



***ST. EDWARD
SCHOOL
HANDBOOK
2026-2027***

Principal: Mrs. J. Heinrichs
Vice-Principal: Mrs. H. Hill
Office Coordinator: Mrs. L. Wasylowich

This handbook belongs to :

1002 Avenue P North
Saskatoon, SK. S7L 2W7
Phone (306)659-7300 Fax (306)659-2095

www.gscs.ca/edw



MISSION STATEMENT

At Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools we are...

Rooted in Faith

- We see God in all things
- A Catholic school is a community of faith, hope and love
- Our faith is living and growing

Growing in Knowledge

- We strive to have each student attain academic excellence, based on each one's God given talents
- Students discover how their faith is part of learning and of life
- Our young people grow in freedom and responsibility

Reaching Out to Transform the World

- All are welcomed, especially those most in need
- We reach out to transform the world.

"Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools: a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place."

We love because He first loved us.

-1John 4:19

Rooted Growing Reaching Transforming

ST. EDWARD STAFF

Principal:	J. Heinrichs	
Vice Principal:	H. Hill	
Office Coordinator:	L. Wasylowich	
Classroom Teachers:	S-L. Danyluk W. Lagimodiere M. Romanchuk R. Janvier K. Laroque S. Kelly H. Hill/K. Johnson	
Release Teachers:	A. Stretton	
Wrap Around Literacy	K. Johnson	
Educational Assistants:	H. Gammage K. Schell L. Santiago C. Radke	H. Egwonwu G. Ng A. Wells K. Vickaryous-Remenda
Learning Assistance Teachers:	P. Diachuk and C. Lavier	
Band Teacher:	Brennan Kowalski	
EAL:	L. Gusikowski	
Social Counselor:	J. Hartman	
Speech Pathologist:	TBD	
Aboriginal Student Achievement Coordinator:	W. Grant	
Head Caretaker:	T. Sylvester	



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to St. Edward School! It is an honour and a privilege to serve the St. Edward School community as Principal. On behalf of the staff, I extend a warm welcome to all our new and returning students and families. We have been working hard to ensure St. Edward is a safe place to be for students and staff. We hope that you will find the information in this handbook useful throughout the school year and we look forward to working with our students and families to build a community based on the values of faith, caring, respect, responsibility, trust and family. At St. Edward School, our mission is to serve and nurture each individual student in an atmosphere of faith, respect, hope and love.

We are blessed with the opportunity to serve the educational needs of your children in a Catholic school. Our dedicated staff works closely together to create a sense of family within our school community as we believe in providing a safe and caring Christ-filled environment. We encourage all students to seek excellence in everything they do; in all aspects of their lives. As such, we educate the whole child to reach his or her full potential – intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, socially and physically, in partnership with school, home, parish and the broader community.

We believe that our parent community is an equally important part of the success of our students and school. Parents, we invite you to become active members of our school community. It is only with the cooperation, support and dedication of many people that St. Edward School can be a wonderful place to learn and grow in. We will work collaboratively with you to support your children's needs and your commitment to working with us is very important and appreciated.

We know that there is a great deal of excitement and anxiety on the first day of school, our staff will be doing everything they can to ease any anxieties your children may be feeling during the first few days, weeks, and maybe even months. If your child shares a concern with you, please let us know. Together we will make this year a great one. God bless you and your family. Thank you for your continued support of Catholic Education.

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ST. EDWARD SCHOOL **CODE OF CONDUCT - OUR 4 B'S**

The Gospel Virtues are foundational to our endeavours at school as we are all disciples of Christ. The following expectations are a positive guide for all our actions at school - in our classrooms, hallways, and on our school grounds.

Be Respectful
Be Safe
Be a Learner
Be Responsible

STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. I have the RIGHT to be a valued member of the St. Edward school community. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to model Christian values so that all students and staff in the school community are able to develop and reach their full potential.
2. I have the RIGHT to learn in an inviting and caring school. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to attend school regularly, have a positive attitude toward learning, be punctual and be prepared for class. I must strive to achieve my personal best every day.
3. I have the RIGHT to be heard. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to share my viewpoint politely and to listen attentively when others speak.
4. I have the RIGHT to feel safe and to be treated with respect. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to be kind and to care for myself and others in my words and actions.
5. I have the RIGHT to my own personal space and property. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to respect school property, my own property and to respect the rights of others to have safe personal space and property.

