

## ÉCOLE ST. JOSEPH'S A. MCKAY SCHOOL

ACTING PRINCIPAL: AMY HUNT

ACTING VICE PRINCIPAL: KIM CASEY

ADMIN ASSISTANT: BARB DEWAR



### Upcoming Dates:

November 2: SAC Virtual Meeting (5:30)

November 9: HSA Virtual Meeting (7:00)

November 11: Remembrance Day (No Classes)

November 20: Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes)

November 30: Report cards sent home

### Contacts:

**Phone:** 902- 493-5180

**Safe Arrival:** 902-493-6180

**Fax:** 902- 493-5186

**Website:**

<https://sje.hrce.ca/>

**Email:** [sjam@hrce.ca](mailto:sjam@hrce.ca)

Follow us on **Twitter** @SJAMSchool

Remember to check the website at

<https://sje.hrce.ca/> where you will find the newsletter and other updated information.

## Message to Families:

After a major focus on a safe and successful start up to school in September, learning new health and safety protocols and indoor/outdoor schedules for each class cohort, October had classroom communities digging deeper into academic learning routines and goals. We can't believe it is already November! As the weather gets colder, please send students to school with hats, mitts/gloves, and warm weather-appropriate clothing to play outside safely and comfortably.

With your support, we are looking forward to another fantastic month of learning and growing. Thanks to all of our families in supporting the implementation of the Back to School Plan and NS Public Health directives. We have a shared responsibility for health and safety in working together to keep our schools open, and we are doing well!

### Daily Covid-19 Checklist:

Please continue to use the daily checklist to check for symptoms as directed by NS Public Health. Students who are exhibiting symptoms at school will be sent home and families directed to call 811. Students cannot return until 811 has directed that it is safe to do so.

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>



## Update on the Rebuild of SJAM School:

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Over the past few years, the Province announced that our school was slated for major renovations. After inspecting the building in early 2020, it was decided that a better plan was a complete rebuild of the building on the same school site. The estimated timeline for this process is as follows:

- demolish the current building in July 2021 after this school year;
- relocate our school community for a period of two school years;
- return to a new school on the current site in September 2023.

We do not know where we will be relocated yet, but our priority is to stay together as a whole school as close to home as possible. We will work with our morning, lunch and after-school childcare providers to continue partnering with them through the relocation process.

In the coming months, there will be opportunities for community engagement to honour, celebrate and say goodbye to the current building, discuss the relocation process, and participate in sessions focused on the new construction.

This is an exciting process for our school community. We thank all community members past and present who have engaged over the years in engagement processes such as the School Options Committee that led us here. Please stay tuned for information on how to engage in the process and feel free to reach out to the main office with any questions or concerns. We will share any information we receive with you as the process unfolds over the coming months in this newsletter, through our School Advisory Council (SAC) and Home & School Association (HSA), and on our social media platforms (Twitter & Facebook).

## Non-Medical Mask Policy:

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**Students in Gr 4-6 are required to wear masks (properly fitted covering their nose and mouth).**

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**Please review with your child how to wear a mask properly and remind them that it is mandatory. We have a limited supply of disposable masks – please ensure your child in grades 4-6 has a personal reusable mask every day and support them in wearing it properly as mandated.**

PP-12 students who ride the bus are also required to wear a mask.

## Arrival & Dismissal:

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**Student Entry (assigned back doors): 8:50-9:00am**

**Dismissal: 3:00 pm**

### **Late Arrival (front doors) after 9:00am**

Please drop your child off at the designated drop-and-go areas. Students can come onto the school grounds and enter through their designated door at 8:50 am (no earlier). Please leave the pickup area once your child enters the school ground. Students cannot be on the school ground before 8:50 am. If your child arrives after 9:00 am they need to come to the front door and check in at the office. At the end of the day at 3:00 pm students will be dismissed from their designated door. Please leave the pickup area quickly when you have your child, so we can prevent crowding.

