

This is an important message from Nelson Mandela Park Public School. If you need help reading this letter please let the school know so we can make future accommodations.

Friday August 30, 2024

Dear Nelson Mandela Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! The start of a new school year is always exciting with the anticipation of new experiences, friendships and achievements. Nelson Mandela Park Public School is far more than a building, it is a part of the community, a community which works together to provide an environment in which our children are loved, seen and valued.

At both the TDSB and Nelson Mandela our work is centred around two overarching priorities: developing a sense of joy, engagement and belonging in every student and eliminating disproportionate outcomes for students. As a staff and community we will work together to support the uniqueness and diversity of our students. We will strive to make everyone feel welcome and accepted in our school so they can be successful and reach their full potential.

Information about the start of school is listed below. Further information about the school year will be shared during the first week of school. If you have any questions please contact the school at 416-393-1620 you can also contact me directly by email at sudeep.sanyal@tdsb.on.ca

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 3rd.

Sudeep Sanyal, Principal

Registration

The office is open between 8:30 and 2:30 for registration. If you are aware of a neighbour or friend who has not registered, please encourage them to come into the school to do so. The first day of school is very busy in the office and we will not be able to process registrations that day. Please contact the school if you have any questions about registration.

First day of School

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 3rd with the school day beginning at 9 AM. Supervision begins on the yard at 8:30 AM. School ends at 3:00 PM for Kindergarten and Grade 7/8 students and 3:15 PM for Grade 1 to 6 students.

Teacher, Classes and First Day Procedure

Classroom teachers and room numbers will be emailed to families on the evening of Friday, August 30th.

Classroom teachers will be holding signs indicating their name, grade and room number. Please read below where classrooms will be meeting and lining up. Staff members, wearing orange vests and Mandela t-shirts, will also be present on the first day of school to help guide students. We appreciate your support and patience during this very busy time.

- Kindergarten classes will meet and enter through Door 9, the courtyard south of the parking lot.
- Grades 1/2A, 1/2B, 1/2C and 1/2D will meet along the wall between the parking lot and the St. David St. playground.
- The rest of the classes Grades 2/3 to 7/8 will meet on the soccer field and enter through the main door

Reminder: All class placements are tentative and can change up to and including the end of September based on class size requirements to meet the Ontario Ministry of Education Class Size Cap.

Lunch Procedures

Lunch times have shifted slightly from last year to accommodate a 15 min morning recess. Lunch for grades 1-6 is 11:45-12:30 and from 11:30-12:30 for our Kindergarten and Grade 7/8 students. All students should bring a packed lunch and a water bottle for the first day of school, unless they are being picked up by an adult to go home. If your child is being picked up for lunch, please let the classroom teacher know, they should be picked up at the main office, where students will sign out. If your child signs out for lunch, they must remain in your care for the entire lunch hour and return at the end of the lunch period at 12:30, do not drop your child off before 12:30.

There will be no snack or lunch program for the first week. Further information will be shared about lunch procedures after the first day of school.

Communication

The TDSB is transitioning to electronic communication and online forms. It is important that the school has your most current and preferred phone numbers and e-mail address. If

a family you know did not receive this email, please ask them to contact the school so that we can update their records. If a family you know needs accommodation with accessing online communication, forms and/or language please let us know so we can assist them.

Daily Announcements

Each morning at 9:20 AM we have our daily announcements. At that time we listen to the Land Acknowledgement, O Canada, Allyship Pledge and information related to the Days of Significance and Heritage Months. This is followed by announcements about what is happening in the school such as clubs and sports. Click on the link and you can read the same announcements that are shared each day with our students. [NMPPS Daily Announcements](#) Alternatively, you can go to the Nelson Mandela school website <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/nelsonmandelapark/> and you will see a link saying Daily Announcements Page on the top right corner.

Upcoming Dates

- Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night - Thursday, Sept 26th
- PD Day - No School - Friday, Sept 27th
- Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Monday, Sept 30th

Start of Year Forms

Start of Year Forms will be sent on Wednesday September 4th. These important forms include Medical Information, Consent for Walking Excursions and Use of Online Devices among others.

The Start of Year Forms and Student Device Agreement will be sent to all elementary student families by IT Services on September 4. IT Services will send reminders to families who have not completed the forms and any new student registrations will automatically receive the email with the form links. These forms will not be sent by Nelson Mandela Park. An email with the link to the form will be sent to the primary contact asking them for the student information and permission. To complete the form, parents/guardians will click on the link in the email which will open the form in the default web browser.

Parents/Guardians must Sign into account. For the first time using the application, a new account will need to be created.

Cell Phones

As you are likely aware, the Ministry of Education has provided new direction around cell phone and mobile device use in all Ontario schools. By reducing the distraction of cell phones and mobile devices in school and during class, together we can create more focused and engaging learning environments.

We understand that this direction is new and will take some time to successfully implement. Educators will work with students to determine classroom practices and will ensure expectations are clearly understood.

Students in **Kindergarten to Grade 6** must have cell phones/mobile devices powered off or set to silent and stored out of view for the **full instructional day**.

Students in **Grades 7 to 12** must have cell phones/mobile devices powered off or set to silent during **instructional time**.

Should a student not follow these directives, they will be asked to hand in their cell phone/mobile device. If a student does not hand in their personal mobile device when required, they must be sent to the Principal's office, as per Ministry direction.

School boards are also required to restrict access to all social media platforms on school networks and school devices (not including SMS text messaging).

Please learn more about the new direction around cell phones and mobile device use in [Ministry of Education PPM128](#) and at www.tdsb.on.ca/mobiledeviceuse.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to implement this new direction across TDSB.

Anaphylaxis – Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you

Speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain Peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Back-to-School Letter from Trustee Williams

Please click the link to download a welcoming letter from Trustee Williams [Back-to-School Letter from Trustee Williams](#)