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**SafeArrival – a new system of reporting absences at Greater Fort Erie Secondary School**

Dear GFESS parent/guardian,

At District School Board of Niagara, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day. SafeArrival is a new system of reporting absences and late arrivals / early departures. GFESS will be using it from Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

With SafeArrival, you will be able to report your child's absence in three ways:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance**, then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number 1-866-606-5567 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

You'll able to report absences 24/7, and you can also input future absences at any time.

If your child is marked absent, the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated system will contact you by phone and email until a reason is submitted for the absence. If the system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

**If you report your child's absence in advance using the SafeArrival toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these calls and emails.**

Please call the school on 905-991-1132 If you have not provided us with an email address.

Starting **Monday, January 28th** please report absences in advance using SafeArrival instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.

Sincerely,

Fred Louws,  
Principal