When students arrive at their designated door, school staff greet them and provide hand sanitizer while classroom teachers prepare to receive students in classrooms. Students have adapted well to this arrival routine at school and we are so proud!



## Safe Arrival:

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If your child will not be in school for the regular entry time of 8:50 am, due to illness or appointment, please call the school Safe Arrival number @ 902-493-6180. If your child arrives after 9:00am, they must arrive at the front door (Russell Street main entrance) and check in at the office so we can avoid unnecessary calls. If a child is not in school, and we do not have previous communication as to an absence or appointment, we are required to call.

## Communication:

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Communication with your child's teacher is important, especially now as parents/guardians are not permitted into the school due to Covid-19. Please reach out and let them know if you have any questions or concerns. It is our priority to work together in partnership. Please allow up to 48 hours for your child's teacher to respond. Due to Covid-19, we are still unable to have parents/guardians, volunteers and chaperones inside the school building or support field trips in the community. We look forward to the day when we can! Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## Lunch at SJAM:

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Students staying for lunch are expected to come with a lunch that does not require heating, as well as necessary utensils. Please make sure that students bring a packed lunch to school in the morning with them to school. We are not able to have outside food delivery services drop food off for students. Also for safety reasons students are not permitted to leave school grounds during lunch unless accompanied by an adult.

## Head Lice:

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Please check your child's head on a regular basis for head lice and nits. If your child has lice you must notify the school and begin treatment immediately. Your child must continue to have their head checked daily and any lice/nits removed. A second treatment is recommended 10 days after the first.

## Nut Aware/ Scent Aware:

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Please be reminded that all schools in the HRCE are nut-aware schools, meaning you are asked not to send any food which contains nuts of any sort. Our schools are also scent-free due to environmental sensitivities.

## Allergies/ Medical Concerns:

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Our HRCE policy states that students who have identified life-threatening allergies must carry their epinephrine auto injectors (epi pen) on their person at all times while at school. If your child has a life threatening allergy or medical concern that we are not aware of, please notify the school immediately.

If your child requires administration of medication at school (ie. puffers) contact your child's teacher to receive the medication form. **This is needed before any medication can be taken at school, including puffers.**

## Guidelines for Closure due to Inclement Weather:

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Winter is on the way! The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather. By 5:30 am, staff make recommendations to the Regional Executive Director of Education (or a designate), based on the information gathered and assessments of each area. The Regional Executive Director of Education makes the final decision based on this information. If it is safe to have students and staff on the roads and sidewalks, then schools will be open. If not, classes will be cancelled. It is the goal of HRCE to make the decision as close to 6:00 am as possible. A 6:00 am announcement could be:

- All schools are closed for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- All schools are delayed in opening by 2 hours (that would be 10:50am for SJAM)

How to find out?

- Check our website at [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca)
- Follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/HRCE\\_NS](https://twitter.com/HRCE_NS)
- Call our information line at 902-464-INFO (4636)
- Listen to your radio (All local radio stations are informed)
- Sign up to receive HRCE e-mail or text message notification of cancellation:  
<https://www.hrce.ca/about-our-schools/parents/subscribe-notifications>

Make sure you listen for either the Family of Schools name (Citadel Family) or the individual name of your child's school in cancellation announcements. See the attachment for an easy to use infographic that explains this.

[https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/cancellation\\_guidelines\\_landscape2.pdf](https://www.hrce.ca/sites/default/files/hrsb/cancellation_guidelines_landscape2.pdf)

If conditions deteriorate throughout the day, the Regional Executive Director of Education may close schools early when weather or road conditions are considered to be a threat to the safety of students.

**In the event of an early school closure, the announcement will be made by 11 am.** School busses will be dispatched to schools two hours earlier (1:00pm for SJAM) than their normal regularly scheduled pick-up for the afternoon dismissal, and walking students will be dismissed at the start of their regular lunch time. During an early closure, elementary school families will be contacted during the day by the classroom teacher as well, to notify of the closure and verify the dismissal plan submitted on the early dismissal forms gathered in beginning of October.