STAFF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. I have the RIGHT to be a valued member of the St. Edward school community. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to model Christian values so that people in the school community are able to develop their gifts and reach their full potential.
2. I have the RIGHT to learn and to work in an inviting and caring school. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to set professional goals and to work collaboratively with others to develop an effective professional learning community.
3. I have the RIGHT to be heard and informed. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to share my viewpoint politely and to listen attentively when others speak.
4. I have the RIGHT to feel safe and to be treated with respect. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to be kind and to care for myself and others in my words and actions.
5. I have the RIGHT to my own personal space and property. It is my RESPONSIBILITY to respect school property, my own property and to respect the rights of others to have safe personal space and property.

GENERAL BEHAVIOUR and EXPECTATIONS **DISCIPLINE**

Love one another as I have loved you..

James 13:34

Students are expected to exercise good judgment according to our 4 B's (listed earlier) and demonstrate Christian values in all their relationships. If challenges should occur, such situations are viewed as learning opportunities.

If students choose to disregard student expectations, the consequences will be related, respectful, and reasonable. Consequences are used as a learning tool for inappropriate behaviour. Consequences may include discussion with the student, problem-solving, "time-out" to reflect, community service, restitution, removal of privileges, counseling, or other measures deemed appropriate. All minor and major problems will be dealt with by staff on an individual basis depending on the age of the child, the number of repeat occurrences, and the severity of inappropriate behaviour.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY - ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP)

St. Edward promotes the use of technology in our learning. As a faith-based community, the use of school owned or personal technology to harm others is unacceptable. We acknowledge that in this Information Age students need the opportunity to access, evaluate, and produce information. The Internet can be a valuable resource to this end. Use of the computers, however, is a privilege, not a right. Internet service is available in the school and access to the internet will be available only when supervised by a teacher. We, at St. Edward, expect that parents/guardians will discuss use of the internet with their children and reinforce the school goals of responsible internet use as detailed in our Technology Acceptable Use Policy, which is identified below. Teachers will explicitly explain each of the following statements within the policy to the students in September. Students must agree to our Acceptable Use Policy to have access and use technology at the school.

Below is the Middle Year's Students AUP:

St. Edward School promotes the safe use of technology to support student learning.

St. Edward School recognizes that many students bring their own technology to school. As such, personal technology is included in the Acceptable Use Agreement, however cell phones are not allowed at any time in our school.

By using technology at St. Edward School, you agree to the following:

1. I understand that when using technology for school-related purposes, I will follow instructions and the guidelines of this acceptable use policy.
2. I understand that GSCS staff and students use Microsoft Office 365 and Google Apps for Education which are cloud-based services.
3. I understand that I will follow all established Internet safety guidelines including:
 - a) Technology is considered an extension of the classroom. Therefore, any content that is deemed inappropriate in the classroom is also inappropriate in a digital context.
 - b) Protecting all of my identifying information and establish appropriate privacy settings when using technology.
 - c) I will not post identifying information without consulting the three questions - accessibility, ownership, and erasability.
 - d) I must never, under any circumstances, agree to meet someone, that I have met over the internet.
 - e) When signing up for a web tool, I will consult the terms of service, answer questions truthfully and take appropriate steps to protect my privacy. If I am unsure of what to do, I will ask my teacher for assistance. *
 - f) I will not post photos/videos of myself or others, without written parental/guardian consent (Part One of the Media Release).
4. My Office365 and Google Education accounts are monitored by GSCS. Inappropriate use may be flagged and addressed by the school administration team.
5. I will not share any passwords associated with my GSCS account with anyone except my GSCS teacher(s). Under no circumstances will the account of another student or GSCS teacher be used.
6. Should I intentionally, or unintentionally, damage a device or use technology improperly, repair/replacement costs will be dealt with individually, between the school and my family/guardian.

