

Expectations

Children are expected to come to school ready to learn with the necessary materials needed for this. These include notebooks, worksheets, textbooks, pencils and pens. **Teachers provide these.** Teachers work with children to help them set realistic goals that encourage attentiveness in classes and work completion. When this becomes a problem, teachers will contact you to develop a collaborative plan of action.

Teachers may impose consequences to assist students to complete work or be more attentive in class. These may include keeping a student in at recess, before or after school or asking an administrator to reinforce a point with your child.

The Safe Schools /Discipline Policy

The Safe Schools/Discipline Policy is designed to help students feel safe and secure at school. The policy outlines clear consequences such as suspension and expulsion for students who place the safety of other students or staff at risk. Any forms of harassment (racial, sexual, gender) are not tolerated and consequences will be imposed. A copy of the policy is available to you at the school.

Communicating with the School

- ◆ Maintain ongoing communication with the school.
- ◆ The first contact is your child's teacher. He/she can keep you informed about your child's progress.
- ◆ Official report cards are issued three times each year (usually in November/December, March and June).
- ◆ The teacher may contact you from time to time. At least once each year, usually when first term reports are issued (November/December) you will be invited to speak with the teacher to learn about progress to date. Feel free to contact the school or the teacher at any time should you have a concern or question. Schools may provide translation of Board and school notices. Please consult with your school principal for further information.

Parent Involvement

Research has shown that where parents are directly involved in the school, children are more successful in school. Parents are invited to become involved in the school in many ways such as volunteering. Speak to the principal who will give you information you need about volunteering.

School Councils are one of the main ways you can become involved in your school community. You are encouraged to speak to your school principal about this group of parents, staff and community members to find out how to get involved. School Councils discuss many of the events, activities, policies and procedures in which your school is involved. School Councils work collaboratively towards ensuring student success and advise administration on all aspects of school program.

Learning English

School staff know it is difficult to learn English quickly. Your child's teachers will help modify the program so that children are successful. Children from a non-English speaking background may receive additional support from an English as a Second Language (ESL/ELD) teacher.

You need to help and encourage your child to be patient about learning English. Most children make small gains each day. After a few months they find they are more comfortable with the language even though it may take a lot longer to become fluent.

The more experiences children have with the language, the better. Children should speak English whenever possible. Provide opportunities for your children to be exposed to English as much as possible. Practising English outside the classroom is critical to learning the language.

Once children reach grade 4, they are expected to learn French for forty minutes each day.

Language Tips

- ◆ It is important for children to maintain their first language.
- ◆ Continue to speak and read to children in their language while also reinforcing the learning of English at home. Speaking more than one language can benefit your child in many ways.



Welcome to our Elementary Schools



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(905) 722-6255 (Georgina)
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www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

When can my child start School?

In Ontario, children may begin school in September of the year they are 4 years old as long as they turn 4 years old before December 31st. At this time, they may enter Junior Kindergarten.

Elementary School:

Junior Kindergarten (JK)
(4 years old before December 31st)

▼
Senior Kindergarten (SK)
(Junior and Senior Kindergarten attend school either half days – every day or full days - every other day)

▼
Grade 1 to Grade 8
full days (Monday to Friday for about 6 hours per day)

High/Secondary School:
Grades 9-12

In Ontario, attendance at school is compulsory to 16 years of age.

School year at a glance:

- ◆ September to June
- ◆ Two-week Winter Break in December/January
- ◆ About a week-long Spring Break in March or April
- ◆ Your school will notify you of these holidays and other breaks (public holidays such as Thanksgiving, Good Friday,Victoria Day)

In York Region, you may choose to allow your child to stay home for religious observances. Significant Faith Days for faith communities in our Board are published annually. If your child is going to be absent, please inform the school prior to the absence

How will my child's education be affected by our significant faith days?

Note:
Policy #260, Antiracism and Ethnocultural Equity Policy, has been developed to ensure that all students are welcomed, valued and validated in the York Region District School Board.

Registration

Enrol and register your children in school as soon as possible.

