

### **3.11 Inclement Weather Policy**

#### **Policy Context:**

Nova Scotia winter weather can change quickly and can be challenging to predict. GHLS takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of the school in the event of severe or inclement weather.

#### **Policy Scope:**

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, students, parents/guardians and Board Members.

#### **Policy Directives:**

- For the purposes of this policy, inclement weather means the existence of abnormal climatic conditions (i.e. blizzard, hail, snow, ice, high winds or any combination thereof) by virtue of which it is not reasonable or safe to travel to or from school.
- It is the responsibility of the Principal to decide whether in-person classes should be cancelled due to inclement weather or expected inclement weather. The Principal may seek the advice of teachers. A good point of reference is the decision of the Halifax Regional Centre of Education (HRCE) to close schools.
- A decision to cancel in person classes must be made no later than noon of the school day. This decision must be communicated by 2pm to all staff, volunteers, students, parents/guardians, and Board Members.
- The decision must be communicated by email and should also be posted on applicable GHLS social media channels.
- Teachers must communicate to their students and/or parents/guardians at least one hour prior to class and provide an online link to the Zoom or Google Meet class.
- The Inclement Weather Policy must be communicated annually to all staff, volunteers, students, and parents/guardians at the beginning of the Fall Term.
- Where possible, cancelled in-person classes will be substituted by online classes via Zoom or Google Meet. Cancelled classes that cannot be held online, will be held on a makeup date by the end of the school's fiscal year (May 31).
- The School strives to complete the full schedule of 15 weeks per term by the fiscal year end. However, in exceptional cases it may be out of the control of GHLS to complete the full schedule. In those cases, outstanding classes will be cancelled without refund.