

Dear Happy Valley Families,

Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

Welcome back to school! Today we opened our doors to **425 students**. We were joined by **31 new students in grades 1-5** and we are welcoming **60 Kindergarten children** next week. We would like to welcome all of our new and returning families to Happy Valley!

Our student numbers are still fluctuating at this time. Over the summer, we have had several “in-catchment” registrations we are attempting to accommodate. Children will remain with last year’s classes this week. New students have been temporarily placed with grade level peers for some introductory activities. Our school is currently at capacity at several grade levels and many in-catchment students have been accepted at other District schools.

Once student enrolment is confirmed at all schools in the District and we are in compliance with provincial class size regulations, we will be able to move children to their new classes. This is standard practice across the District. *Our changing student numbers are very important this week as we finalize staffing levels and arrange support for students.* Children will be moved to their new classes as soon as possible. Information about class configurations and teaching assignments will be confirmed in an upcoming newsletter. At this time, **we cannot consider any requests for particular class placements.** Thank you for your understanding.

On Wednesday, children in Grades 1-5 resume regular school hours of 8:30 – 2:28. Kindergarten children will begin half day “phase-in” classes in small groups next Monday and Tuesday. **Full Day Kindergarten will begin on Wednesday, September 11th.** Schedules were mailed home in July. If you are unsure of your child’s schedule, please confirm with the office.

We have several new staff members to introduce at Happy Valley this year. We are wishing a warm welcome to **Ms. Shalan Gervais**, who will be teaching in primary. We are also excited to welcome **Ms. Meghan Taylor**, who will be sharing a class with Mrs. Allen. We are happy to welcome **Ms. Lisa Therrien** who will be teaching in primary. Congratulations and welcome to **Ms. Lois McKenna** who will be teaching music with Mrs. Kosolfski. Welcome to **Ms. Laura Sherwood**, who is joining Mrs. Postle in teaching Reading Recovery.

Here are some answers to a few questions parents may have this week.

What are the school hours this year?

First bell (Students line up)	8:25 am
Second bell (Announcements & classes begin)	8:30 am
Kindergarten recess	9:45 am – 10:00 am
Grade 1-5 recess	10:20 am – 10:35 am
Primary Lunch play time	11: 40 am – 12: 05 pm
Eating time (whole school)	12:10 pm – 12:35 pm
Intermediate Lunch play time	12:35 pm – 1:00 pm
Dismissal	2:30 pm

When will my child receive their school supply order? When should we send school supplies?

If you ordered supplies through last year's PAC fundraiser with Monk, your child will receive them in their new classes at the end of the week. Students are encouraged to bring supplies by the end of the first week as we anticipate students will be in their new classrooms soon.

What is happening on our grounds?

After an extensive remediation of our upper field, the field will be open in September! We are excited to use this big, beautiful space. The grass area in front of the school has just been reseeded and we are hopeful to see new growth soon. You will notice several signs on this part of the field to indicate that it is out of bounds.

What are some important play time rules at Happy Valley?

Students are practising being kind, safe and responsible. At play times, this means keeping hands to self and behaving safely around others. We encourage students to include others in their play and to be respectful. Students are asked to leave toys and electronics at home, unless teachers have requested items be brought to class. More information on expectations for learning and behaviour will be sent home with teachers and with our Code of Conduct.

How can parents assist with student safety at school?

Thanks to parents for reinforcing the site boundaries we have with children during the school day. The retaining wall and gardens on the hill behind the Kindergarten rooms are always off limits. Thank you for encouraging children to stay out of the parking lots and to use the crosswalk at pick up and drop off times.

What time does supervision begin and end?

Morning supervision begins at 8:10 am and after school playground supervision ends at 2:45 pm. During these hours, bikes and scooters should be safely parked and not ridden on the school grounds. Dogs are not permitted on School District property. Thank you for making arrangements to have your child in the care of a parent/guardian outside of these supervision times.

Will my child be supervised at the bus?

Every afternoon, District bus students are met by our staff and checked off the bus list as they are boarding. Daycare providers are responsible for taking attendance at the daycare buses. Parents must contact daycares directly if they do not want their child to take the daycare bus. Thank you for contacting daycares prior to the end of the school day to avoid delaying bus traffic.

What should I do if my child needs to leave school early?

Thank you for sending a note to school or emailing your child's teacher if you will be arriving early to pick up your child. Children must be signed out in the office by a parent or guardian if they are leaving school early.

How does student drop off and pick-up work?

Traffic has long been a concern at Happy Valley dismissal time. Community representatives, District Staff, PAC, RCMP and school administration have worked together over the years to create plans to ensure student safety. We appreciate the support from all of our drivers. Key safety points include:

1. The school zone speed limits are posted on Happy Valley Road and the RCMP monitor our school zone regularly.
2. The staff parking lot is fully reserved for school staff at this time. We also have several spots in the larger lot delineated with traffic cones to allow for necessary staff parking.
3. Please refrain from driving vehicles in the bus lane. There are District buses that drop off and pick up in this lane.
4. The vehicle lane is to be used for through traffic only. **Parked cars are not permitted in this lane. If you are leaving your vehicle to pick up or drop off your child, please find a parking space or park off-site.**
5. Thank you for considering our neighbours and following local bylaws by not parking in residential driveways and bikelanes.
6. Kindergarten children must be escorted to and from their line up near the Kindergarten entrance. Children will be released into the care of a person who is identified on their pick-up list.

Thank you in advance for your continued support at school. Please stay tuned for the upcoming September newsletter and information about our PAC's "Welcome Back Celebration" and a chance to meet the staff on Wednesday, September 18th.

We are excited to begin a new school year and are looking forward to sharing in your child's learning!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Karen Sjerven
Principal
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