



October 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Galt Families,

We can now celebrate that we have completed the first month of school under conditions we never could have imagined. While each day continues to be a new adventure, we are gradually getting accustomed to some of our new routines and exercising great resilience as we adapt to ever-changing circumstances.

For the most part our students have responded very well to the public health requirements in place at school. There do remain a number of students who despite all awareness campaigns, instruction and reminders, fail to grasp the seriousness of current circumstances and show that they are not ready to follow the government directives and school rules. In order to keep our school and the greater community at lower risk, we rely on everyone's cooperation and we each share a responsibility. I encourage families to continue efforts in the home to reinforce awareness and respect of the measures required for public health. The three ETSB High Schools have collaborated in a common approach to intervention for students referred for not having respected the physical distance and mask protocols. Due to the serious nature of this behaviour impacting health and safety, heavy consequences are applied. After a first warning letter to parents, students are met with suspension. Continued infractions are met with increased suspensions as well as referral to our student services team, our community police liaison officer, as well as a referral for application of the Safe School Consult and Assessment process. Infractions on the bus are considered extremely dangerous and as such are met with a minimum 5-day suspension of transportation services. Please help us to reinforce to the students that there is no room for irresponsibility in our behaviours to protect public health.

The nature of this unique school year means a diverse amount of information that may often require quick changes or may even be contradictory at times. It is a year where patience and resilience will be our greatest tools as we process all of the incoming information and apply it to the best of our ability. You can expect to receive communications sent directly from the school board as well as information specific to AGRHS sent from the school. Please ensure the email we have on file is up to date and that you are familiar with how to access the student and parent portal. As much as possible we will also post information to our school Facebook and website. Please be reminded that the parent and student portals provide you access to your child's report card, timetable, absences, and other important information. This tool in addition to our web-site and email list ensures on-going communication between our families and our school. For any information about this resource, please visit our school website at: <http://alexandergalt.etsb.qc.ca/> or contact us directly.

I am very pleased to serve as your Principal at Alexander Galt. Should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers or our administrative team.

Best wishes for a safe, healthy and rewarding school year,

Peggy McCourt
Principal





October 2020

Internet Service Update - Distance Learning:

In recent weeks we have received clearer directives from the government and the school board with regard to the provision of internet devices and service to families. Although we had initially understood from the press conferences and other information sources that families would be provided with internet if they did not already have it, it has now been made clear that families are responsible for acquiring their own service plans. The school board can assist with the provision of devices to acquire service, but the responsibility falls to the family to arrange their service plan. We recognize that this may be problematic for some families. The government has also been clear that education will remain mandatory and in the event a class or a school has to close for a period of time, services are required to move to distance learning within 24 hours. This means that, in addition to the cycle 2 students currently following distance classes, all families need to prepare now in the event that school is required to go partially or fully online. You may find more information regarding the government's position at <https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/answers-questions-coronavirus-covid19/questions-answers-education-families-covid-19/> under the question that begins with "Will IT support be provided to students..." Those of you who indicated your need for internet from the first survey sent out earlier this year should have received a call from the school board and received further verification. As we had very few responses to this survey, we felt it was necessary to send another survey to ensure that we are fully aware of the needs of our families given the strong reliance on internet this school year. You should have received an email with this survey link on October 9th: <https://forms.gle/GKdJauv4Utw5UiA9>. If you have not already done so, **please respond by October 16th** as it is critical we have an accurate portrait of our students' ability to effectively engage in distance learning should we have to go to a partial or full model.

School Organization:

Each of our students receives services from their House Office secretary and their Vice-Principal according to the plan below:

Cycle 1 - Levels 1 & 2
Yellow & Orange Houses

Vice-Principal: Mr. M. Warnholtz
Secretary: Ms. P. Wilson

Cycle 2 - Levels 3 - 5
Blue & Green Houses

Vice-Principal: Mr. S. Element
Secretary: Ms. L. Humphrey

MAPs (Modified & Adapted Programs)
WOTP (Work Oriented Training Path)
& Challenges Program

Vice-Principal: Ms. T. McCully
Secretary: Ms. P. Cloutier

School Store:

The School Store is located at the Door #2 Student Entrance. Individuals wishing to make purchases need to email sylvesterj@etsb.qc.ca. Ms. Sylvester will then confirm a time to meet her in Central Office or at the School Store to complete the purchase. An item and price list should be available shortly.

Lockers:

Please note that lockers continue to be not in use until further notice. Students are to bring only essential material to school and all is to be kept in their classroom. Any locks found on lockers will be removed and not reimbursed.

Smoke-Free Campus:

In conformity with provincial laws, our school buildings and grounds are designated as non-smoking areas.

