



JOHN SWEENEY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

185 Activa Avenue • Kitchener, ON • N2E 4A1

Phone (519) 579-5212 • Fax (519) 579-9274

Web Site <http://js.wcdsb.ca>

September 1, 2022

Dear John Sweeney CES families:

We hope you had a fun and relaxing summer. We are so excited to welcome your child back to school! Mr. Clifford, our new vice-principal, and I look forward to working together this year to support all of our students, staff and families. We are getting closer to the **first day of school: Tuesday, September 6th!** Hopefully this letter will help you prepare for your child's transition back to school.

Your Child's Teacher

On Friday, September 2nd, parents of students in Grades 1 to 8 will receive an email indicating your child's teacher and homeroom. There will be other important information in this email so please read carefully.

First Day Procedures for Grades 1 to 8

Upon arrival at school on Tuesday, September 6th, students will walk to the blacktop at the back of the school. For safety reasons, parents will not be allowed on the blacktop or anywhere around the back of the school on the first day of school or any other time throughout the school year. Students will look for their teacher on the blacktop. Teachers will be holding up signs with their names on them. We will have several staff members on hand to help all of the children find their teachers. Just before the 8:50 a.m. bell, students will line up with their teacher. Please see the map at the bottom of this letter so your child knows where to find their teacher on Tuesday. You are welcome to come to the school over the Labour Day weekend to prepare your child for what to expect on Tuesday. It would be very helpful to our Grade 1 to 3 teachers if parents could send a note on the first day communicating after-school procedures. We want to get your kids home safely! First week procedures for JK and SK students have been previously communicated. If you have any questions, please call the office and we will help you.

Bell Times

Our bell times have not changed (8:50 a.m. start; 3:20 p.m. dismissal). Yard supervision begins at 8:35 a.m. You may drop off your child between 8:35 and 8:50 a.m. daily at the front of the school, but please remember that parents may not walk around to the back of the school with their child. There is no outdoor supervision by staff after dismissal, with the exception of supervision of bus students.

Lunch Times

The lunch hour for all of our students is from 11:35 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. Students who usually stay at school for lunch may leave school property for lunch with written consent from a parent which is valid for one day at a time.

Transportation and Drop-off/Pick-up Procedures

For all inquiries related to bus transportation, please contact Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region: <http://www.stswr.ca/>. As always, students not eligible for bussing are encouraged to walk to school.

If it is absolutely necessary to drive your child to school, we ask that you park on a neighbouring street and walk toward the school. This [MAP](#) shows the two designated drop-off areas for our students. Kindergarten students may be walked to the enclosed play area. The Rising Oaks parking lot is always closed to John Sweeney CES parents.

Covid Protocols

All students and staff should take the COVID-19 self-assessment daily before coming to school: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. If your child has any cold or flu-like symptoms, please do not send them to school. If your child presents symptoms during the school day, we will call you to pick up your child. Our staff will continue to encourage hand sanitizing and cough/sneeze etiquette. Masks are optional, and the school will provide masks if requested. We will be talking to students about the importance of respecting others' decisions regarding masking.

Student Planning Agendas and School Handbook

Agendas have been ordered for students in Grades 1 to 8. Each agenda costs \$7.00 and can be purchased on School Cash Online. Families of all JK to Grade 8 students are encouraged to read the School Handbook, which is included in the front of the agenda and is also attached to this notice. **Please be sure to review this important information.**

Back-to-School Shopping

There is no need for families to buy or send in any extra school supplies. We will provide everything your child needs for learning. Students will only need a backpack, a lunch bag, and a pair of indoor running shoes that can be kept at school. Please remember to label all personal belongings. For students in Kindergarten and Primary grades, please have a change of clothes labeled in a bag in case of accidents.

Lunch Program

Our lunch program will be back again this year. Plans are still being discussed so please stay tuned for more details. Updates will be communicated via NewsWire.

Catholic School Advisory Council

Please stay tuned for more information about our first meeting, which will be held at the school. Please complete the form on School Cash Online if you are interested in joining our Catholic School Advisory Council this year.

Play Structure Removal

Over the summer, our play structure was removed as it was beyond repair. Last year's Catholic School Advisory Council fundraiser and hopefully future fundraisers will be dedicated to playground improvements.

