



Kindergarten Information For Families

2021



WELCOME!



Prayer: A Child's Hands



Blessings from the hand of a child:

Blessings of innocence,

Blessings of hope;

Blessings of trust:

Blessings of joy.

May these graces help heal our fractured souls;

create in us wider circles of compassion;

lead us to deeper loving.

Gracious God may your touch be felt through these tiny hands,

bless them and guide them,

may they be instruments of your healing and peace,



Amen Les Miller





YCDSB LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.

We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.

We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

Todd Jamieson
YCDSB Knowledge Keeper



Staying Safe at School

The York Catholic District School Board continues to work closely with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and York Region Public Health (YRPH) to revise their School Re-entry Plan plan as needed based on the directives given by the MOE, and recommendations from the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health.

The plan was developed with a focus on meeting students' academic, mental health and well-being needs while ensuring a safe re-entry in September and throughout the school year.



The Kindergarten Program



“The Kindergarten program is a child-centred, developmentally appropriate, integrated, extended-day program of learning for four and five-year-old children. The purpose of the program is to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years, and to do so in a safe and caring play-based environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children.” ~Ministry of Education:



Catholic Education in Kindergarten

"Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.'" Mark 10:14





The Kindergarten Program

Large blocks of time dedicated to play-based and inquiry-based learning within the flow of the day

Explicit instruction in literacy, mathematics, and religion occurs during focused learning time and during play-based learning blocks



Purposeful Play:

- will occur both inside and outside as part of the Kindergarten program
- may be structured or unstructured
- provides opportunities for students to actively engage in conversation, ask and answer questions, use key vocabulary, and connect to their own experiences
- fosters opportunities to experiment, explore, construct, solve problems, communicate, role play and make decisions



School Times

Supervision Begins : 8:45 am

Entry: 9:00 am

Morning Recess: 10:20-10:35

Lunch Break and Recess: 12:00-1:00

Afternoon Recess: 2:20-2:35

Dismissal: 3:30 pm.



Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

For those taking the bus, children will be supervised from the bus to the kindergarten play area. And while they are in the play area. At dismissal, older student helpers, buddies and staff assist in taking kindergarten students to the bus.

If dropping off your child, parents are asked to park their vehicles in the parking lot and walk their children to the kindergarten play area. There, a staff member will greet you. Parents are asked not to enter the kindergarten play area and are asked to stay behind the yellow line marked on the pavement. At the end of the day, parents who are picking up their child are asked to wait outside the kindergarten gate and a staff member will send your child to you.



Safe Arrival Procedures

SAFE ARRIVAL

Student Absence Reporting

Phone: 1-855-856-7862

Website: go.schoolmessenger.ca

Mobile App: [!\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5_img.jpg\) App Store](#) [!\[\]\(f5c463b8c1554ac5049d611bd8e33a51_img.jpg\) Google Play](#)



Student Transportation

For information on eligibility bus routes, stop locations, late arrival, cancellations, and general information, please contact York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information at 1-877-330-3001 or the [STSYR website](http://www.schoolbuscity.com/) www.schoolbuscity.com/



Before and After Care Programs



- Before and after School Programs are offered at the school
- Further information, please go to the [school website](#)



Nutrition Breaks: Snacks and Lunches

- peanut and nut safe environments
- lunchtime supervisor will supervise the children while they eat their lunch
- children play outside everyday during the lunch recess (with some weather exceptions)



Dress Code/ Uniform Policy



- Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as they will be provided opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play
- Please label all clothing items with your child's name
- All students must have a pair of indoor running shoes that can be kept at school
- Velcro shoes are a great option as this will allow your child to independently put on his/her footwear
- Please send a complete set of extra clothes in a large Ziploc bag labelled with your child's name





Dress Code Continued

- All student attire must be in keeping with our catholic teachings and beliefs, and reflect principals of modesty and shall not include the following:
- Halter tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps (narrower than 3 fingers) or tube tops
- Half shirts, tops with cut outs, tops made of mesh or netting type material.
- Short shorts
- Low neck lines, front or back
- Language and / or representation (pictures) on attire that indicates gang affiliation and / or depicts violence, profanity or discrimination of any kind whatsoever or that demeans an identifiable individual or group.
- Accessories not in keeping with the spirit of the Dress Code as determined by the local school

Considerations for September...



When choosing a school bag please consider the following:

- Ensure that the bag is large enough to easily place large items in like a lunch box, library book etc.
- Top loading backpacks with zippers are usually the easiest way for young children to independently pack and unpack their bags
- Avoid clips and buckles if possible
- Have your child start to practice opening and closing the backpack before you purchase it
- Label your child's backpack



Activities to Prepare for September

- opening and closing school bag and lunch/snack containers
- independently washing hands with soap
- independent toileting routines
- dressing and undressing
- putting on their shoes



Activities to Prepare for September:

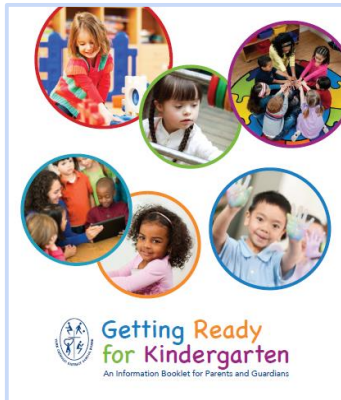


- Take a walk near the school and show your child where they will be playing and learning in September
- Go for walks and look for familiar signs within the community (e.g., STOP signs, street signs, names of places, etc.)
- Use play equipment such as blocks, cars, sand, water, musical toys, etc.
- Read with your child and ask questions about the story
- Play with playdough, magnet letters, and numbers
- Provide opportunities for your child to use pencils, crayons, and scissors

Additional Resources:



[This brochure is available on the Ministry of Education website in many different languages if you scroll to the bottom of the page]
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/>



SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER !

