



Hillside Park Elementary

15 Hillside Ave, Lower Sackville, NS B4C 1W6,
www.hpe.hrce.ca (902) 864 6873

Dear Families,

We are so excited to welcome students back next week. In fact we are counting down the days and are getting ready for students to arrive, only 5 more sleeps until we get to see you!

Ms. Maria Carey and Mr. Rodney Arsenault have cleaned our school and the floors are sparkling. Teacher have been working on making more space in classrooms so prepare yourself our school looks different. We will be learning together how to learn differently in our new spaces. We are going to keep you safe by following the rules and washing and sanitizing our hands regularly. It will be so great to be back together!

In this notice you will find additional information about our return to school on September 8th. Many of these questions are a follow up with concrete details since our last newsletter on Sept 1st. All of our procedures are guided by direction and information from our Regional Center and the Department of Education and guided in keeping with Nova Scotia Public Health policies and protocols. It is with these key partners that we determine what is best for our students and staff.

Please remember that our shared health is our collective responsibility. By using the Covid19 daily checklist before sending your child to school as well as washing and sanitizing our hands regularly and wearing face masks made of 2 ply of fabric (Not Buffs) and ensuring cleanliness of high touch surface areas, we will have a successful startup of the 2020-2021 school year!

Please go to our school website - hpe.hrce.ca and twitter - @HillsidePark1 daily to check for updates.

Keep checking your email for more information!

Kelly Joy, Principal and Courtney Smith, Vice Principal

Important Dates

August 26

Late Registration Day

September 3

Teachers back to school

September 4

Professional Development Day

September 8

First day of school!

Frequently Asked Questions

How will primary parents get information about the first day?

- Our teachers will be calling you on Friday to provide you with information and answer any questions you may have about the Primary experience at Hillside Park Elementary.

Who will be my child's teacher this year?

- Teachers will be reaching out by phone on Friday to introduce themselves to families and children and provide any relevant information about the first day of school.

Arrivals and dismissal?

- All students will arrive at school no earlier than 7:45am (when teacher supervision begins). They will immediately enter the school via designated doors as they arrive, heading directly to their classrooms. Please note that provincially mandated social distancing guidelines need to be regarded when dropping students off. There is no outside play before the school day begins.
- It will be very important that we all do our part to limit congestion/crowds from gathering at the start and end of the day.
- Under the back to school plan schools will be limiting visitors in the building, including parents and guardians. This means you will not be able to enter the school to drop off or pick up your child.
- When students arrive the first day of school grades 1-5 either walking independently from the sidewalk or by bus they will immediately be directed to their classroom door.

See map below.

Primary Brann, Primary/One McMullin will enter the school on the left hand side red door.

1/2 Hausman will enter the playground door on the P-3 play ground side of the building.

2/3 will enter the door in front of the building under the big trees and Mrs. Joys office.

3/4 will enter the gym door on the right of the building past the bike rack and parking lot.

4/5 will enter the door just past the oil tank by the library on the right side.

- Pre Primary parents will enter the school grounds and walk their child to the main Hillside door by the blue wall where the teacher will accept your child. There is no sign in this year.
- Grade Primary parents will be permitted to walk their child to the door but are not permitted to enter the building and are asked to just kiss and go as to ensure traffic flow.

Parent Map

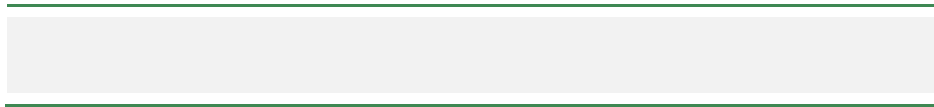


What happens if my child takes the bus?

Children who take the bus will be met at the bus and directed to the appropriate door. Please help them by visiting the school in the coming days to show them their door.

Can I come to school to meet the bus?

We would ask that you do not come to school to meet the bus as your child will be safely escorted into the school by several adults. If there are parents at the bus it could create a crowd and we would like to minimize crowds for safety. Unfortunately this is no longer a place to take pictures.



What happens if students are late?

