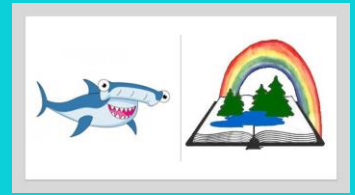


Harrietsfield Elementary School



Info for Families: September 4-5

We are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people.

This territory is covered by the treaties of peace and friendship, which we work to honor and live each day. We acknowledge the rich contributions from our friends, families, and ancestors of African descent that have been in Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

T'was the Night Before School Open House and Curriculum Night

We will be having a drop-in open house on the evening of **Wednesday, September 3rd from 6-6:45pm**, prior to the first day of school! This will be an opportunity for you to receive some information about the curriculum that will be covered this year and see where your child will be spending their school year. We hope you will drop by to meet your child's teacher/s. Ice cream will be served outside from 6:45-7:00 pm.

First Day of School ~ Let's Dive into a Fin-Tastic School Year!

The first day of school is Thursday, September 4th. Teachers will be on duty at 7:40 am and our dismissal time is 1:55pm. If you are choosing to drop off your child that day, please refrain from using the bus loop during morning and dismissal bus times. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you prior to our open house, to introduce themselves and to let you know where your child's classroom is and what to expect on the first day at HES!

School Information

Please see our website [here](#) for a complete list of our Teaching and Support Staff Team and other school information. We are continuing to work at filling our School Counselor position.

PowerSchool Opens for Families on September 3

PowerSchool will open to families on Wednesday, September 3 at 3 p.m. In PowerSchool, you'll be able to view you child's teacher(s) and/or class schedule.

Lunch Program

The provincial lunch program is set to begin at HES September 15th! From August 29th until **Wednesday, Sept 3rd at noon**, you will be able to place your order for the first two weeks of nutritious, delicious school lunches by going to

www.NSLunch.ca

Your child will require a lunch from home until the program starts on September 15th.

Lunch Routine Changes

We have made a small change to our lunch hour routine for this year. All students will go outside to play from 11:30-11:55 and then come in to eat their lunch from 11:55-12:20pm.

Are you interested in being a lunch monitor at HES? Please reach out to our front office if you have some time you could spend with our Hammerheads during lunch from 11:30-12:20pm!

What's Bubbling Up?

September 3

Professional Development Day (No School PP-5)

Excel Open House 2:00-4:00pm

Open House/Curriculum Night 6:00pm-7:00pm

September 4

First Day of School! Welcome Hammerheads!

September 11

Stand Up Against Bullying Day ~ Wear Pink! Think Pink!

September 25

Picture Day! Pineapple Studios will capture our snappy smiles!

September 26

Orange Shirt Day ~ Today we honor the survivors of Residential Schools

September 29

Professional Development Day (No School PP-5)

September 30

Truth and Reconciliation Day (No School PP-5)

Demographic Updates

On September 9, the Demographic Updates Form will be available to families in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. This form should be updated by every family to ensure all information about your child is current, including contacts, medical information, consents and demographics. Even if there are no anticipated changes, please still review this information and submit the form. This information will then be reviewed by the school before updates are finalized. **This deadline to submit the form is October 6, 2025.**

SchoolCash Setup

SchoolCash Online is an easy-to-use and safe way to pay for items like class trips and so much more, quickly and conveniently (*items vary for school and are announced as needed). Simply register an account to be able to pay in several different payment forms. [Click here](#) for more information.

***School supplies at HES are purchased by families this year and the lists are available on our website. Should you require assistance with supplies please reach out to Kathy in our front office and she will be happy to help!**

Playground Access

A reminder to families that our big playground is only for children who are 5 and older. Our primary students will not be using this playground until after Christmas.

Nut Aware School 🥜

We ask that all families take care in not sending snack or lunch items that contain nuts of any kind. This helps to ensure that our students with allergies are safe and healthy.

Breakfast Program

Thanks to our wonderful parent volunteer, Ashley Cassibo, we are able to offer a breakfast program at our school. This program is for all students, regardless of if they have had breakfast at home before school or not. If you are able to spare an hour or two a week, we are always looking for volunteers to help with this important program. Volunteer time can be very flexible and does not need to be before school. Please reach out to the main office if you can lend a hand. Our breakfast program will begin on the first day of school.

Drop-off Loop 🚗

A reminder to families that the drop off loop must not be entered when school buses are present. For your child's safety, please allow them to exit your vehicle on the playground side, rather than into the road where cars are moving. We also ask that parents do not park their vehicle and get out as this can quickly cause congestion to form.

Safe Arrival

A reminder to please use the safe arrival process to let us know if your child/ren will be absent. **Please do not call the school to report an absence.**

To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

1. PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal

Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.

2. SchoolMessenger App (white and blue logo)

Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use their username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

3. Toll-Free Number

Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report future absences using an automated system.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Absences can be reported at any time before the start of school on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once.

Please report your child's absence no later than 8:00 am on the day of their absence.

Purple Tag Program for Bussing

All students in grades Pre-Primary to 2 **must be accompanied by an adult** at the bus stop before and after school. Children in PP-2 will have a purple tag put onto their backpack to identify them.

Transportation and Using BusPlanner

Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you can choose to receive email and/or text message notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations.

To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

Pink Shirt/Stand Up Day

On the second Thursday of September, we recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day. On Thursday, September 11, we will celebrate inclusivity, kindness and friendship. All HRCE school teams are focused on ensuring all students have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and thrive.

Please join us and wear pink if you're able on September 11 to take a stand against bullying.

Safety Drills

Throughout the school year, we will be practicing safety drills with the students in our school. These events are meant for students to practice so they know what to expect and how to stay safe in the event of an emergency. Please know that the age and developmental stage of all our students are always considered first when our safety drills are planned and conducted. The safety drills include: 6 Fire Drills (the first one is the week of Sept 8th), 2 Lockdown Drills (Sept and Feb: emails will be sent home ahead of time), 1 Hold and Secure Drill (Sept: email will be sent home ahead of time).

Yours in learning,
Lisa, Kaylee, and Kathy

HES Admin Team
902-479-4230
hes@hrce.ca