

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – 2017/18



IMPORTANT BELL TIMES:

8:35 am
10:15am – 10:55 am
12:35pm – 1:15 pm

Entry Bell
1st Nutrition Break
2nd Nutrition Break



The **First Day** of school for students is **Tuesday, September 5th, 2017.**

All grade 1 students are to be dropped off at the front doors of the school and they will be escorted by staff to the Community Room. Parents will not be permitted to come into the school with their children.

All students from grades 2 to 8 are expected to meet on the **back playground prior to the 8:35 bell.** Returning SK students are expected to be in the **Kindergarten area prior to the 8:35 bell.** Parents of JK students will be notified of starting dates by email.

As on a regular school day, staff will provide supervision on the playground starting at 8:20am.

At the 8:35 bell students from grades 2-5 will be brought into the gym where their teachers will complete a role call to gather their class and then proceed to their classroom. Students from grades 6-8 will remain on the playground near Door #2 to meet their teachers and then proceed to class.

For obvious safety reasons, Parents ARE NOT permitted to enter the school with students on the first day.

At the end of the First Day of School students will come out of the following doors:

DOOR 1: Grade 1 (will be dismissed 10 minutes early, hand-over-hand to parents), Grade 2 and Grade 3

DOOR 2: Grade 4, Grade 5 and Grade 6

DOOR 4: Kindergarten Students will be released to parents at the Kindergarten Gate (hand-over-hand to parents)

Students will have a notice with them at the end of the day stating their teacher's name and the door they will use for the remainder of the year to enter and exit the school.

Rainy Day Procedure



School staff will monitor the entrance doors beginning at 8:20am. Students in grade 1 will be escorted to the Community Room while students from grades 2-8 will be escorted to the Gym. School staff will be supervising students in the Community Room and Gym. **Unfortunately, even if it is raining Parents ARE NOT permitted to enter the school with the students on the first day. Teachers will meet children in the gym and escort them to their classroom.**

Question: How will I know where to pick up my child at the end of the day?

Answer: Your child(ren) will be dismissed at the end of the day at the doors assigned above. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students are released directly to a parent. Students in Grade 2 and older should know who to meet and where to meet at the end of each day. Playground supervisors will ensure that no student is left on the playground without someone to pick them up.

Question: Will parents be able to enter the school with their children on the first day of school?

Answer: No. The first day of school can be a very exciting time for most children. However, for some children the first day of school can be a little scary or even stressful. At Ryerson Heights our commitment is to make this day (and every school day) a wonderful experience for everyone.

The “**First Day**” procedure at Ryerson Heights works extremely well and is common practice for most schools within Grand Erie. As part of this procedure parents **are not** permitted to enter the school with the children on the first day at the 8:35 bell.

Question: What if my child is stressed and cries on the first day of school?

Answer: On the first day of school it is not uncommon for some of our younger students to experience a great deal of emotion (even tears). To help with the transition back to school we feel it is very important for parents and caregivers to say good –byes and to give hugs and kisses at the door. In almost all cases children are quick to adapt and are fine once they enter the school and join in on the excitement of the first day. Quite often we have found the first day of school is more stressful for the parents compared to our students. Please be assured if for some reason your child experiences severe difficulty on the first day we will contact you. But as always you are the expert and you know your child best. If you are uncomfortable leaving your child on the first day please speak with the office and we will be happy to make an alternative arrangement. For safety reasons absolutely **NO parents** will be able to enter the school with the students on the first day of school.

PARKING LOT

We continue to need your help to make school entrance and dismissal times as safe as possible for everyone.

Just a Friendly Reminder: Our parking lot has been a work in progress. Please **Do Not** park and **leave** your car unattended in the “**Drop Off & Pick Up**” lane in the middle of the parking lot. Parking and leaving your car unattended in the “**Drop Off & Pick Up**” lane disrupts the flow of traffic for those dropping off and picking up students. Again, we are asking for your support to help make our drop off and pick up times as efficient and safe as possible for your children. Thank you for your continued patience and support!

WASTE FREE SNACK/LUNCH TIPS

1. Use reusable lunch carriers. Remember to buy a large enough lunch bag to fit all the re-usable containers in.
2. Use reusable containers. Please avoid plastic wrap, foil, wax paper and styrofoam. Remember to show your child how to put all uneaten food back into these containers and seal it carefully to avoid a yucky mess arriving home in the lunch bag.
3. Use reusable drink bottles or thermos. Please avoid single-use juice boxes, pouches, cans and water bottles.
4. Use a cloth napkin and wash and reuse. Please avoid paper napkins.
5. Use silverware and wash and re-use. Please avoid plastic forks/knives.
6. Buy fresh fruits and vegetables and cut them up so you can send the right amount and it’s quicker and easier for your child to eat.
7. Get your children to help pack their snacks/lunches with healthy foods.
8. Only pack as much food as your child will eat.
9. Label all containers with an initial or special symbol so they have a better chance of coming home.
10. Parents in the pilot program found that initially a little more time was needed to clean up the lunch bag each night but once students got used to packing the waste better and there was less waste because the right amount of food was sent it was not a big problem.
11. Try to involve your child in this process so they become more aware of the healthy benefits to the environment and themselves!

Many thanks for your support of this important and exciting initiative! Together we can all make a difference.



2016/17 School Year Calendars will be sent home in September, but please note that **Friday, September 15th, 2017** is our first PA Day of the school year. The School Year Calendar can also be found online at: <http://www.granderie.ca/school/Calendars/Pages/default.aspx> .