Gonzaga High School: Providing Opportunities to Make a Difference

Gonzaga High School- Memo SafeArrival

August 25th, 2023

Dear Gonzaga Parents and Guardians:

Gonzaga High School will start using the SafeArrival system this year starting on Wednesday, September 6th. This system reduces the time it takes to verify student attendance, makes it easy for you to report your child's absence, and helps staff respond to unexplained student absences.

When students are absent from school, their absence is entered by the subject teacher on PowerSchool, using codes such as S for illness, E for excused, or A for absent (when the teacher is unaware of a reason). For student safety, SafeArrival is designed to alert families when a teacher enters a student as 'Absent' in our attendance system.

Families are able to input student absences in advance, using the methods outlined below. If you do not report an absence, SchoolMessenger will send an automated notification to the designated contacts whose child is absent. The automated notification system will make several attempts to reach the designated contacts until a reason for the child's absence is reported. These automatic notifications will happen two times a day at 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm. If you report your absence using the SafeArrival app, website or toll-free number, you WILL NOT receive a notification. Parents and guardians will still be able to track their student's attendance in real time though the PowerSchool app as well.

There are three ways for you to input your child(ren)'s absence:

Option 1: Mobile Device - Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at go.schoolmessenger.ca). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

Option 2: Website - If using the SafeArrival website go.schoolmessenger.ca, the first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.

Option 3: Call It In - You can call the toll free number 1-844-408-9360 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

A video explaining SchoolMessenger can be found [here](). All of this information is available through a link on our school website https://gonzaga.nlesd.ca/.

Please note: You may enter FUTURE ABSENCES at any time. As you are aware, doors open at Gonzaga at 8:30 am, and classes begin at 9:00 am. Teachers will need to submit their morning attendance at the start of each class for the morning and afternoon sessions. If students arrive at Gonzaga after the 9:10 am bell, students are required to sign in at the main office and our office staff will update their attendance appropriately.

Thank you for your cooperation as we implement this new system to report absences.

Andrew, Gillian, Peter
Gonzaga Administration Team