*Due to legislation in the United States, many websites, apps or tools state in their terms of services that students must be of a certain age to use the website. Many of these same websites will allow the students to sign up even if they don't meet the age requirements of that website. Therefore, teachers will use their professional discretion to choose appropriate, educationally relevant online tools when using them in the classroom. Students will be explicitly taught any relevant Digital Citizenship skills as they relate to privacy and personal information.

The Acceptable Use Policy for our Primary Students is as follows:

When using technology at school:

- I will always wait for my teacher's instructions before I take a device.
- I will have clean hands when using technology.
- I will always use two hands when carrying a computer or iPad.
- I will make sure I always know where my device is.
- I will only use the apps and programs that my teacher has told me to use.
- No liquids or food near the computer. Ever!
- I will be responsible and make smart learning choices when using technology.
- I will not share my last name, phone number, or pictures with anyone on the internet.
- I will not take pictures or videos of myself or other students without teacher permission.

TELEPHONE USE

Students are required to ask permission from their teacher or a staff member to use the telephone. Students are reminded that school phones are to be used for emergency use or if a child needs to remain in school to complete work. ***Calls to arrange social functions and visits to friends are to be made at home.***

ELECTRONICS/CELL PHONE USE

We ask students to refrain from bringing all electronics to school. The devices can be disruptive to student learning and to the classroom environment, and there is the chance that the devices could be lost, stolen, or broken. The school and school division cannot take any responsibility for electronic devices that are lost, stolen or broken whether in possession of the student or if the device had to be removed from the student due to inappropriate use and in possession of a staff member.

Cell phones are not permitted at school. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Appropriate Dress Guidelines: Over the past few years, the more prescriptive aspects of a dress code have evolved into something closer to a case-by-case examination of "appropriate dress guidelines." As such, we offer the following guidelines to outline our beliefs:

- That we can rely on the good judgement of parents and caregivers to determine the clothing children should wear to school.
- That how we dress affects our attitude and behavior. Students and staff are encouraged to dress for success in their roles as learners and professionals in a Catholic education setting.
- That weather, activity, age and many different variables cause great variation in what can be deemed reasonable and respectful.
- That clothing with vulgar language or themes of racism, sexism, drug, alcohol and tobacco will not be allowed.
- That students have the clothing necessary to participate in school activities and outdoor recesses.
- If a student's clothing choice is questionable, a conversation will ensue and the student may be asked to change their attire.

BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, SCOOTERS, ROLLERBLADES, PLAYGROUND

Children are welcome to bring bicycles and skateboards to school, but they cannot be used at break times. Students must stay away from parked bikes at recess and noon hour. We cannot guarantee the safety of bicycles. Bicycles that are brought to school should be locked in the bicycle rack immediately on arrival. For safety reasons, bicycles will not be stored in the school building during the day.

Students are expected to play safely so that their well-being and others' well-being can be assured.

Bicycles: To minimize risk to others, students are required to exercise caution when riding their bikes onto the playground. Riding bikes on the playground at recess is not permitted.

Skateboards, Scooters and Rollerblades are not to be used while at school and must be safely stored in a student's locker upon arrival at school. They must be carried on the playground and in the school.

Creative Playground Usage: Children must be respectful of others and allow everyone to have their turn. Play fighting, wrestling and tackle games or other "hands on" behaviors are not permitted.

DANGEROUS ITEMS

Weapons and other dangerous items are not acceptable items to be at school. These items will be confiscated, parents will be notified, and appropriate consequences will be imposed. Water pistols and other toy weapons are not to be brought to school. When discovered, these will be confiscated. Parents will be notified.

FIRE DRILLS & LOCKDOWN PRACTICES

Safety regulations mandate that 6 drills will be held periodically throughout the year, the first of which is to happen within the first week. Each room has a map defining escape routes for exiting the building. Students must meet in their designated spot outside the building. Students are expected to have shoes on their feet at all times.