Start-up Forms

All start-up forms will be processed through School Cash Online over the next week or so. They are due by Friday, September 16th. There are several documents that require input of information and your signature.

Student Verification Forms - Medical and Contact Information

In the envelope that will be sent home on the first week of school, you will find your child's Student Verification Form. Please make changes in red pen and return the form to school in the same envelope. If any of your personal contact information changes throughout the year (phone numbers, address, etc.), please email Barb.Sterritt@wcdsb.ca. If you are new to our school or if your child has a new medical condition, please email Ms. Sterritt with this information.

Communication from the School

If you have not already subscribed, please sign up for NewsWire: <https://js.wcdsb.ca/newswire-subscribe/>. This is our primary mode of communication with families.

Open House

Our Open House will be on Wednesday, September 21st from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. We are so excited to welcome our John Sweeney CES families back into our beautiful school! Please come with your child to meet your child's teacher and see their new classroom. Mr. Clifford and I look forward to meeting you in person!

We greatly appreciate your attention to these details and your support. Our John Sweeney CES team is looking forward to seeing all of our incredible students soon! We are going to have an awesome year, Cardinals!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kendra Duench and Mr. Michael Clifford,
Your Administrator Team

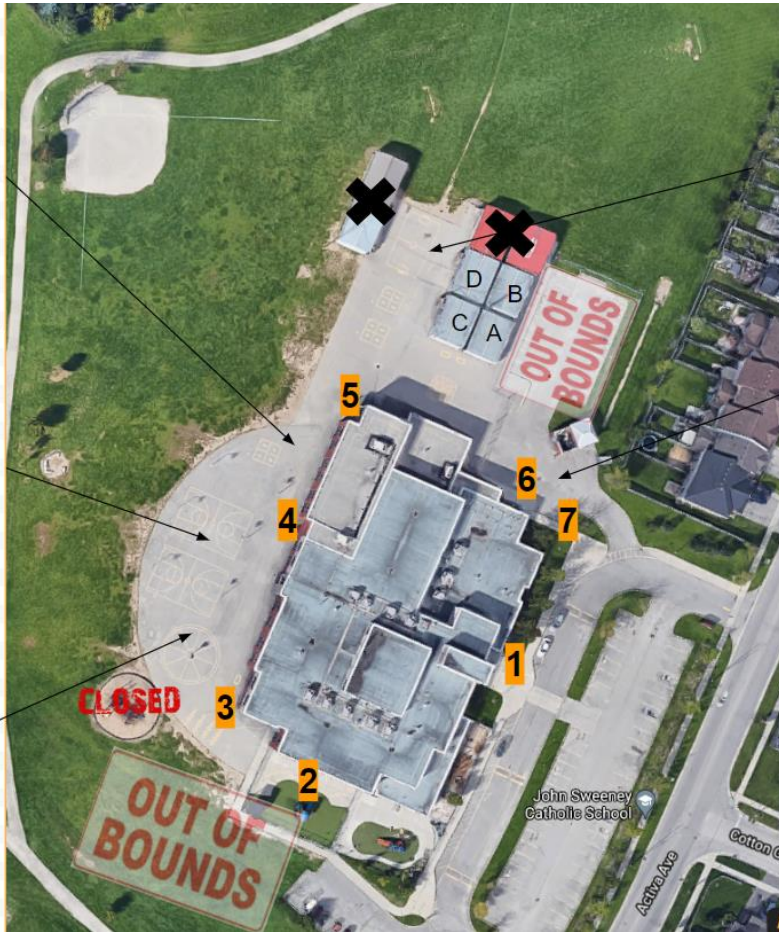
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First Day 2022
Meet the Teacher
Zones

Simone, Box,
Perham,
Brockelbank,
MacNeill, May,
Stephens,
Hemphill

Ferguson,
Berscht, Owens,
Burnside,
Loughrin, Doyle

Wagler,
Zefferino,
Gibson,
Collins



Ribeiro,
DiGravio,
Madlensky,
Russell

Halladay,
Czapinski

- Door
Number

Students,
please meet
your teachers
near your
assigned
entry door.
Look for the
signs.