Open Campus:

Please be aware that AGRHS is an Open Campus like most or all High Schools in the province. Being a large campus, there is not a need for students to leave. However, students may choose to do so and are expected to respect their parents' directives with regard to this. Whether on or off campus, students are expected to act as positive citizens and are responsible for their actions. Inappropriate illegal behaviour is accountable to the authorities. Supervision is provided on campus, however, once off campus students are fully responsible for their actions and their safety. Students in Cycle 1 are expected to remain on campus where there is supervision. Cycle 2 students are accountable to their parents should they leave campus against their parents' wishes. Cycle 1 students will receive consequences from the school should they leave campus without authorization (authorization would be situations where their parent has indicated they will be picked up early for a medical appointment for example).



School Buses:

Parents who have transportation questions can contact our Transportation Services at 819-566-6027. Families who wish to report a change of address should contact their child's House Office directly: Yellow House (Cy 1) – Ext. 22004; Blue House (Cy 2) – Ext. 22005; MAPs/WOTP/Challenges – Ext. 22006. Please remember that **masks are required on the bus at all times**. Due to the nature of impact on public health, heavy consequences will be applied in cases where students are found to be in non-compliance and **bus services will be suspended for a minimum of 5 days**. Please be aware that given we are now in October and more than a month has passed where the expectation has been made very clear, there will be no further warnings. Students suspended from the bus are expected to be in school.

Please note that under the conditions of this exceptional pandemic year, no special bus passes allowing for an occasional change will be granted.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Please note that the Governing Board approved to allow ECA activities to resume for the period of October through December. During this period, only limited internal activities will be permitted, with no inter-school competition or performances. These activities are required to be highly controlled and monitored for public health tracing and accountability. Further, operations are subject to change pending any modification to DSPu (Public Health) directives. ECA activities will be revisited prior to the holidays in order to confirm how we will proceed in January.

Student Accident Insurance:

Student Accident Insurance material is available online at www.ia.ca. The purchasing of student accident insurance is strongly recommended. Students receive coverage for items such as broken teeth, ambulance costs and many other serious injuries 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Please be reminded that should the school deem it necessary to send a student by ambulance, these costs are billed directly to the parent and are not assumed by the school. Other expenses such as broken glasses are also not compensated by the school.

Code of Conduct:

Please take time to review the school’s Code of Conduct that has undergone a review process and was recently approved by the Governing Board:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1upjiSOLhsqkegyj4q2FvgZknfYPzf0tH/view?usp=sharing>

*Please note the exception to face visibility to allow for the mandatory facemasks as well as the exception to the storage of bags and any other reference to locker use until further notice.

The school’s Anti-Bullying-Anti-Violence Plan as well as all links to report forms can be found at:

<http://alexandergalt.etsb.qc.ca/anti-bullying-anti-violence/>



Cafeteria Services:

We are pleased that we can continue to offer cafeteria services to our students. The menu is available online and is also shared with students through the daily announcements.

Please be reminded that in an effort to limit the potential of spread of covid-19 on our campus, non-essential external services or visitors are not permitted until further notice. This includes food service delivery. Students are not permitted to order food delivery onto the campus and deliveries will not be accepted.

Graduation Requirements:

In order to graduate, students must obtain a total of 54 Secondary 4 and 5 credits, at least 20 of which must be from Secondary 5. The following credits are compulsory for graduation in 2021:

<u>Courses</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English	4 & 5	12
French	4 & 5	8
History	4	4
Math	4	4 or 6
Science	4	6
Arts Education	4	2
Physical Education or Ethics & Religious Cultures	5	2



Note: The above are minimal requirements, which students must meet in order to obtain a high school diploma. Students who intend to go to CEGEP or other post-secondary programs may need to pass additional courses. Information about these requirements is also found in our Course Selection Booklet found on our website or from Ms. Marie Thibault, our Counselor in Academic and Vocational Training. Ms. Thibault can be reached by calling the school at extension 22073.

Report Cards:

We received notification from the Ministry on October 8th that legislation was passed modifying the reporting periods for this school year. While we are currently reviewing this, you may anticipate the following pending confirmation:



1 st Interim Communication	-	October or November
1 st Parent-Teacher Interviews	-	November
1 st Report Card	-	January
2 nd Parent-Teacher Interviews	-	January-February
2 nd Interim Communication	-	April
Final School Report Card	-	July

As previously indicated, report cards are issued electronically and are accessible through the parent portal. Reminder instructions on how to use the parent portal are available on the school board's website: <http://www.etsb.qc.ca/mozaik-parent-portal/>

Given this new information we are currently revising our Standards & Procedures and will be sending you the updated summary shortly.

School Nurse:

Please be advised that we do not have the services of a school nurse this year.