Safety regulations mandate that 2 full lockdown practices be held a year. A week prior to the practice, a notice will be sent home to provide time for preparation for staff and students, as these practices may cause anxiety for many staff and students. Teachers with intensive needs children or students with high anxiety will be prepared individually prior to the drill.

LOCKDOWN

In the event of a serious situation in the school/community and/or the notification has been given by the Saskatoon City Police, a school lockdown may be necessary.

Full Lockdown – Alerts staff and students that an imminent danger exists inside or outside the school. A general announcement (repeated twice): "A school lockdown is in effect."

Hold and Secure – Alerts staff and students that an emergency/crisis exists near or outside the school and requires an enhanced level of safety. A general announcement (repeated twice): "Hold and Secure is in effect." No one will be permitted to enter or leave the building.

Shelter in Place – Alerts staff and students that the outside atmosphere is hazardous due to a suspended chemical, biological or radiological incident. A general announcement (repeated twice): "A shelter in place is in effect. No one is permitted to leave the building."

SCHOOL EVACUATION

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for St. Edward staff and students to leave the building. Our in-area emergency location is Oliver Lodge. Upon arrival, staff members will contact parents/guardians. Our out-of-area evacuation site is Bishop James Mahoney High School.

OUR SCHOOL DAY

8:25 AM	Front Doors Open
8:35 AM	Welcoming Bell
8:40 – 10:10 AM	Morning Classes
10:10 – 10:25 AM	Recess
10:25 – 11:40 AM	Morning Classes
11:40 – 12:25 PM	Lunch
12:25 – 1:55 PM	Afternoon Classes
1:55 – 2:10 PM	Recess
2:10 – 3:10 PM	Afternoon Classes
3:10 PM	Dismissal

BEFORE CLASS

Students who need to arrive at school before 8:25 am are asked to enroll in the Before and After School Program. Our school doors will remain locked until 8:25 am, and upon entering, students are to go directly to their classrooms.

RECESS/NOON RECESS

Students are expected to go outside during the recess breaks. Students must always remain within the supervision area for their own safety.

Extreme weather policy: A mandatory indoor recess will be called when the temperature exceeds -27°C. Mandatory indoor recesses may also be called due to rain, sleet or wind. Please ensure your child(ren) are dressed appropriately for outdoor play.

SCHOOL LUNCH EXPECTATIONS

If possible, students should return home to eat lunch, but if this is not possible, St. Edward is happy to be able to provide the opportunity for our students to stay at school for lunch. We ask that students follow the expectations that come with this privilege:

- All students will be eating from 11:40-12:00 and go outside for recess from 12:00-12:25.
- Students are expected to ask a staff member for permission to use the washroom or get a drink during the eating portion of lunch.
- Students are asked to use an appropriate volume and be respectful in their conversations with one another and with staff.
- Students will be expected to put their lunch bags away, clean up their desks, and be ready for instruction by 12:25.
- We also remind families that students who stay for lunch are required to stay at school throughout the lunch hour. **Students who go home for lunch should not be back at school any earlier than the 12:20 bell.**

SCHOOL LUNCH CONSEQUENCES

Inappropriate behavior during lunchtime may be addressed by the following: discussion with the student, student eating lunch in an alternate location, a note or phone call to parents, or possible loss of lunch privileges at school. There are times when a break from the school environment is a very positive opportunity for students. In these cases, we will work with parents to create plans for student safety and success in transitioning to and from school at lunch.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance promotes academic success. If your child is absent from school or will be late, please enter the absence signing into our new “Edsby” app or by phoning the school’s main office indicating the reason for the absence or lateness. You can call the school and leave a message 24 hours/ 7 days a week. The office sends out a notification each morning and afternoon if an absence reason has not been entered.

