

SEPTEMBER 2022

Astral Drive Elementary School
236 Astral Drive

902-462-8500

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT/SUN |
|--------|--------|---------|--|------------------------------------|---|---------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3/4 |
| Week 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 First Day of School for Students! | 8 Stand Up Against Bullying Day | 9 | 10/11 |
| Week 2 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17/18 |
| Week 1 | 19 | 20 | 21 Curriculum Night | 22 | 23 | 24/25 |
| Week 2 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Orange Shirt Day | 30 Truth & Reconciliation Day (no classes) | |

Seeing What's Ahead

October:

October 7 – Picture Day

October 10 – Thanksgiving Day (no classes)

October 13 – Picture Retake Day

October 28 – Conference Day PP-12 (no classes)

November:

November 11 – Remembrance Day (no classes)

November 21 – Assessment & Evaluation Day (no classes)

December:

December 1 – AM PD Day / PM Parent Teacher Interviews

December 2 – PD Day PP-12 (no classes)

December 21 – First Day of Holiday Break (PP-12)

WELCOME BACK!!

To most of you, welcome back! To some of you, welcome to our school! To all of you, Happy September! We are so pleased that you have entrusted your children to our care. We value your children and want nothing more for them, than that their educational experience be the very best in every way possible.

September is an exciting time for our students, staff and parents! We want to extend a special welcome to our primaries and their families. We trust you will receive a warm welcome at Astral Drive Elementary. A special welcome also to new students who are moving from another school, town, or province; we endeavor to make your transition smooth.

Each year we emphasize the importance of maintaining a strong partnership between home and school. Parents/guardians are encouraged to keep in contact with your child's teachers through notes, phone calls, and emails. Our school newsletter will be emailed to you at the beginning of each month and will be posted on our website. Please ensure that your e-mail is up to date on your registration forms.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS

If there is a change in your child's regular pick-up routine, please e-mail or send along a note with your child to their teacher.

REGISTRATION & MEDIA RELEASE FORMS

Registration and Media Release forms will be coming home with your child/ren. Please review and make changes needed so that the school has the most recent contact information in case of an emergency and/or early closure.

These will need to be returned to your child's teacher no later than Wednesday, September 15th. This ensures all information is up to date as soon as possible.

PARENT PORTAL

As families are aware, changes were made to the Parent Portal. For parents/guardians who have not already done so, you are encouraged to sign up for the new, updated system. All that is required is your email address as this will be your new username. Please ensure that we have the correct email on file for your child to streamline everything as easily as possible. If you have an issue signing on, please contact the school office and Mrs. Dalrymple will be happy to help you.

SUBSCRIBE TO HRCE NOTIFICATIONS

If you would like to be notified by email or SMS of any school closings or other important announcements, please fill out your contact information at <https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/subscribe-notifications>.

LUNCH MONITORS NEEDED

Each day we have lunch monitors providing supervision for your children and we are always looking for more. This is a paid position, so if you have a couple of hours each day, it would be a great service to our school and an opportunity to make extra money at the same time.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming a lunch monitor at Astral Drive, please call the school at your earliest convenience at 902-462-8500.

STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING

On Thursday, September 8th, students and teachers at Astral Drive Elementary and across the province will support Stand Up Against Bullying Day. Students are asked to wear Pink to show their support. Our students will be doing activities in their classrooms to bring awareness on how to Stand Up Against Bullying.

SCHOOL BELL TIMES

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Arrival Time | 8:20 |
| Staggered Recess | 9:45 – 10:45 |
| Lunch 1 | 11:25 – 12:10 |
| Lunch 2 | 12:15 – 1:00 |
| Dismissal | 2:25 |

Students are reminded to arrive between 8:10 – 8:25 and to go straight to their classroom. There is no supervision outside in the morning. Thank you to parents for not congregating around the doors. This allows teachers an opportunity to safely get students to their assigned destinations at the end of the day.

