this day



## School Timetable

<b>8:15 am</b>	Supervision begins outside <i>(Entrance to parking lot is closed from 8:15-8:30 am)</i>	
<b>8:30 am</b>	School begins	
<b>10:10 – 10:40 am</b>	Recess	
<b>12:20 – 1:20 pm</b>	Lunch	
<b>3:00 pm</b>	Dismissal <i>(Parking lot closed from 3:00-3:15 pm for bus dismissal)</i>	

## Moved? Need to Register?

If you have moved and your child(ren) will **not be attending J. A. Gibson** this September, please inform the office as soon as possible. In addition, if you know of anyone who needs to register their child, or you have a child to register, please contact or visit the office this week and the office staff will be happy to assist you.

## IMPORTANT - Kindergarten Start Dates



**YEAR 1 (JK) Students** - The first day of school is **Sept. 5 from 10:45 – 12:15 pm** – All new JK students will attend school during this time only. Please drop your child off at the Kindergarten enclosure at 10:45 am and then pick them up at this same spot at 12:15 pm. **Sept. 6** will be the first **FULL** day of school for all our Year 1 (JK) students.

**YEAR 2 (SK) Students** - **Sept. 5** is the first day of kindergarten for all our Year 2 (SK) students. They will be at school for the whole day from 8:30 – 3:00 pm.

## Class Placement Information

An email from Joseph A. Gibson will be sent to ALL registered families **by the end of the day on Friday, September 1, 2023** indicating your child's class and teacher.

When your child arrives at the school on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, signs will be posted on the walls in the back of the school indicating where the classes are to line up. If you, or your child, need any assistance finding the class that morning, staff will be available outside to assist between 8:15 and 8:30 am. If you have any updated bus or student pick up information, please contact the office as soon as possible so we can update your child's information.

***PLEASE NOTE:*** *Due to ongoing registrations, there may be staffing changes and class reorganization at the end of September which may result in a change of teacher and/or classroom for your child. **No class changes will be made prior to the Board's Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> reorganization date.** We will do our best to keep these changes to a minimum and to support students during any transitions. In the event re-organization affects your child, you will be notified by the school.*

## Student Agenda Planners for 2023-24

Agenda planners are designed to assist students in the development of their learning skills and are an effective time management, organization and communication tool. The Gibson agenda is also filled with important information about the daily operation and expectations of our school. We have a limited number of agenda planners available for families to purchase. They are **\$6** each and can be purchased through School Cash-Online or directly from the office. If you have already ordered your copy, your child will receive it during the first week of school.

## School Council News

2022-23 School Council Chairs:

*Pina Olsson and Lisa Papa*



**SAVE THE DATE** - Our final 2022-23 School Council meeting and elections for this year's 2023-24 School Council **will be held on September 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.** Nomination forms for this year's Council are available in the Book of Forms. If you are interested in seeking an executive position (Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer), please fill out the nomination form and return it to the office by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Claudia Fischer**

Principal

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# Joseph A. Gibson Public School School Information

## CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE

For safety reasons, all parents, guardians, visitors and volunteers need to check in at the main office upon their arrival. Depending on the reason for your visit, you will receive a visitor's pass to wear while you are here. When students come in late or have to leave the school early, they must sign in/out at the main office.

## REPORT CARDS

Report cards using the standardized Ministry format are issued at the end of each term. These reports summarize a student's progress in relation to the Ontario Curriculum for each subject area. Regular contact between parents/guardians and teachers through the agenda planner, telephone calls, notes or interviews, is encouraged. These opportunities are designed to share and promote student achievement on an ongoing basis.

## ATTENDANCE - SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Please see the Board section "About Our Elementary Schools".

## PUNCTUALITY

Regular, punctual attendance is expected of all students and must be supported by parents/guardians so students can be successful. Our teachers begin their programs promptly. Students who arrive in class late disrupt classmates and risk missing essential lessons and announcements. If children arrive late to school, they must first report to the office where office staff will sign them in.

## ILLNESS

It is expected that students attending school are well enough to participate in all aspects of school programs, including physical education, outdoor activities and recess. Students with colds, coughs etc., which are contagious or serious enough to prevent them from participating fully in school activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of illness to others.