NEWSLETTER

Please download the Edsby app to keep up to date with all the school’s events. If you need help with this, please come see our office coordinator.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Catholic School Community Council is intended to strengthen the capacity of schools to improve children’s learning. This is achieved through developing a shared responsibility between home and school for learning success, as well as encouraging and facilitating parent and community engagement. Please consider being an active member of our Catholic School Community Council, and reach out to the Principal if this is something you would be interested in.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Each classroom has one-half hour per day of formal teaching of religious education. We will continue to celebrate liturgies and school Mass that follow the Church’s liturgical year. We are grateful for our partnership with St. Peter the Apostle Parish. Our faith permeates the atmosphere of our school through our words and our actions. We take part in Social Justice activities that focus on those in need in our community and our world. We expect to walk or bus to St. Peter the Apostle Parish for our year end school Mass, and the other Masses will be held in our gym.

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

Progress Reports are sent home for Grades 1-8 students three times a year (November, March, and June). Progress reports are sent home for Kindergarten in March and June. The Progress Report has been designed to communicate how well the student is acquiring knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to the learning outcomes of the curriculum. As part of the assessment process, student portfolios are developed at each grade level. Portfolios are a purposeful collection of student work that shows a student’s growth and achievement as a learner. Individual contact between parents and teachers is ongoing. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers at any time throughout the school year. St. Edward uses conferences between parents, students and teachers as a means of reporting student progress. In these conferences, students are encouraged to take ownership and responsibility for their learning. Students will be setting goals and working through a set action plan throughout the year. Conferences are held in November and March. At the conferences, students will reflect and share with their parents their strengths and areas needing improvement. They will do this through the sharing of work and goal setting materials collected in their personal portfolios.

BAND

Band instruction will be offered for grades 6 – 8 students.

LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Learning Assistant Teacher (LAT) works in collaboration with the classroom teachers to develop and implement appropriate instructional interventions to meet the needs of all students. Support is provided in a variety of methods including: collaborative planning, team teaching, small group instruction, and individual student assessment. Students identified with intensive needs receive additional support for learning with Educational Assistants and other support services.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

Our new Canadian students, whose first language is not English, are provided with a government funded program. Supplementary teaching, in a small group setting, is scheduled for these students several times per week.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

The goal of the library is to provide students with material that supports enhanced learning outcomes. Students are provided with an opportunity to sign out recreational reading material.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Boys and Girls Club offers a before and after school program for St. Edward students. More information and the cost for this program can be found by calling The Boys and Girls Club of Saskatoon at (306)665-1450 or check out their website at <http://www.bgcsaskatoon.com/>

ST. EDWARD SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

St. Edward School Belief Statement:

At St. Edward School we believe that everyone has the right to learn in a safe and positive environment. As a community guided by Gospel virtues, we believe that bullying is not acceptable.

Definition of Bullying:

A student is bullied when he or she is exposed to repeated, negative actions on the part of one or more students causing emotional, psychological and/or physical harm. These negative actions are intentional and hurtful. Bullying can be verbal, physical, relational, or reactive. Intentionally and falsely accusing another student of bullying behavior shall be considered bullying behavior. Bullying involves an imbalance of power, creates fear, and is not gender specific.

1. Roles and Responsibilities

Open and honest communication between everyone involved is expected. The effectiveness of this policy is dependent on the level of open and honest communication.

In addition to the expectations outlined in the St. Edward School Code of Conduct:

St. Edward School students are expected to:

- Promote a Safe and Positive school environment
- Refuse to bully others or to be a bystander to acts of bullying
- Actively participate in school-wide and classroom Safe Positive School anti-bullying initiatives and teachings
- Report all acts of bullying they may experience or observe to school personnel
- Be accountable for their actions

Bystanders are expected to:

- Honestly and accurately report bullying behaviors

The Bullied are expected to:

- Honestly and accurately report bullying behaviors
- Learn and apply respectful strategies to counter bullying behaviors
- Accept the consequences put in place to deal with the bully's behavior

St. Edward School staff is expected to:

- Provide stewardship that upholds the Gospel values and promote positive relationships between students, staff and parents/guardians
- Address bullying in an age-appropriate manner.
- Implement and teach the school's anti-bullying policy.
- Provide learning opportunities for students which promote a safe positive school environment
- Investigate and document reports of bullying, apply interventions and follow-up

St. Edward parents/guardians, parish and community members are expected to:

- Be active contributors to a safe, positive, caring and respectful school community
- Learn about bullying behavior and related issues
- Provide positive role modeling and positive leadership
- Inform the school if bullying is suspected
- Work with the school to resolve identified incidents of bullying
- Support the school community by providing opportunities for parent education.

