

Our School, Our Community

Safe • Just Think • Act Kindly • Mind Ready

SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE 1



Message from SJAM Admin Team

Welcome Back to SJAM!

As we begin a new school year, it is our pleasure to extend a heartfelt welcome to all of our returning students and families, and a special welcome to those who are joining the SJAM community for the first time. We are excited to welcome just under 450 students through our doors this September and look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and memorable experiences.

Please know that our dedicated staff remains committed to ensuring every student feels welcomed, supported, and inspired each day. Together, we will create a positive school experience where all children can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

At SJAM, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school are essential to student success. When families and educators work together with a shared focus on children, we create the best possible conditions for learning and growth. We encourage you to stay connected throughout the year by reading school emails and newsletters, attending school events, and maintaining regular conversations with your child about their school experiences.

Safety continues to be our highest priority. Throughout the coming weeks and this school year, we will share more information about how SJAM is implementing The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development's (EECD) **Safe Schools Strategy** to ensure **schools support safe working and learning environments for our staff and students**.

We encourage families to stay informed about these important policies and to partner with us in reinforcing positive behaviors and expectations.

One of the ways we support a safe and respectful school culture is through our **SJAM School Matrix**, which teaches students to:

- **Safe:** Make choices that keep themselves and others safe.
- **Just Think:** Pause and consider the impact of their actions and decisions.
- **Act Kindly:** Show respect, empathy, and kindness toward others.
- **Mind Ready:** Come prepared and ready to learn every day.

We encourage you to talk with your child about these expectations and celebrate the ways they demonstrate them both at school and at home.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to working alongside you to help every SJAM student learn, grow, and succeed.

On behalf of our entire staff, welcome back to another wonderful year at SJAM!

Warm regards,

Cheyenne Gorman-Tolliver (Ms. T), Principal

Katie Mott (Ms. Mott), Vice Principal



THIS MONTH

3rd: First Day for Students

10th: Stand Up Against Bullying!

11th: Terry Fox Run/Walk

15th: SAC 6-7pm/HSA 7-8pm

24th: Curriculum Night 5-7pm

25th: Professional Development
Day-No School for Students

29th: Orange Shirt Day

30th: Truth & Reconciliation Day-
No School



AT SJAM

Total Students: 432 (*and growing*) PP-Grade 6

English Classes: 7

French Immersion Classes: 11



REMEMBER

***New Bell Schedule:**

8:30-8:50am: Arrive @ school,
enter for soft start.

8:50am: Instruction Day Begins

10:20-10:35am: P-2 Recess

10:35-10:50am: 3-6 Recess

11:50am-12:20: Grade P-2

(Eating) **12:20-12:50pm:** Grade P-2
(Outside)

11:50am-12:20pm: Grades 3-6:
(Outside) **12:20-12:50pm:** Grade
3-6 (Eating)

12:50pm: Afternoon Instruction
Begins

2:50pm: Dismissal



Mark Your Calendar

Powerschool

PowerSchool will open to families on Wednesday, September 2 at 3 p.m. In PowerSchool, you'll be able to view your child's teacher(s) and/or class schedule.

BusPlanner

Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you can choose to receive email and/or text message notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations. To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to

create an account. Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team through the Transportation Inquiry Form [here](#).

Nova Scotia Lunch Program: Ordering is Now Open!

We're looking forward to the 2026-27 launch of the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program! Beginning this school year, the program will be available in all public schools across the province.

Start Date

Lunches at your school will begin on Tuesday, September 8.

Key dates for the first ordering cycle:

- Ordering opens: Friday, August 28
- Ordering closes: Wednesday, September 2, at noon

Registering and Ordering

All lunches must be ordered through the online ordering system. To get started, visit www.NSLunch.ca and click "Order Now." Returning users can sign in using their existing account.

More information, including instructions on how to create a diner account, is available at www.NSLunch.ca.

Important Lunch Reminders!

We are asking families to partner with us by having regular conversations with their child about cafeteria expectations. During each lunch shift, more than 200 students are eating together, and maintaining a safe, respectful environment requires every student to follow the same expectations every day.

- Students will remain in their assigned seat for the entire lunch period.
- Students will listen and respond to adults the first time they are given direction.
- Students will eat only the food packed or provided for them, as food sharing is not permitted.
- Students will clean up their mess.

These expectations help ensure the safety and well-being of all students and reflect the same respectful habits and manners we encourage at home during mealtimes. Together, we can help make lunchtime a positive experience for everyone.

Also, please note there are **no microwaves** for student use. If you choose to send a warm lunch we suggest the use of a thermos. Students are also encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle each day.