Health Expectations:

Please be reminded that even in usual circumstances – and most definitely in global pandemic circumstances – a sick student (fever, gastro, flu, etc...) cannot come to school. The student needs to stay home until feeling better and all symptoms have passed. In the case of Covid-19 related symptoms, [DSPu recommendations](#) must be followed. If you find yourself having to medicate your child with cold medications for example, it is probably wise not to send him/her to school. In the case of an accident or sudden illness occurring during school hours, parents will be notified and should take charge of their child as soon as possible. Parents are always the primary person responsible for their child. In the best interest of our students, it is essential that emergency contact information be provided and be updated whenever there are modifications. If a taxi or ambulance is needed, the charge will have to be paid by the parents.

Did you know...

...Alexander Galt offers a number of school-wide fundraisers open to all students with profits credited to the individual student fundraising account?

Funds in Individual Fundraising Accounts may be used for the following expenses:

- School Trips
- Athletics Fees
- School Fees (Consumable & Supervision)
- Chromebook Loss/Damage Charges
- Prom
- Yearbook
- School Store Items
- Meal Tickets
- School Humanitarian Projects



For accounting reasons, with the exception of EF Tours, individual accounts may not be used for any supplier where payment is made directly to the company.

When a student leaves Alexander Galt, there is the option to request a transfer of a balance in the student fundraising account to another Galt student, to the Scholarship Fund, or to the Piper Classic Fund. All un-transferred balances will be applied to a general fund supporting global projects to benefit all students.

Please be aware that full payment is required when submitting all fundraising for processing (no cash on delivery can be accepted). Fundraising orders submitted without full payment will be returned to the student. Also, please note that funds must already be in the individual student account in order to be applied against an expense (ie. A carry-over balance would be needed from the Spring to meet payment deadlines for Fall activities.).

Governing Board:

The Governing Board at Galt is comprised of the following members:

- 8 parents
- 6 teachers
- 1 support staff
- 1 non-teaching professional
- 2 Cycle 2 students
- 2 community members (appointed by the elected members)

While not a member, the Principal acts as a facilitator and resource person to the members and is responsible to bring forward information and proposals for information, consultation, approval or adoption as outlined in the Education Act.

Under the conditions of this school year, the Governing Board meetings will take place online via Zoom. Individuals wishing to attend these public meetings as guests can contact the school prior to noon on the day of the meeting to request access to the zoom link.

The AGRHS Governing Board is scheduled to meet at 7pm on the following dates:



- October 19
- November 16
- December 14 *if needed
- January 18
- February 15
- March 15
- April 19
- May 17
- June 21 *if needed

School Fees:

We have received a number of inquiries regarding payment of school fees. We are in the process of reviewing whether some of the fees previously projected may need to be adjusted due to necessary curriculum adjustments under Covid-19 restrictions. It is our hope that fees can be lowered. We are also aware that this year has been difficult for many of our families and are sensitive that with many work closures school fees may not be the top priority right now. Please be reassured that we will not require

payment before January in an effort to allow families to hopefully return to greater stability. We will also allow for an extended payment period from January to May to allow for installments. You may expect to see adjusted statements in your child's account by November.

ETSB Policies & Procedures:

Parents wishing to consult school board policies and procedures may do so by accessing the school board website at <http://www.etsb.qc.ca/school-board/policies/> . The following are but a few of these procedures and policies that may be of interest to you:

- ❖ *No-Smoking Policy – A Positive Response to a Negative Issue*
- ❖ *Communications Policy*
- ❖ *Procedure for the Reconsideration of a Decision*
- ❖ *Policy & Procedures Governing the Organization of Educational Services for Students With Special Needs*

The Special Education Advisory Committee Wants You!

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) advises the school board on its organization of services for students with special needs, educates parents as well as encourages them to become involved in their child's school experience.

Parents of students with special needs constitute the majority of members on this committee. The SEAC Chairperson and Parent Commissioner are elected from parent members of this committee. Other members represent the various professional and support groups in the ETSB.

The committee allows you to meet and talk with others who have the interest of children with special needs at heart. Meetings are held monthly in Magog at the Eastern Townships School Board Office between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. Mileage compensation is available. (*during pandemic meetings may be held virtually)

If this committee interests you, please ask your school principal for an application brochure or call the Director of Complementary Educational Services, Emmanuelle Gaudet, at (819) 868-3100, ext. 55035 to give your name or to ask for clarification. Where there is more interest from a school than available seats, representatives may need to be confirmed on a first come - first served basis.

Dates to Remember:

OCTOBER

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| Sept. 28-Oct. 23 | Citrus Fundraiser |
| October 6-9 | Vaccinations All Level 3 & some Level 4 |
| October 12 | Holiday |
| October 16 | Planning Day |
| October 28 | School Photo Retakes |



NOVEMBER

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| November 20 | Planning Day |
| November 30 | Grad Photo Retakes |