2. Procedures

1. Prevention

Prevention of bullying is a primary goal at St. Edward School. We will aspire to provide a bully-proof environment through preventative measures such as Social Skills Programming, leadership opportunities, celebrations, classroom rules, communication and teaching of Gospel virtues and Tipi Teachings.

2. Investigation

The safety of all students is always the primary focus. Students involved in bullying behavior shall be made aware of the situation and dealt with individually using age-appropriate interventions. Information shall be gathered from all students involved. An Action Plan and a Bullying Incident Report will be completed.

3. Actions

(a) Actions to address incidents of bullying behavior shall take into account:

- The developmental and maturity levels of the students involved.
- The levels of physical and/or emotional harm that have occurred.
- The surrounding circumstances and the context in which the incidents occurred.
- The nature of the behavior in the past related to similar incidents or continuing patterns of behavior.
- The relationship among parties involved.

(b) All those involved will be informed individually that there will be follow-up of the incident. The behavior of each student involved (regardless of role) is to be monitored to determine further actions.

(c) Consequences may include:

- Discussion, problem solving and reviewing behavioral expectations as outlined in the Code of Conduct.
- Loss of privileges.
- Action plan.
- Removal from class or suspension.
- Behavioral contract.
- Referral to school counselor.
- Referral to Student Services to discuss alternative programming, or alternative placement.
- Involvement of community agencies.

(d) The in-school administrator or the classroom teacher(s) will contact the parents/guardians of the students involved. Parents and school staff will work together to monitor the situation and communicate with each other.

(e) The in-school administrator may request assistance from Student Services Personnel, the Police Resource Officer, School Counselor or other appropriate resources.

(f) In the event that the bullying behavior is part of a continuing pattern:

- In-school administrators or designate shall complete a Bullying Incident Report.
- Parents/Guardians of those students involved will be invited to meetings to discuss their child's involvement in incident(s).
- A written record shall be kept of the plan of action and strategies to be undertaken by school, parents/guardians and students involved. Such records shall be kept in a confidential file by the Principal and reviewed annually.
- If the plan involves suspensions or expulsions, the division and/or Education Act Procedures shall be followed.

Smudging Protocol and Guidelines

Background

First Nations and Métis education is a priority for Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS). The school division is working to help First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) students succeed in all areas, and to help all students have an opportunity to learn about the important role of FNMI people in the past, present, and future of Canada.

GSCS has taken action to ensure its schools are inclusive and culturally responsive by integrating FNMI perspectives into school planning and programming. This includes welcoming all students to learn about FNMI traditions.

Many Indigenous people share the concept of “mīyo-pimātisiwin” which literally means “good earth journey” in the nēhiyaw (Plains Cree) language. This essentially means “good life” and a good life is what most Indigenous people seek after. A good life infers that life is a journey, that people are sacred and secular, that people are whole beings (body, mind, spirit, emotion) and “mīyo-pimātisiwin” is achieved by taking care of all aspects of oneself. GSCS is working to share this perspective with their staff, students, and community to foster an atmosphere of respect, understanding, and inclusivity. The division offers learning experiences about FNMI cultures. A common shared experience is the First Nations tradition of smudging.

What is smudging?

Smudging or the blessing ceremony is a tradition common to most Indigenous nations, which involves the burning of one or more medicines gathered from the land. The four sacred medicines used in Indigenous ceremonies are tobacco, sage, cedar, and sweetgrass. The most common medicines used in this ceremony are sweetgrass, sage, and cedar.

This ceremony has been passed down from generation to generation. There are many ways and variations on how a blessing ceremony is done. A blessing ceremony that is done intentionally allows people to stop, slow down, and become mindful and centered. This allows people to remember, connect, and to be grounded in the event, task, or purpose at hand. It's considered to be a cleansing ceremony as well.