Stand Up Against Bullying!

On Stand Up Against Bullying Day, we come together to promote kindness, inclusion and respect in our school communities.

Every student deserves to feel safe, supported and welcome at school. On Thursday, September 10, we invite students and staff to wear pink, if they're able, and help show that bullying has no place in our schools.

Together, we can help create school communities where everyone feels they belong.

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

On September 30, we honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, and the survivors, families and communities who continue to live with their lasting impacts. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led movement that reminds us that Every Child Matters and encourages all of us to learn, reflect and support truth and reconciliation. As there are no classes on Wednesday, September 30, we invite students and staff to wear orange, if they're able, on Tuesday, September 29.

Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring all students arrive at school safely each day. Each morning our Administrative Assistant receives an absentee report and calls any student who is marked 'absent' or 'absent without notification'. This also cues the automatic call system to alert you that your child is not in school. There are many students in our school so to avoid receiving the automatic calls and also support the efficient work of the office, please make sure to report all absences.

Parents/guardians of students who attend our school have the option to report their child's absence in advance using a toll-free number, the PowerSchool Parent Portal or an app! If your child is absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

1) Toll-Free Number

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

2) PowerSchool Parent Portal

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

3) 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/families/general-information/safe-arrival>

Safety Spotlight

PARKING

At no time is parking permitted in the school parking lot. We have limited parking spaces, and they are for **STAFF ONLY**.

The parking lot is routinely monitored for HRCE Parking Passes and those who don't have one will be ticketed and/or towed.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

When dropping off and/or picking up your child(s) school **DO NOT** park:

- in the bus lane on Russell St.,
- in Halifax Academy's Staff Parking lot
- in neighboring driveways.
- on Kaye St and allow children to walk through the parking lot (even if escorted by an adult)

Allergy Alerts

Please keep in mind we have members of our school community with severe, and in some cases, life-threatening allergies to nuts/peanuts and tree nuts. Be mindful when packing snacks & lunch.

HRCE Policy on Head Lice

Notices regarding individuals found to have lice are **not** distributed any more. As a collective there are things you can do to prevent the spread. For more information, please visit

<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/headliceinschoolsguidelinesforparentsandguardiansen.pdf>

Please note, the following guidelines are helpful in preventing the spread of head lice:

- Notify your principal and your child(ren)'s classroom teacher if your child(ren) has or have head lice and keep the school informed about head lice issues as they arise.
- Check your child(ren)'s head(s) and hair regularly, including once a week as part of your routine, after every sleepover, any time they have had contact with someone with lice
- Keep long hair tied back or braided.
- Teach your child(ren) not to share personal items that have touched their head, such as brushes, combs, barrettes, headbands, hair elastics, towels, hats, helmet, toques, scarves.
- Teach your child(ren) to put their hats and scarves in their coat sleeves or backpacks when they take them off.

Principals may assist families in accessing the specific supports that they require, such as means of obtaining head lice treatments. The confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and best interests of students and their families will be respected at all times. Additional information on how to prevent, find, and treat head lice is available at:

<https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/default/files/documents/pamphlets/07135.pdf>

Family Corner

School Advisory Council (SAC)

Curious about the SJAM School Advisory Council?

The SAC is a group of parents, staff, and community volunteer members who meet once a month to support and advise the school team on the academic achievement and well-being of students who attend SJAM.

- Did you know that anyone can attend an SAC meeting?

Our first meeting of the year is Tuesday September 15, 2026 from 6-7pm.

- We are actively searching for new members, especially parents with children in the English Program and Community Members.

If you have any questions reach out the Principal, Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver (Ms. T) at cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca. We will be introducing our new Chair at the first meeting, come check it out!

Home & School Association (HSA)

Join us! We meet in person and online (via TEAMS) to cook up future fundraising and community building activities for SJAM. All parents/guardians of current students are invited to join the team, which also includes SJAM staff.

Our first meeting will be Tuesday September 15, 2026, 7-8pm.

If you'd like to become a member or just pop in and see what's it all about before becoming a member, please reach out to either the Principal, Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver (Ms. T) at cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca or our committee chair, Erin Galliot, at sjamhomeandschool@hotmail.com

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal: Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver (Ms. T) cgorman-tolliver@hrce.ca

Vice Principal: Katie Mott (Ms. Mott) kmott@hrce.ca

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Sandy Harrison sharrison@hrce.ca

• (Ph) 902-493-5180 • (Email) sjam@hrce.ca • Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940 • (Website) sje.hrce.ca •
(Social Media) SJAM Home & School Facebook Page