## TELEPHONES

To ensure that the school telephone lines are readily available, student use of the office phone is restricted to emergencies. Any child who becomes ill during the day is to speak to their teacher who will send them to the office for assistance in contacting parents. The office telephone is to be used by students in emergency situations only, with teacher/office permission. Students are encouraged to make arrangements for extra-curricular activities, rides and visits, outside school time. **We are unable to make alternate bussing arrangements for this purpose.**

## LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

### We Area A Nut Sensitive School. NO Nut Products

We would ask that parents who come to the school to drop off lunch for their children, **clearly label it with their child's name and place it on the table provided in front of the office.** We



encourage healthy food and beverage choices. If you need to see your child, check in at the office. Most of our students bring a lunch to school and eat in their classroom, supervised by School Assistants with the help of older students who act as lunch monitors in the primary classrooms. After tidying classrooms, students proceed outdoors for lunch recess. The school yard is supervised at this time. For supervision purposes, we expect that students who eat at school will remain on school property throughout the full lunch period unless a parent has specified otherwise. **The school cannot accept responsibility for the safety of students who are given permission to leave school property at lunch.** Students in grade 7 and 8 may leave at lunch, only if they have written permission from a parent/guardian, which must be presented at the office. Students must sign out at the office.

### **SCHOOL BOUNDARIES**

Students should play only in supervised areas during the school day. The area on the south side of the school just outside the intermediate doors is out of bounds. Intermediate students who exit through these doors should immediately proceed to the supervised area on the east side of the school. In addition the lower field level just east of the soccer field is out of bounds.

### **PICKING UP STUDENTS EARLY**

Parents who wish to pick up children early are asked to write a note in your child's agenda informing the teacher of the time you wish your child to be dismissed from class. To reduce the amount of class interruptions, you are asked to wait until your child comes to the office at the time indicated on the note. Please sign your child out, and sign back in if they return within the school day.

### **DROP OFF, PICK UP AND DISMISSAL**

Most of our students are bussed to school. There is **NO CAR TRAFFIC permitted on Naylon or in our parking lot from 8:15 - 8:30 a.m. or from 3:00 - 3:15 p.m.** Please remember to keep the safety of all our children uppermost when dropping off or picking up children. Children waiting to be picked up will be on the sidewalk at the northeast corner of Naylon St. and the school. All students will leave the school through their assigned exit doors. No students are to exit the front doors.

### **IMPORTANT BUSSING NOTICE**

As per Board policy students must observe Bus Safety procedures (see Board section). **Eating, shouting, inappropriate language, moving seats, hanging out the window and fighting are strictly prohibited; students engaging in these activities may have their bus privileges suspended.**

Students receiving multiple warnings for inappropriate behaviour may be suspended from riding a bus. Parents will be notified of the duration of the suspension.

For reasons of safety and to avoid potential overcrowding on our buses, we do not allow children to change buses. Parents are asked to make arrangements that do not include changing buses when their child's daily routine changes.

### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES/PERSONAL ITEMS**

These are very expensive items and the school cannot accept responsibility if such items are brought to school and lost, damaged or stolen. In the event that items are used inappropriately, please refer to the Acceptable Use Agreement in the Board Section of the Agenda. As per the Ministry's Cellphone Restriction policy, cellphones must be turned off while on school property, and out of sight during school instructional time or organized activities. Please refer to the "Acceptable Use Agreement" and school acceptable use form in the Book of Forms.

In addition, the school does not take responsibility for any personal items brought to school (i.e. soccer balls, collector cards, toys, etc.) that become damaged or lost. **It is strongly recommended that these items remain at home.**

### **DRESS CODE**

In alignment with the YRDSB Code of Behaviour and Safe Schools Policy and Procedure, dress code is enforced in order to create a safe and respectful learning and teaching environment. Midriiffs and undergarments should remain covered at all times and shorts or skirts need to be of respectable length. Students wearing clothing to school that is revealing, provocative or includes inappropriate messages will be asked to:

- wear something over the piece of clothing
- change into something else
- turn the piece of clothing inside out
- call home for a change of clothes

# JOSEPH A. GIBSON PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

## OUR 3 R's

**Respect...for yourself and others**  
**Responsibility...for your actions**  
**Readiness...to listen and learn**

### Joseph A. Gibson shares the belief that:

- The education of a child is the shared responsibility of parents, staff and the child.
- Open communication between parents and staff is essential.
- Children learn best in a positive, safe and inviting atmosphere.
- Parents and staff share in the task of encouraging the development of academic skills, social and emotional growth and positive creativity in our students.
- Every person has the right to be respected and recognized for their identity, race, faith, background and language.

### Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

- Be positive role models
- Work in a cooperative partnership with the school
- Encourage the children to achieve realistic goals
- Be informed about school procedures
- Encourage and teach children to respect and value self and others
- Teach their children to take responsibility for their own actions
- Support the school's Constructive Practices
- Support the Code of Behaviour

### Responsibilities of Staff

- Be positive role models
- Provide the best possible education to each child
- Help student achieve realistic goals
- Communicate and work effectively with parents, students, and staff
- Discipline fairly and realistically
- Encourage students to resolve conflicts appropriately
- Support the Code Of Behaviour

### Responsibilities of Students

- Be positive role models
- Treat others fairly and with respect
- Give their best efforts and demonstrate a positive learning attitude

- Demonstrate respect for property and the environment
- Be responsible for their words and actions
- Play and learn safely, including in the yard
- Make appropriate use of the internet
- Use appropriate language (verbal & body)
- Use positive solutions to resolve conflicts
- Use electronic devices at school responsibly
- Wear appropriate clothing
- Be punctual
- Support the Code of Behaviour

**Appropriate behaviour is the expectation for every student. It will be encouraged through the following constructive practices:**

- Program modification at school
- Positive feedback for desirable behaviour
- Counselling in conflict management and/or behaviour management
- Peer Mediation
- Involvement in Restorative Approaches
- Social and Leadership Skills Group
- Consultation with parents/guardians
- Involvement with community or school board support services

### Consequences of Inappropriate Behaviour

- Withdrawal of privileges
- Exclusion from activities
- Detention periods
- Restitution for damages
- Exclusion of students
  - *temporary removal from class(es)*
  - *suspension from school (as per the York Region District School Board Discipline Policy and Safe Schools Policy)*

**At Joseph A. Gibson Public School....Character Matters!**

# HOMework POLICY

Homework's purpose is to support the development of literacy skills, supplement and support student achievement through related out-of-school activities, encourage the development of learning skills, promote positive and enthusiastic attitudes towards independent study and lifelong learning, address individual strengths and weaknesses, assist students in preparing for subsequent planned learning activities, involve parents with their child's learning and to create partnerships between home and school.

## BELIEFS:

Homework supports the educational program and is a shared responsibility. The research is clear: When families are involved in their children's education in positive ways, children achieve higher grades and test scores, have better attendance at school, demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviour, graduate at higher rates and have greater enrolment in higher education.

## EXPECTATIONS:

### Student:

- Complete the assigned work to the best of his/her ability
- Hand it in when it is due
- Establish a well-developed homework routine
- Locate and organize necessary materials and resources i.e. textbooks, notebooks, pencil, eraser, paper etc.

### Teacher:

- Communicate with other teachers to coordinate well-balanced amount of homework daily
- Ensure that homework is monitored
- Provide relevant assignments
- Ensure that regular checks are made
- Provide clear guidelines and expectations
- Provide remedial support
- Provide class time to record homework (in the agenda)

### Parent:

- Provide a quiet place to work
- Maintain a positive attitude
- Give support when required
- Ensure that all materials/resources are provided
- Give encouragement/discuss homework with your child

- Check completed homework/agenda daily/sign where required
- Ensure homework is organized and complete

## HOMework GUIDELINES:

(as per Board Policy/Procedure 320.0)

The following are approximate daily guidelines recommended for homework for each of the grade levels.

### KINDERGARTEN

- 10 minutes daily—maximum
- Reading
- Additional practice in spelling and number facts
- Collection of materials
- Assignments/projects related to current topic of study

### GRADES 1—3

- 20 minutes daily—maximum
- Additional practice in reading, spelling and number facts
- Unfinished classroom work
- Collection of materials
- Assignments/projects related to current topic of study

### GRADES 4 - 6

- 40 minutes daily—maximum
- Additional practice in reading, spelling and number facts
- Unfinished classroom work
- Study or practise for tests
- Written long-term assignments/projects

### GRADES 7 & 8

- 50 minutes daily—maximum
- Additional practice in reading, spelling and number facts
- Complete assigned work, daily lesson reviews
- Long term assignments, projects, book reviews
- Study for tests, quizzes
- Instrument practice

## TYPES OF HOMEWORK:

- **Pre-learning** homework
- **Checking for understanding** homework
- **Practice** homework
- **Study** homework
- **Completion** homework