



Hillside Park Elementary

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

Welcome to new and returning families of Hillside Park Elementary! It has been a very busy few months and as we all get back into our new routines we are very excited to get the new school year started! We will be sending home regular communication via email so please check your email regularly.

First of all I'd like to introduce you to the homeroom staff at Hillside;

Pre Primary	Ms. Allison McLeod and Ms. Janice Fitzpatrick
Primary	Ms. Cheryl Brann
Primary/One	Ms. Tammy McMullin
One	Ms. Hausman
Two	Ms. Kelloway
Two/Three	Ms. Cawthra
Three/Four	Mrs. Stanton
Four/Five	Ms. Smith and Ms. Kelly (Formally Ms. Cooper)

By now, you will have received an email from your child's homeroom teacher to let you know what homeroom they are in.

There have been (and continue to be) many questions around school procedure and protocols this year. Covid is still a reality in our world and we will continue to take advice and follow the direction of public health.

At the school level, we are working towards solutions that will ensure a safe and successful school year while following public health guidelines. As we move to our new normal we will continue to share information with you. We are looking forward to a successful school year.

Below, you will find answers to some of the questions of which we are all thinking. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact us directly.

Hillside Park does not have any affiliation or contribution to information on any community social media platforms/groups other than our school website - hpe.hrce.ca and twitter - @HillsidePark1.

Important Dates

August 25

Late Registration Day

September 2

Teachers back to school

September 7

First Day of School

September 9

Stand Up Against Bullying Day (Wear Pink)



Enjoy your final days of summer and keep checking your email for more information!

Kelly Joy, Principal and Courtney Smith, Vice Principal

Hillside Park Elementary

Frequently Asked Questions

Does my child need to wear a mask?

- Public health and the EECD have decided that all students who travel on school buses must wear a mask to and from school. Students in all grades and all staff will be required to wear masks while at school until we enter into Phase 5.

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.

What does the first day of school drop off look like?

- Our opening day plan, at this time, is as follows.
 - All students in Grades PP-5 will be coming inside the building upon arriving at school. Please do not come before 7:45 am. Please give your hugs and kisses when you drop them off either in your car or on the sidewalk. We ask all families to follow the provincially mandated social distancing mask wearing guidelines.
 - Grade Primary students will be met at the red door on the left hand side of the school (facing the school). We all understand how daunting first day can be for Grade Primary students (and their families). Family members must remain outside. Remember that your children will take their cues from you, so please stay positive about this exciting day!
 - Pre-Primary students will be met by Pre-Primary staff at the main doors of the school. Please do not arrive to drop off Pre-Primary students until 7:45 am. Staff will be keeping track at drop off for Pre Primary students. You must check in with a staff member upon drop off for safety reasons.

What does school drop off look like after the first day?

- 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. There is no outside play before the school day begins.

What will after school dismissal look like?

- All students will be dismissed from their designated exit doors and accompanied by their teacher. 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. Bus students will be walked out first followed by the walkers when the busses pull out of the driveway.

What doors should my child enter/exit?

- All doors on the school will have signage posted starting on September 3rd stating in which classes enter and exit. Grade P, P/1 and 1 will enter the red doors to the left of the school facing the school from the road. Grade 2, 2/3, 3/4 and 4/5 will enter the doors facing the basketball court by the library. PP Parents will drop off at the main door by the blue wall. If you arrive late with your child after 8am your child will enter the door by the blue wall and ring the door bell.

Where do we find information regarding the Excel program?

- Any questions regarding the Excel program can be answered by the Excel team at the HRCE offices. Please visit www.hrce.ca to find contact information.

Will there still be a breakfast program?

- Yes, there will continue to be breakfast program this year. Classrooms will have a supply of non-perishable, individually packaged breakfast foods for students to access when necessary. Breakfast program begins the week of Sept 13th.

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. We have several peanut and tree nut allergies at our school as well as egg. So please avoid packing these items.

Will the school be doing Covid-19 screening daily?

- No, the school will not be doing individual daily screening. It is expected that families will be monitoring their child's own health and using the Nova Scotia Public Health Covid-19 Daily Checklist (see attached).

Who will be my child's teacher this year?

- Class lists have been finalized today. Classroom teachers sent out emails today to let you know that your child was in their class. If you did not receive an email please check your junk folder or email myself at hpes@hrce.ca

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.

What happens if my child displays symptoms while at school?

- If your child displays symptoms of Covid-19 while at school, they will be required to be picked up. Students who display symptoms will pack up their belongings in the classroom and wait in a designated isolation area. Parents will be contacted first (please ensure all contact

information is up to date on file). If parents cannot be reached, we will immediately proceed to the emergency contacts on file. It is imperative that families develop a plan for a safe and timely pick up for their children.

Is my contact information up to date?

- It is extremely important that all contact information is up to date with our school system. We require that all parent/guardian information is reliable. We also require that all students have emergency contact information for additional adults who may pick students up at school, in the case that students are required to go home. Please make arrangements with family members, neighbours, or friends and share these arrangements with your children so that everyone is aware of who may pick up your child in the case that they are required to go home mid day.

Are we looking to hire lunch monitors?

- As always, we are looking for new team members. If you are interested in becoming a lunch monitor, please contact the school and have a conversation with Mrs. Joy or Ms. Smith.

How can I help prepare my child for school during this unusual time?

- You can help your child prepare for school during this time by doing the following things:
 - Learning how to safely put a mask on, and take a mask off.
 - Teaching your child how to safely and appropriately wash their hands and use hand sanitizer.
 - Take time over the weekend to visit the school to see where they will be dropped off and what doors they will be using.
 - Getting into the routine of unpacking and packing all of their belongings in their book bags and lunch bags.
 - Demonstrating social distancing in public spaces.
 - Emphasize that sharing is not caring in school during this time. We cannot share food, school supplies, or other belongings.
 - Remind students that personal belongings and toys belong at home. We will not be taking any unnecessary items to school this year.
 - Stay positive about the start of a new year. Remember - what emotions you display, they will pick up on!

I have additional questions. Where can I get answers?

- 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.