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGIES/MEDICAL FORMS

The Halifax Regional School Board has a policy on Life Threatening Allergies. A number of procedures are put into place annually to implement this policy. Parents of students with allergies and or medical conditions e.g., asthma are requested to complete annual forms. These forms are available at the school office. Please inform your child's teacher and the office immediately of any allergies/medical conditions. Contact information for all teachers can be found at ade@hrce.ca.

SCENT AND FOOD ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL

ADES is a scent aware school; therefore, we ask that our students refrain from wearing scented products. Several students, teachers and parents are asthmatic and/or allergic to scent. Scented products such as detergents, fabric softeners, perfumes, and hair products are especially problematic.

EMERGENCY PLANS

Each school has an Emergency Plan with procedures for emergency situations that might arise. In keeping with that, we will practice fire drills, hold, and secure drills and lockdown drills. During the first month of school, we will have one fire drill, one hold and secure drill and one lockdown drill. The teachers will work with the students to prepare them for this; however, we want to

make you aware of this so you can talk to your child/ren. Please do not hesitate to contact your children's teacher with any concerns.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

This year, our picture day will be Friday, October 7th. A form will be sent home for parents to choose their preferred background. Pictures will be taken by Photomaster once again this year. All orders may be done online with the information given on our student proofs when we receive them. Please ensure that you send a change of clothes if you do not wish to have your child get their good clothes dirty.

*****NEW*** SCHOOL PAYMENTS**

Paying school-related fees is about to get easier!

We are excited to let you know that HRCE has launched a new system that will allow you to make payments electronically, with the click of a button. From lunch orders to yearbook fees, you will be able to make all payments safely, securely, and quickly through SchoolCash Online.

Our school will post items for purchase and assign school fees relevant to your child. You can make all purchases and payments from your phone, tablet, or computer.

We would like families to register as soon as possible.

To get started, please register for SchoolCash Online. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase.

Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/> and click Register to get started.

Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at <https://helpdesk.supportschoolcashionline.com/en/support/home>

We hope that SchoolCash Online makes paying school-related fees more convenient!

BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS, CELL PHONES, etc.

Students are permitted to drive their bikes to school. Please remember, provincial legislation requires that everyone must wear a bike helmet. Parents, please review bike safety rules with your children. Students should bring a bike lock to secure their bike upon arrival.

It is best that Cell phones, MP-3 players, i-Pods and other electronics are not brought to school. The school assumes no responsibility should these items get misplaced or broken.

CHANGE OF CLOTHING

Please ensure your children always have an extra change of clothing in their school backpacks. You never know when it will come in handy, and we would like to keep phone calls down to a minimum.

STAFF PARKING/STUDENT DROP-OFF

Arriving to School:

- All walkers and students may arrive between 8:10 and 8:25. Students will immediately enter the building upon arrival and go directly to their classroom.

- After school, students are dismissed from specific doors. If you are unsure of which door to pick your child up at please contact the teacher. If your child is going somewhere different other than their regular afterschool program, please make sure their teacher and the afterschool program are both aware of any change.

- **School Parking:**

- Please adhere to signage when picking up or dropping off your child. Please don't stop in the bus loop on the Lakeshire side. Please don't drive down the driveway on the Astral side. We appreciate your efforts in keeping our Astral families safe.

- Do not use private driveways when dropping off or picking up your child, as this creates a hazard for our students.

DAILY REMINDERS!

- a mask for ALL students (pre-primary to Grade 6)
- a full water bottle as we do not provide cups for student use
- a lunch and cutlery (the school is unable to provide these items)
- a change of clothes (especially our younger learners)

SAFE ARRIVAL

Safe Arrival by SchoolMessenger

A New Way for Families to Report Student Absences

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring all students arrive at school safely each day.

Parents/guardians of students who attend our school now have the option to report their child's absence in advance using a toll-free number, the PowerSchool Parent Portal or an app!

SchoolMessenger SafeArrival – an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for families to inform their child's school if they will be away – powers all three of these options.

If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

Toll-Free Number

Call **1-833-582-6940** to report an absence using an automated system.

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.

SchoolMessenger App

Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address).

For more information about reporting your child's absence and a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/safearrival>.