

Aberdeen Public School  
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<https://aberdeen.tvdsb.ca/en/index.aspx>

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Dyana Squire, Principal  
Emma DeVooght, Vice-Principal  
Kim McNorgan, Secretary  
Karen Wilkinson, Superintendent  
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## Message from the Principal

We have successfully completed our first week of school for the 2022-2023 school year! We'd like to welcome back all of our returning students and extend a special welcome to all of our new students and families!

My name is Mrs. Dyana Squire, and I am the principal of Aberdeen P.S. Mrs. Emma DeVooght is the Vice-Principal. We look forward to having a wonderful year with your child!



Mrs. Squire



Mrs. DeVooght



Currently, we have 10 in-person classes from JK-Grade 8 at our school. We are also hosting 2 virtual classes of students from other schools who we have "adopted" this year while they are attending online school with us. Welcome to all of our new virtual students who are attending our grade 4/5 online classes taught by Ms. Arnold and Ms. Collins. Please feel free to reach out to us if we can help you with anything during this school year.

We have a number of new staff joining us this year. Please welcome the following new staff to Aberdeen:

Ms. Etemad- Gr. 1/2  
Ms. Fradgley- Gr. 3  
Ms. Collins- Gr. 4/5 (online)  
Mrs. Zylstra- Gr. 5/6  
Ms. Jansseune- Gr. 7/8  
Mrs. Eaton- Learning Support Teacher  
Ms. Dodds- Primary/Junior Prep  
Ms. Deans- Itinerant OT  
Ms. Severs- Shared Itinerant OT  
Ms. Sanderson- Educational Assistant  
Ms. Davidson- Educational Assistant  
Ms. Jesso- Noon Hour Supervisor  
Ms. Mc Keough- Speech and Language  
Ms. Tymkin- Attendance Counsellor  
Ms. Smith- Psychologist

This year we will be focusing on improving our literacy and numeracy skills in all grade levels. Also, we will continue to focus on creating a positive school environment for everyone. We want our students to feel comfortable, safe, and included at our school! We are hoping to build positive relationships with our students and their families!

## **Office Hours**

If you need to reach the school, please call us at 519-452-8010. The main office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30-4:00. It is closed daily between 12:30-1:30 for the secretary's lunch. If there is no answer, please leave us a message and we will return your call as soon as we can. The secretary might be on the other line or assisting someone else at that time.

## **Aberdeen Open House with Food Trucks**



All parents and families (including our virtual students) are welcome to attend an open house on Wednesday, September 28 from 5:00-6:30. Students will have the opportunity to show their parents their classroom, work samples, and meet the staff. This is a drop-in event and people are invited to come and go during those times. We will have a couple of food trucks out front if families wish to purchase dinner here at the school. The food trucks will be donating a portion of their sales back to the school. We will also be selling freezies inside the school as a fundraiser to purchase items for our students. Freezies will be \$2 each. We hope that you will come out for our open house event!

## **Attendance and Schedule**

School begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. The schoolyard is supervised by staff at 8:45 a.m. and then after school from 3:30 to 3:40 p.m. Students should not be on the playground before 8:45 a.m. or after 3:40 p.m. unless supervised by a parent/caregiver. Thanks for your understanding. Please note our climbers are closed before school and students should not be playing any games with balls on the tarmac before school starts as there are too many people in the area and someone could get hurt.

We know that it can be very busy in the morning for many families. Please establish the routines necessary

to ensure your child is on time for school each day. If your child is not at school in time to enter with their classmates from the schoolyard, they are considered late and need to come to the front door and ring the bell. The secretary will let them in where they will need to go to the office for a late card.

Regular, on-time attendance is crucial for success at school. When students arrive late, they are often missing the entry routines and instructions that help set their day up for success. Sometimes, it can impact their well-being making them feel anxious about having to walk into class once everyone else is already settled and started. When students miss several days at school, it is often overwhelming for children as they have missed previous lessons and activities that may be building blocks to current ones. Much of our learning is experiential in nature. Teachers often use technology, group work, and interactive activities where students need to be present to participate. It is often difficult to catch up on missed work since we utilize this style of teaching and learning. While teachers still use worksheets and written assignments, they are not used as often so it is important that students are present at school for their learning opportunities. We also discourage students signing out early on a regular basis, as students should be in attendance for the entire school day as much as possible.

