

Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year!

It is with pleasure that I extend a sincere welcome to all members of the GCI community. To those students who are new to Galt Collegiate, I extend a particularly warm welcome as you begin the next chapter in your education. I hope you are looking forward to a successful year, and that you will embrace opportunities to participate in school activities that will provide rich experiences and memories. To that end, all Grade 9 students and all Grade 10-12 students who are new to GCI, are invited to attend the **Grade 9 Welcome** on **Thursday, August 31st from 10:30 until 12:30**. We will meet in Tassie Hall.

To our returning Ghosts, I hope that you have had a rejuvenating summer and are anticipating a challenging and productive year. The start of the school year is a time to reflect on past accomplishments and to forge new paths. It is a time to refine your goals and plan for growth, achievement and excellence. Remember that your teachers and other staff members will support you as you pursue your goals.

Every day, I consider myself lucky to be principal at GCI. It is an amazing school! GCI's rich and extensive history, its beautiful building and campus, and its important place in the growth of the surrounding community make this school truly unique. With a range of specialized programs (ESL/ELD, OYAP, Design Magnet, Dual Credit, French Immersion, Extended French, Life Skills, Co-Op, eLearning, and Specialist High Skills Majors in Sport, Transportation, Business, and Information & Communication Technology), in addition to a strong core program and extensive student supports, GCI is an excellent school.

I would encourage all GCI students to get involved in extra-curricular activities at school. Extra-curricular activities (clubs, bands, teams, groups, etc.) immensely enrich your high school experience. They help you develop important skills, and often contribute to your success in academics as well as other areas of life.

To GCI parents, your involvement in your child's education is something I value and respect. **Two important documents** that require your attention, your child's **Data Verification Form** and the **Standard Release Form**, may be picked up in the Main Office between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. from August 28th to 31st or from 8:00 a.m. to noon on September 1st. Signed Data Verification Forms can be handed in in exchange for a student timetable. Students who have submitted their signed DVF and who are requesting course changes will be able to see a guidance counselor from August 28th to 30th (and, in doing so, will avoid waiting until the second week of school).

On the first day of school, students will locate their homeroom by checking the lists posted outside Tassie Hall and the Library. The first day of school is a full day, but we will have a slightly delayed start. Grade 9s will start at 9:00 a.m.; Grades 10, 11 & 12 students will start classes at 10:00 a.m. Please see the home page of our website for the full opening day schedule.

Please note that Photo Day is Wednesday, September 6th.

Finally, our first **Parent Night** is Wednesday, October 4th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. I strongly encourage parents of *all* students to take the opportunity to meet your child's teachers in person and discuss your child's progress. Parents, teachers, support staff, and administrators working together will make a positive difference in the lives of our students.

I am looking forward to a fantastic year! Go Ghosts!

Ms. B. Wood
Principal