If students arrive late to school they will buzz the main door and be escorted by an adult to their class.

What will after school dismissal look like?

- All students will be dismissed from their designated exit doors and accompanied by their teacher. If you are waiting for your child at the end of the day, please ensure social distancing guidelines are being followed. It is important that all parents/guardians are present for dismissal time when the bell rings as there is no supervision of students after the bell and students cannot remain in the building.

How do I monitor the health of my child?

- Our shared health is our share responsibility. We need families to monitor the health of their child daily each day before they come to school using the COVID 19 Daily checklist. See website.
- If your child is displaying symptoms, please keep your child at home when they are ill- even if their symptoms are mild, and contact 811. We do not want students coming to school when they are sick. By monitoring daily, you are doing your part to protect our shared health.

What happens if my child displays symptoms at school?

- Any student who becomes sick at school will have a separate location in the school where they will be supervised, while they wait to be picked up.
- If a child feels unwell or begins to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, a parent or guardian will be contacted for pick up. **It is very important to ensure that your contact information and other emergency contacts for your child are kept up to date with the school during the school year.**
- If your child exhibits symptoms, contact 811 to receive advice from Public Health on what to do next, including if/when a child can return to school.
- If a COVID-19 case is identified, Public Health will provide direction to the school and HRCE on communicating with families.

When will my child get the masks provided by the Department of Education and Early Child Development?

- Cloth masks supplied to students will be distributed on the first day of school.
- All children grade PP-12 are required to wear a mask when travelling on the school bus.
- When at school, all students in grade 4 and 5, including grade 3 students in a combined class with grade 4 students are required to wear a mask in the school.
- Students must wear their masks (in hallways and other common areas) when they are unable to physically distance by 2 metres.

- Masks can be removed when students are eating and drinking. Masks are not required during outdoor activities.
- Parents should problem solve before the first day where their child will store their mask at recess, when they get outside (either in a pocket, pouch, or clipped to their waistband.)
- Masks should be labeled with your child's name.

What if I forget my child's mask?

- There will be disposable masks available at the school if your child has forgotten his/her mask. Please note that masks are required for all students on all public transportation, including school busses to and from school.

My child will be taking the bus. What do I need to know before the first day?

- Please log onto MyBusPlanner (link found on HRCE website) to confirm pick up and drop of times and locations.
- **All** students (regardless of age) riding the school bus are required to wear non-medical masks both to and from school.
- While riding school buses, children and students from the same household must sit together.

How will recess work?

- Each classroom will be assigned a designated playground zone during recess. Students will only be socializing outside with their classroom bubble. Because we will be restricting the number of students on playgrounds, recess times will be staggered to accommodate all classes.

Recess/Lunch Zones



Should my child bring a water bottle to school?

- Yes! Please send a **full water bottle** with your child each day. They will be bringing them home at the end of the day. This is to help reduce the spread of germs at our water filling stations.

Does my child need to bring lunch?

- If your child is staying for lunch, they must bring one with them each morning. We cannot have visitors dropping into the school daily to bring lunch for their child. Students will be bringing home any unfinished lunch items in their lunch bags, please make sure to check them daily.

How will lunch work?

- Lunch will still run from 11:05 - 12:05. Some classes will eat lunch in their classrooms for the first half hour and then have free time (outside if weather permits). The other classes will have free time (outside if weather permits) for the first half hour and then return to their classrooms to eat. When outside, all classes will have designated play areas in which they must remain.

Will there be hot lunch programs this year?

- In order to reduce risk as much as possible we will not be having any hot lunch, canteen or milk programs available this year.

I have additional questions. Where can I get answers?

- www.hrce.ca is always a valid source of information, as well as the Back To School Plan document released by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Elementary (see attached).
- We have access to the most up to date and accurate information available. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me directly at hpes@hrce.ca.
- **Hillside Park does not have any affiliation or contribution to information on any community social media platforms/groups other than our school website - www.hpe.hrce.ca and twitter - @HillsidePark1.** We cannot guarantee the accuracy of information found on any other platforms.