Smudging is always voluntary. People should never be forced or pressured to take part in a ceremony. It's acceptable for a person to say that he/she does not want to smudge and may choose to stay in the room while the ceremony takes place or leave the room before the ceremony begins. Written communication with parents prior to holding a smudge in a well-ventilated room will occur. A signed consent form will be required for students to participate in a smudge. Respect for all is the guiding principle in any Indigenous tradition.

How do we smudge?

According to Indigenous practice, **a smudge is led by a person who has an understanding of what a smudge is and why it is done.** That person may be an elder, a knowledge keeper, or a cultural advisor. It can also be a member of school staff who is knowledgeable about the tradition of smudging. It can also be a parent or guardian, or it can be a student as long as they know what needs to be done.

The medicine is placed in a smudge container. The container may be a shell, a ceramic or stone bowl, a copper, brass, or cast-iron pan. The medicine is lit with a match. Once the medicine is lit, the smoke from the smoldering medicine may be pushed forward with a feather or fan. The person who lights the medicine is first.

A commonly used medicine within GSCS is sage. Leaves from the sage plant are usually rolled into a “smudge ball”. The sage can create a significant amount of smoke once it is lit, but it's not necessary to make too much smoke when lighting the medicine. Only a small stream of smoke for the person who is smudging is required.

When we smudge, we first cleanse our hands with the smoke as if we were washing our hands. We then draw the smoke over our heads, eyes, ears, mouths, and our bodies. These actions remind us to think good thoughts, see good actions, hear good sounds, speak good words, and show the good of who we are.

What does smudging look like in a school environment?

Many GSCS schools are making the tradition of smudging a part of their practice during particular events or as part of the school day. This year smudging will take place at St. Edward School on Mondays. Alternate arrangements will be made for those students not participating.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Heinrichs.



St. Edward School Important Dates 2026-27

September

2nd Wednesday - Students' first day - a.m. only

3rd Thursday - Grade 1 to 8 all day

4th Friday- Kindergarten Family Day

7th Monday- Labour Day

8th Tuesday – Kindergarten start – full day

17th Thursday – Picture Day

17th Thursday- Meet the Staff/Meet the family supper and guest speaker
beginning @ 5:30 pm.

18th Friday- Kindergarten Day

30th Wednesday -National Day of Truth and Reconciliation- no school for students and staff

October

9th Friday- Kindergarten Day

12th Monday- Stat holiday- no school for students and staff

23rd Friday- Kindergarten Day

26th Monday – PLD –no school for students

November

3rd Tuesday – Picture Retakes

6th Friday- Kindergarten Day

11-13th Friday- Remembrance Day & School holiday - no school for
students

19th Thursday- Conferences - 3:30 to 8 p.m.

20th Friday- Conferences - 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. (no school for students)

27th Friday- Progress Reports go home

December

11th Friday – Kindergarten

Christmas concert TBD

19th – 31st - Christmas break- no school for students and staff

January

4th Monday – Classes resume

13th Friday - Kindergarten

22nd Friday - PLD - no school for students

February

12th Friday - Kindergarten

15th Monday - Stat holiday - no school for students and staff

16th – 19th Mid-winter break- no school for students and staff

22nd Monday- Classes Resume

March

5th Friday - Kindergarten

8th Monday PLD - no school for students

18th Thursday- Conferences -3:30 to 8 p.m.

19th Friday- Conferences - 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. (no school for students)

25th Friday – Progress Reports go home

26th Good Friday – no school for students and staff

29-31st- Easter break

April

1st – 2nd - Easter Break - no school for students and staff

16th Friday- Kindergarten Day
19th Monday- PLD day- no school for students
30th Friday- Kindergarten Day

May

14th Friday – Kindergarten
14th Friday – Student retreat
17th Monday – Avenue P Track Meet
21st Friday- PLD no school for students
24th Monday - Stat holiday - no school for students and staff

June

11th- Staff retreat- no school for students
18th Friday - Kindergarten
29th Thursday - Last day of school for students and EAs
30th Tuesday – Last day for staff