

Spruce Grove Composite High School

Parent Panther Press

September 19, 2025

Principal's Message

Good afternoon SGCHS Parents/Guardians:

I hope you are enjoying the lovely fall weather! These sunshine-filled days add positive energy to our building and grounds. It's been wonderful to see so many students outside at lunch enjoying both the sunshine and their lunch. This most definitely was the case today with our Students Union sponsored Food Truck Lunch.

With both an extended lunch and food options ranging from pulled pork, tacos, lemon grass skewers, hot dogs, lemonade and ice cream, there was ample opportunity to enjoy the weather, the food and the company of peers. Given how well our students have settled into the routines and rhythms of the school year, this was a deserving reward for their efforts. Thank you to our Students' Union, and to our SGCHS Office Staff, for their work in planning and ensuring the success of this lunch time event.

Thank you for the support you provide to your student and to the broader SGCHS community! Please take some time to review the items below and, of course, enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,

Cam Robertson
Principal, SGCHS

Attendance

With timetables now distinctly set, SGCHS's Attendance Plan is fully in effect and it is crucial that students attend classes regularly. Student attendance data is monitored on a weekly basis so that timely and accurate communication with parents and guardians can occur.

Consistent class attendance provides a range of benefits for students, playing a key role in their academic, social, and personal development. Some of the most important academic benefits include:

1. **Higher Achievement** - Regular attendance is closely linked to improved academic performance. Each lesson builds on the previous one, and missing classes can create gaps in understanding that are difficult to bridge.
2. **Direct Instruction and Clarification** - Being present in class allows students to receive direct instruction from the teacher, ask questions, and obtain clarification on confusing topics.
3. **Context and Emphasis** - teachers often highlight key concepts, provide real-world examples, and share insights that go beyond the textbook or the website—helping students grasp what's most important for exams and the practical application of conceptual knowledge.
4. **Improved Study Habits**: A consistent classroom routine fosters discipline, time management, and accountability, all of which are essential skills for success in academics and in life.

Seminar

Our end of day flexible 40-minute block of time, Seminar, has gotten off to a positive start. Classrooms and other instructional spaces are busy with students completing homework, problem solving with peers, studying, checking in with teachers, and doing all the things they need to do in order to address the needs of their high school learning. At our opening grade-level assemblies, grade coordinators shared the message that students are expected to (a) pick and stick to a chosen space by the 2:32 bell and (b) if not choosing an instructional space (classroom, lab or gym) or the library (quiet work area) students are expected to work within the Cafeteria (gr. 10s) or Student Lounge (gr. 11s & 12s) with bums in seats and doable curricular work in front of them. Students also know that, as Seminar is instructional time, when they are directly assigned to a classroom by their teacher, their attendance is mandatory. Students are doing an excellent job seeing through these expectations.

DLR (Directed Learning Room)

A note that our Directed Learning Room (DLR) began operation this week and will run on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 until 5:00 pm within our library. Students are assigned to DLR by teachers, and its purpose is for students to catch up on missed learning when they fall behind in their schoolwork. This school-based intervention helps to ensure student accountability and success in their high school program. If you receive a phone call or email from your student's grade coordinator, it likely means that your youth was assigned and did not attend, which results in the student being assigned to the next scheduled DLR day and facing the possibility of a meeting with their grade coordinator to complete the outstanding homework.

TCT (Teacher Collaboration Time)

Our first TCT day will occur on Wednesday, September 24. TCT days occur eight times (about once a month) throughout the school year and allow our departments to work together on collective goals that help to ensure optimal instruction and learning for your students. This means students are not expected to arrive until about 9:50 am, in time for their 10:06 block 1 start time. Students arriving on the bus or who are dropped off at their regular time are expected to be in the Cafeteria (gr. 10s) or the Student Lounge (gr. 11s and 12s) and will be supervised. With TCT at the start of the day, there is no Seminar at the end of the day. Thus, the day ends for all students at 3:07 with the conclusion of Block 4.

Student Services

SGCHS Student Services, along with the Tri region's other high schools, MCHS, CFL and SPA, will be hosting its annual Post-Secondary Fair at the Tri-Leisure Centre from 6 to 8 pm on Thursday, September 25th. With over 20 post-secondary institutions represented, this is an excellent opportunity for SGCHS students and their parents/guardians to obtain resources, ask questions and become more familiar with post-secondary and career related opportunities available to them. Although this event is ideally targeted to grade 11 students, all high school students and their parents are encouraged and welcome to attend.

School Council

Thank you to those parents who attended our first SGCHS School Council meeting of the school year. A chair, vice chair and secretary were successfully elected. School Council is looking for input from parents/guardians regarding the types of information sessions you as parents/guardians would be interested in attending as the year progresses. Please contact the

SGCHS School Council Chair, Kalena Feist, at sgchs.scchair@partner.psd.ca with any ideas, thoughts or questions on this or other school council related topics.

School Fees

Course-specific fees have been added to student accounts in PowerSchool. Parents/Guardians should pay these fees through PowerSchool. If you have any questions related to school fees you may contact Heather Hughes, SGCHS's Business Coordinator through our main office at 780-962-0800.

Panther Athletics

Panther Football, Volleyball, Golf and Cross Country are going strong. To stay fully in the loop on all things Athletics, be sure to follow the Panther Athletics Instagram account @sgchsathletics

Grad 2026

There was a strong turnout of Grade 12s and their parents/guardians for the Grade 12 Information Night event held this past Wednesday. If you were unable to attend, or if you want another look at the relevant information, please proceed to this dedicated Graduation page on our website.

Student Parking

Grade 11 and 12 Student Vehicle and Parking Lot Registration and pass pick-up should now be complete. Please remind your grade 11 or 12 students that their parking pass should be displayed and their vehicle registered. Meeting these conditions simply makes a student eligible to park in the student lot, but does not guarantee parking is available. Students who choose to park in the lot without these conditions being met or who park in laneways or fire lanes face a one-month ban from the parking lot and/or the towing of their vehicle.

Student Pick up and Drop Off

To ensure everyone's safety at SGCHS, please view this [document](#) that outlines information to help navigate student pick up and drop off.

SGCHS Social Media Accounts

There is always lots happening in a large high school. Follow our main social media accounts to stay on top of it all:

- **SGCHS Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/SpruceGroveCompositeHighSchool/>

- **Student Services Instagram:**

https://www.instagram.com/sgchs_student_services/

- **Panther Athletics Instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/sgchsathletics/>

- **Panther Pride (Student Union) Instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/sgchspantherpride/>

CMOH Letter Regarding Measles

The Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health has released a letter regarding measles. If you would like to read the letter, please view it [here](#).

Upcoming Events:

Wed. Sept. 24 - **First TCT Day!** Classes begin at 10 a.m. for ALL students

Thu. Sept. 25 - Post-secondary fair at TLC from 6-8 p.m.

Fri. Sept. 26 - **Orange Shirt Day**

Mon. Sept. 29 - **PD Day - NO SCHOOL**

Tue. Sept. 30 - **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - NO SCHOOL**

Thu. Oct. 2 - Concordia University Advisor 11-noon