Go to the nearest school in your neighbourhood with as many of the following as possible:

- ✓ landed immigrant papers
- ✓ birth certificate
- ✓ immunization/health records
- ✓ proof of purchase of home or rental lease
- ✓ your home and work phone numbers
- ✓ recent phone bill indicating address
- ✓ cell phone numbers (where applicable)
- ✓ an emergency contact number (in the event the school cannot reach you)
- ✓ previous report card information on your child

It is recommended that someone who is able to speak or write English accompany you to register your child, but it is not essential. The school will assist you where necessary. The school will assess your child's academic needs and create a suitable timetable.

Settlement Workers

Most schools south of Major Mackenzie Drive in York Region can put you in touch with a settlement worker who can:

- ◆ help you get settled in York Region;
- ◆ work with the whole family;
- ◆ speak a number of languages; and
- ◆ have a network of people to whom they can refer you for assistance with education, housing, health, legal issues or employment.

School Costs

Usually no costs are attached to most school activities. Where there are costs (field trips or special lunches) you will be informed of these well in advance.

Materials and Books

Elementary schools provide all essential materials and books a child needs for his/her studies. Parents may purchase additional materials if they so wish.

Attendance and Punctuality

Your child's school will inform you of when the school day begins and ends.

- ◆ Punctuality and attendance are very important to ensure your child does not miss important material being taught.
- ◆ It is critical that you call the school when your child is going to be absent or late so that the school can ensure all students are safe.
- ◆ If you do not call the school, the school will call the home to ensure your child is safe.

Transportation

Children are encouraged to walk to school where possible. Children are entitled to transportation only if the distance of their home from the school is:

Kindergarten to Grade 3	1.2 km
Grades 4 to 8	1.6 km

If your child is entitled to transportation, the school will make the arrangements and inform you of the times and locations of pick-up and drop-off. If you choose to send your child to a school outside of your own school area, notify the school office. Parents should know that, in this case, they are responsible for their child's transportation.

Field Trips

Field trips are supervised class visits outside of the school usually at a minimum cost to the student. They give your child a learning experience that enriches your child's program. You will always be informed about these trips and must give written permission if your child is to participate. We encourage children to participate; however, if you choose to have your child remain at school, an alternate program will be provided.

Lunch

Children are encouraged to go home for lunch where possible.

Can my child eat at school?

If children live too far from the school or no adult is home to receive the child, children may eat lunch at school. Nutritious lunches that do not require heating should be sent with students. Most elementary schools have no cooking or heating facilities available for student use. Some schools offer special lunch days where pizza or hot dogs can be purchased in advance.

Lunch is about an hour long. The first 20 minutes or so is for eating lunch indoors and the remainder of the time is spent outdoors. Adults supervise children eating lunch and in the schoolyard. Please check with your child's school as to the lunch routines of the school.

Serious Medical Conditions

Parents are asked to notify the school office **immediately** of any serious medical conditions such as food and other kinds of allergies (anaphylaxis), heart condition, epilepsy, diabetes, etc., that your child may have. Schools will make special provisions for children who have these allergies (i.e. peanut-free environment). Please ask how your child's school will deal with these issues. In order to ensure schools remain as allergy-sensitive as possible, do not send peanuts or peanut products to schools.

Names

Children have the right to keep and use their given names. It is your decision whether you wish your child to have an English name.

Clothing

Most children dress informally but that does not mean they have a casual attitude toward their schoolwork. School Councils (a group of parents, teachers and community members who meet regularly to advise the school) may advise upon a school dress code. Traditional or religious dress is permitted in York Region public-schools.

What is recess?

These are several 10-15 minute breaks when children go outside at morning and afternoon recess. Children also go outside for a portion of their lunch hour.

Why is important to dress properly?

Except in severe circumstances (rain, storms, extreme cold) children will go outside. Children must dress appropriately for the weather so that they can go outside and play. In winter, layers of clothing will help to keep children warm. Sweaters, snow pants, hats, scarves, gloves or mittens and boots are all appropriate to help children remain warm and dry. Sunscreen should be sent with children in spring and summer to ward of any potential harmful effects of the sun. Adults supervise the schoolyard during recesses.

Homework

Schools have a Homework Policy that informs children and parents about the types of activities students are expected to complete at home. It is expected that homework assigned by teachers will be completed. Homework may not be paper/pencil exercises. Homework can include reading on one's own or to a parent or sibling.

Young children may not receive a great deal of homework. Time spent playing and talking with friends is important learning time that encourages both emotional and intellectual growth. It gives children an opportunity to be creative and build friendships. Through play, young children experiment with language and use their imagination.