

Astral Drive Elementary

Home of the Stars

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September 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome to a new school year at Astral Drive Elementary! Mary Dowden-Marrie and myself, Carol-Anne Larade, are honored to join this amazing community as your new Vice Principal and Principal. September brings excitement, fresh beginnings, and endless possibilities. We are welcoming new teachers and returning staff this year, each bringing unique strengths and a commitment to student growth. We look forward to working together this year.

Important dates to remember in September:

- **Tues., Sept. 2:** Curriculum Night – see below
 - **Thurs., Sept. 4:** First day of school for students!
 - **Thurs., Sept. 11:** Stand Up Against Bullying Day
 - **Fourth week of September:** [Gender Equality Week](#)
 - **Friday, Sept. 26:** Observe orange shirt day
 - **Monday, Sept. 29:** Professional Development Day – No classes PP-12
 - **Tuesday, Sept. 30:** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
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School Updates

- You will see finishing touches being done on construction to improve learning spaces
- We are currently finalizing late student registrations
- Thank you for your patience as we work to prepare for the new school year and we are happy to welcome families on curriculum night – September 2nd from 5:00pm-6:00pm.
- Please watch for communication from your child's teacher to welcome you
- PowerSchool Logins for parents will be open September 3rd at 3:00pm where you can then access your child's teacher information. You will need your child's provincial number which is located on their report card.

- HRCE continues to grow and that can mean changes to your child's classroom and/or teacher until the end of September. If we must make class changes, your child's new teacher will send a welcome note to inform you and share their contact information.

Curriculum Night – Date: Tues, September 2nd Time: 5:00 – 6:00 PM

- Meet the teachers
- Learn about classroom routines and curriculum
- Enjoy a sweet treat afterwards!

Pick Up and Drop Off

Our entrance and exit on Lakeshire Drive will be one way and for busses and staff only.

Our entrance off Astral Drive will be the drop off for after school care vans and parents dropping students off in the “Kiss and Go” Loop.

There will be no parking on the hill leading into the loop to keep two-way traffic flowing.

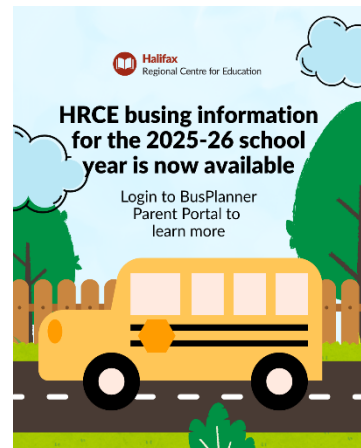
Please ensure you are moving slowly and carefully in the Kiss and Go Loop for student safety. We appreciate your patience and cooperation in moving safely through traffic to protect our students.

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.

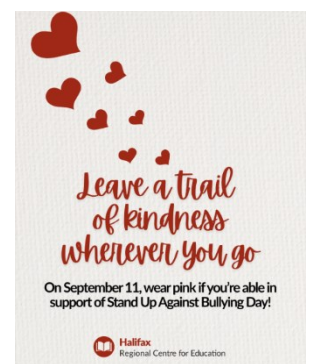
Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.



Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 11

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.



Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the children who didn't return from residential schools, as well as survivors, their families, and communities.

Orange Shirt Day, led by Indigenous communities, aims to raise awareness about the inter-generational impacts of residential schools and allows us all to show our support for the Every Child Matters movement.

As there are no classes on Monday, September 29 and Tuesday, September 30, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 26.



Demographic Form 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 your children's school fees. You can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more, quickly and conveniently. Simply register an account to be able to pay in several different payment forms. [Click here](#) for more information.



Important Dates



SEPTEMBER

- 2: School Organization Day - no classes all schools
- 2: Curriculum Night 5:00-6:00pm for families
- 3: Professional Development Day - no classes all schools
- 4: First Day of School for Students**
- 29: Professional Development Day - no classes all schools
- 30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - no classes all schools

OCTOBER

1: Treaty Day - Culturally Significant Day - schools open
13: Thanksgiving Day - no classes all schools
23: PTO Event – Halloween Howl
24: NSTU Provincial conference day - no classes all schools

NOVEMBER

11: Remembrance Day - no classes all schools
20: PTO Event
21: Elem/Middle/Jr evaluation day - no classes elem/jr high only
24-Dec 3: Report cards sent home (elem/jr high only)

DECEMBER

4: Progress Conferences & Teacher Professional Practice Day - no classes all schools
19: Last day of school before holiday break
10 and 11: Concert Dates
22: Teacher Professional Practice Day - no classes all schools

JANUARY

5: First Day Back After Break
29: PTO Event

FEBRUARY

February is Registration Month!

16: Nova Scotia Heritage Day - no classes all schools

MARCH

12: PTO Event
13: Elem/Middle/Jr assessment & evaluation day - no classes elem/middle/jr only
16-20: Spring Break - no classes all schools
23-April 2: Report cards sent home (elem/middle/jr high)

APRIL

2: Elem/Middle/Jr progress conferences & Teacher Professional Practice & high school professional development day - no classes all schools
3: Good Friday - no classes all schools
6: Easter Monday - no classes all schools
29: Elem/Middle/Jr professional development day - no classes all schools

MAY

7: PTO Event
15: Black Excellence Day - Culturally Significant Day - schools open
18: Victoria Day - no classes all schools

JUNE

5: PTO Event – Spring Fling
21: National Indigenous Peoples Day - Culturally Significant Day
29: Assessment & evaluation day - no classes all schools
30: Last day of school year

[Click here for HRCE 25-26 Calendar](#)