If your child is ill or needs to be away, please ensure that you report their absence and indicate the reason using school messenger:

<http://www.tvdsb.ca/schoolmessenger>

## **Parent Portal**

It is very important that all parents set up their own account in the parent portal. The parent portal is the hub for accessing important forms (e.g., medical forms, permission forms, timetables, IEPs etc.). There is a video in the link to help you set up your account. You need to ensure that you use the same email address for your parent portal account as you provided the school

as your primary email address emergency contact information. See the link below for more information or call Mrs. McNorgan for assistance.

<http://www.tvdsb.ca/parentportal>

### **Student Recognition Programs**

We will continue to run our student recognition programs this year. The “Feather Ticket” program is where our in-person students can earn feather tickets for doing something positive at school. In Oneida tradition, feathers are given to another in honour. They are to be worn or given with dignity and pride. Students can earn feather tickets for helping others, being a good friend, or doing other positive things! Tickets will be entered into a weekly draw for a chance to win some exciting prizes!



We are also going to be awarding monthly “Soaring Eagle” awards in all of our classes. Teachers will select one or two students to recognize each month who have demonstrated exemplary behaviour, work, and/or actions. Students will be recognized in a monthly assembly at the school (or through an online visit by Mrs. DeVooght for our virtual classes).

### **Parking Lot and Bus Parking**



Aberdeen School has a very limited amount of parking on its property. Parents are encouraged to walk their students to school (if possible) so that we can have enough parking spaces for our staff. We continue to use an extended temporary parking area for the overflow in our east lot until we are able to have a more permanent addition constructed. Parents should not be parking in the smaller west lot as that is reserved for the custodial and office staff at the school. We do not have any full-sized buses but we do have students with specialized transportation through the school board and they require a place to drop off and

pick up from the bus loading zone. There is a painted space in the loading zone that needs to be kept specifically for this special education vehicle. Please do not park in that area.

### **New Student Information System**

Over the summer, the school board installed a new student information system for all schools to use. This system is used for student registration, class lists, student permissions, daily attendance, report cards, and many other day-to-day tasks. We have been experiencing a few delays with the system as we learn how to use the new features. We want to ensure that all information is recorded correctly in the new system, so please let the school know if there are any specific custody access issues, medical concerns, or other important notes that should be added to your child’s file. We want to ensure that we have the most current information in our new system in case information did not transfer from the old system to the new one. Parents are also reminded to go into the parent portal to complete the annual information and permission forms. This is where you ensure that all contact information (e.g., address, phone number, emergency contacts) is up to date. This is also the area where you can give your child permission to come home for lunch, be photographed at school, etc. Please ensure that you have gone into the portal to update these forms by September 19. If you require assistance, please contact Mrs. McNorgan in the main office.

### **Health Concerns**

If your child has a special health concern, please ensure that you have indicated this information in the portal and have alerted school staff about your child’s condition. Children with life-threatening conditions (e.g., Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Epilepsy) require an IPOC (Individual Plan of Care). IPOCs are completed by the parent in the parent portal. The IPOC will outline the action that



needs to be taken for your child's condition and any medication that may be required. **IPOCs must be reviewed, updated, and re-submitted each school year in September.** Any medication that needs to be administered at school must have a current Administration of Medication form signed by your family doctor. Medication forms are available at the office. Please ensure that your child's inhalers and epi-pens are not expired prior to sending them to school. If you require any assistance with completing an IPOC or medication form, please contact Mrs. DeVooght.

### Aberdeen School Council

A School Council is a place for parents and the school community to have meaningful input and an ability to influence decisions that affect their children and local schools. Council members act in an advisory role to principals. All parents and community members are welcome to attend meetings to hear updates and learn more about our school. Meetings can be held during the school day or in the evening depending on what works best for the members.

Parents can sit as members on the committee or as part of the executive. The executive consists of a Chair or Co-Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. If you are interested in holding an executive position on the council, please let Mrs. Squire know. Should more than one person want to stand for a particular position, it may require an election. We will host our first meeting on Friday, September 23 at 9:15 at the school. All parents are welcome!

### Noon Hour Supervisors

We are always looking for parents, grandparents, or community members who might be interested in working as a noon-hour supervisor on a



casual basis. Noon hour supervisors must have a current (within the last 6 months) police check for working with the vulnerable sector for employment purposes and complete an employment application package for the school board. If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact Mrs. DeVooght at the school for more information.

### Strong Start Reading Program

We are looking for volunteers to help us run our Start Start reading program for students in SK- Gr. 2. Please let us know if you are able to volunteer 1-2 times per week for 8-10 weeks. The training session is 4 hours and training is provided at the school. Our program focuses on playing word and letter games with students to help build their skills for reading. Volunteers must have a valid police check on file or a signed offence declaration for this year. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please reach out to Mrs. Eaton, our learning support teacher.

