

Halifax Central Community NEWSLETTER

September 2023

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.” —Albert Einstein



Our Teachers are ready for you!

To the families of Halifax Central Junior High,

Throughout the last week of August and into the beginning days of September, the Teachers of Halifax Central Junior High have been working to prepare for your children. Never have I experienced a time where the policies and initiatives of the Halifax Regional Centre for Education aligned so precisely to balance the learning experiences and academics of our students with the health and well being of individuals and communities. Across the region teachers have engaged in professional development in areas of Equitable Assessment and Culturally Responsive Practice as we

prepare to give our students the best possible learning experiences in the safest and most supportive environments possible. Here at Halifax Central Junior High we are committed to knowing our students, focused on providing opportunity in every form, and dedicated to serving a community with so much potential. We want to welcome all of Halifax Central’s new students and staff and we look forward to meeting each of you.

Thank you,

Andrew Bray, Principal

Halifax Central Junior High



What did we expect in September?

September has always been a transition period for teachers and students alike and as our students at Halifax Central walked into the front doors on September 7th, I think the overwhelming feeling was that of excitement. Many parents reached out to give updates on how things went over their break, new developments with their family, and to just speak in general about the hopes and needs of their child and this was greatly appreciated. As we move through the next few weeks, the following information contains some updates and documents that will help answer any questions and ease any concerns you may have as you and your child prepare for the 2023-2024 school year.



New Teachers, New Context: Curriculum Night 2023.

Halifax Central now has 5 homeroom classes from grades 7 to 9, one of which is a split grade 7/8 class. This is a new context for Halifax Central but teachers have been planning and discussing the opportunities that may arise from this. We have a few new faces on staff that are eagerly awaiting the students arrival. You are invited to meet the teachers and find out more about our curriculum on **Halifax Central's Curriculum Night 2023, held on September 21, 2023 from 6pm to 7:30pm.**

Powerschool for Parents and Students.

It is not too late to get signed up! If you are new to the Region or are accessing Powerschool for the first time as your child enters Junior High, you now have the ability to access your child's attendance, academics, and school information in live time from anywhere with an internet connection. If you need assistance signing into your account please contact the school.

[Powerschool Student and Parent Portal](#)

Safe Arrival and Attendance. Be there or be square!

As parents you now have the ability to mark your child as absent using your PowerSchool login or the Safe Arrival Messenger App. Please see the following link for more information on [Safe Arrival](#).

Class configurations and class changes.

At this time we are finalizing numbers for all of our classes. This enrollment data is important for accessing services and ensuring that our school has the staff to meet the needs of our population. At this time there will be no class changes unless an influx of out of areas or new enrollments forces us to make adjustments. Thank you for understanding this.

Accessing School Supports.

Halifax Central is committed to knowing your children and providing its students with both academic and social/emotional supports as necessary. Grounded in our [Inclusive Education Policy](#) and [Multi-Tiered Framework MTSS](#), we plan for your child's learning and well being needs. Student support, Guidance, student centre, resource, African Nova Scotian support workers and Mi'kmaw/Indigenous support workers are available to give our students the best experience possible. Reach out to the school with any questions or concerns.

Provincial Code of Conduct.

Throughout September, Administration will be visiting classes and holding a question and answer session on the [Provincial Code of Conduct](#). Here we will explain that this does not only outline acceptable and unacceptable behaviours but outlines students rights to a safe environment that is conducive to learning. If parents would like more information on this please reach out to Halifax Central Administration.

Cell Phones.

Our students at Halifax Central Junior High will be expected to have cell phones away during instructional time. If the teacher chooses to allow students to use devices during student centred time or when working on a project independently, it will be up to the discretion of the teacher or adult in the room. This applies to Airpods and headphones as well.

Lunch.

If you'd like your child to stay for lunch please sign up for our lunch program. Ms. Clarke will be with your child each day with a mix of indoor and outdoor supervision. If you are choosing to stay for our lunch program please be consistent with your child staying since we are responsible for those that are staying in the building and need a record of who is here. Unfortunately at the moment this is not a "drop in" space. Please see our school website for our [Lunch Form](#) and please send this to Krisa.Clarke@hrce.ca

School Photos.

School Photos will be taking place on September 25, 2023 with retakes scheduled to take place on October 25, 2023. Feel free to dress up and have your best smile ready!

School Fees.

There are no school fees for this year. Lockers and locks will be provided under the agreement that students are giving the locks back at the end of the year. If students are participating in sports, fees will be specific to the sport/team they are involved in and a fee request will be sent home by our athletic director Kelly Gillis.

Sports Updates for September!

We have secured two coaches for Boys and Girls identifying Soccer at Halifax Central. I want to send a special thank you to Sarah Robinson, Josie Comtois' mother who will coach our Girls, and Chris Dobbin, Fin Dobbin's father, who will coach the Boys Team. Good luck and encourage your child to sign up for Tryouts outside of the office! Please see the [Sports Calendar](#) for more info and reach out if you are interested in Coaching!

Weekly Memo and [School Calendar](#).

Each week I will be sending out a weekly memo to give you day to day updates on activities happening at Halifax Central Junior High and updating the School Calendar on our website. If you are speaking with your child and they were telling you of something amazing that happened in their class please reach out and let me know; I may even give them a shout out, or include an example of their work! These early years go by fast so take each day as it comes, ask questions and engage in your child's education! You cannot teach Grit, it grows as you do, and it is molded by facing adversity. In the presence of great pressure, diamonds emerge. Thank you!



Andrew Bray,

abray@hrce.ca

Principal, Halifax Central Junior High