### Cell Phones, Cameras, iPods



We encourage all students to leave their cell phones at home during the school day. Handheld audio and visual devices (e.g., cell phones, iPods, cameras) are not to be used at school or at school events (unless there is teacher permission). Should these items be seen or heard they may be taken away and returned at a later time. If you need to contact your child during the school day in an emergency, please call the office. ***Please do not text your child while they are at school. Please remind them that they should not be texting you from school.***

*Photographs, videos, and recordings cannot be taken at school without permission.*

On a trial basis, and as a special privilege for our grade 7/8 classes only, we will allow the use of cell phones during the nutrition break for intermediate students only. Students must abide by the following

expectations during this time:

1. Students cannot take pictures or videos of individuals without their consent.
2. If listening to music or videos, sound must be muted or headphones must be used.
3. Activities on the phone must be school appropriate.
4. Text messages and posts on social media sites must be appropriate in nature (no online bullying)

Students should not be on their phones during class time unless they have permission from their teacher.

### **Permission to Leave Property at Lunch**

Students must have parental permission to leave school property at lunchtime. Permission can be granted on the child's student information sheet found in the parent portal. This permission must be updated each school year. If a parent indicates that their child will be going home for lunch on a regular basis, then the student will need to leave the school property at the beginning of the nutrition break and not return to the school until the end of the lunch break. Students who are leaving should not be on the property during the nutrition break at all. Students who are going home for lunch should check into the office before leaving and check into the office when they return. Students without permission need to remain on the property during the lunch break. Temporary permission can be granted with a phone call or note to the main office. Please ensure that you have completed this section of the student information form and have submitted it to the school ASAP.

### **Access to School**

We will continue to keep the doors of the school locked during the day for student safety. The parking lot door will remain open before and after school for parents who are dropping off their children for the LCC Before and After School Program. These are the only parents who should be entering the school this way. If you wish to chat with the office or your child's teacher, it is best to call to set up an appointment time. Parents can also come to the front door and ring the bell for assistance. Please let Mrs. McNorgan, the secretary, know how she can assist you.



### **Student Accident Insurance**

For the 2022-2023 school year we are pleased to offer families the option of two student accident insurance providers to choose from if they wish to purchase insurance for their children. Please see the links below for more information:

<https://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/>

<https://insuremykids.com>

### **Chromebooks and iPads**

If your child has returned to in-person learning, then he/she now needs to ensure that all borrowed Chromebooks and iPads have been returned to the school. We are needing these devices in our classrooms now for student learning. We are hopeful that we won't be switching to online learning again this year, but if we need to, there will be another opportunity to borrow devices again at that time. We still have a number of devices that are out from the past couple of years that we need to get back.



### **No Nuts Please**

This is just a reminder that students cannot bring food items to school that contain nuts or resemble nut products (e.g., wow butter). We have people within the school with life-threatening nut allergies and we need our school to be a safe place for everyone.

### **COVID Protocols**

This year masks are recommended for students and staff to wear. We continue to have cloth and disposable masks available at the school if you require them. It is also recommended that parents complete the online COVID assessment screening tool for their children before coming to school if they are sick. The assessment tool can be found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. Children should not be coming to school if they are ill. The screener will let you know how long you need to remain off. In many cases, the child can return within 24 hours if symptoms are improving, or 48 hours after vomiting or diarrhea occurred. Parents do not need to report the results of the screening anywhere this year. However, if your child tests positive for COVID, please contact the school as soon as possible. If you require rapid tests, please let us know and we can send them home.



### **Oneida Program**

At this time, Aberdeen continues to host an Oneida language program at our school. Unfortunately, due to declining class sizes in Native Second Language instruction, this program is being phased out over the next few years. We are currently only able to offer it for students in grades 5-8. Students in these grades may attend Oneida as a Second Language class in place of French instruction. If your child is in grades 5-8 and you would like them to participate in Oneida, please let us know if they are not already attending that class.

### **Construction Project Postponed**

Last spring, we announced that we were expecting to have some construction started over the summer time to help make our school more accessible. Unfortunately, that project was postponed and we are not sure when it will begin. We will keep you posted as it will affect entry to the schoolyard on the east side once the project begins.

### **Nutrition Program**

We will continue to offer snack bins for all of the in-person classes. Bins will be filled in the mornings by our wonderful EA team and delivered to classes for students who may need additional items for their lunch. Students are reminded to only take one of an item to ensure there are snacks for others too. We hope to begin our breakfast program soon once we receive some additional funding for this school year.

