



**Ridgetown District High School**, 9 Harold Street North, Ridgetown, ON 519.674.5449

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## September 2020 Newsletter

Visit our website @ <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RDHS78/>

### Welcome!

Welcome back to school from what was hopefully a restful and enjoyable summer! We would like to extend a special welcome to our new grade 7 students, we are excited for you to begin your journey at RDHS! We are confident that this year will be full of valuable educational opportunities and fun activities for all.

This year is beginning with some interesting changes and challenges for us all. During the current COVID-19 pandemic, we are going to work together to make all students' education experiences safe and enjoyable. There will be a number of changes at RDHS due to COVID-19 protocols, the most important of which will be listed in the COVID Procedures section the newsletter.

This will be the only paper newsletter that will be distributed this year. We encourage our students to become stewards of the environment, and in keeping with this, we will ask families to access newsletters online at <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8>.

### Staffing Changes & Up Coming Dates

We would like to welcome Ms. Bruette, our new Principal and Mr. MacDougald to RDHS 7&8! We look forward to getting to know you both!

#### RDHS 7&8 Staff

Ms. Bruette	Principal
Miss McFarland	Vice-Principal
Ms. Martens	Clerk
Mr. Stenton	Grade 7/8
Mr. MacDougald	Grade 7/8/Resource
Mr. Terry	Grade 7/8
Ms. Jacobs	Delaware Language
Mlle. Gauthier	French/Prep
Mme. Kerr	French/Prep

#### Important & Up Coming Dates:

September 16	School Council Meeting (Virtual)
September 30	Orange Shirt Day
October 12	Thanksgiving
October 22	Deadline to change learning method
November 20	PA Day

### COVID-19 Protocol

#### Arrival & Dismissal

Our school day begins with an entrance bell at 9:20am. Any student who arrives after 9:20 am will be considered late, but will report directly to their homeroom, where their arrival will be reported to the office. Being present and punctual each day is critical in a successful school year. This also prepares the students for increasing the amount of independence in their teenage and high school years.

This year. Students will directly enter the school after getting off the bus or arriving at school. **Students cannot arrive at RDHS prior to 9:05 when supervision is available.** Our entrance are the doors located on the north end of Harold Street across from the parking lot. Students will be shown entry procedures to facilitate social distancing. If your child needs to be picked up from school prior to the dismissal bell, please call the office and our staff will arrange for your child to meet you at the doors. We ask that all parents communicate directly with the office for such matters rather than communicating directly with your child via electronic device. This allows our office staff to manage student attendance and safety for students. Please note that any change in a student's normal routine such as not getting on their bus at the end of the day needs to be communicated directly by parents to the school, otherwise the usual daily routine will be followed.

### **Bell Times**

9:05 Indoor supervision begins  
 9:20 Class bell  
 9:20-11:20 Classes  
 11:20-11:40 Recess  
 11:40-12:00 Nutrition Break  
 11:00-1:40 Classes  
 1:40-2:00 Nutrition Break  
 2:00-2:20 Recess  
 2:20-3:40 Classes  
 3:40 Dismissal

### **Visitors at RDHS**

At this time, visitors will not be entering LKDSB schools. For the time being, meetings that previously would have taken place in-person will be conducted through alternate means such as conference call, Google Meet, by phone, by email, etc. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns. We welcome regular communication and recognize that this is currently more challenging than in previous years. Please find below a listing of staff email addresses:

Staff	Position	Email
Bernadette Bruette	Principal	bernadette.bruette@lkdsb.net
Heather McFarland	Vice-Principal	heather.mcfarland@lkdsb.net
Rachel Martens	Elementary Clerk (Attendance)	rachel.martens@lkdsb.net
Greg Terry	Grade 7/8	gregory.terry@lkdsb.net
Nick Stenton	Grade 7/8	nicholas.stenton@lkdsb.net
Jeff MacDougald	Resource/Grade 7&8	jeff.macdougald@lkdsb.net
Kristin Jacobs	Lunaapeew Language	kristin.jacobs@lkdsb.net
Sarah Gauthier	French/Other	sarah.gauthier@lkdsb.net
Samantha Kerr	French/Other	samantha.kerr@lkdsb.net

### **Lunch Policy**

At this time our cafeteria is closed. Students must remain at school during the nutrition break and recess. Students will be eating in their homeroom classrooms.

### **Student Illness at School**

Now more than ever, it is imperative that students are not sent to school when ill. If a student reports to school and COVID-19 symptoms or a fever is suspected, students will be placed in an isolated waiting area and parents will be called to pick the student up. Please use the daily screening checklist from the CKPHU below:

**Daily Screening Questionnaire for Parents/Guardians/Students  
Before Attending School**

1.	Does your child have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?	Circle One	
		YES	NO
	Fever (37.8°C or greater)	YES	NO
	New or worsening cough	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing	YES	NO
	Sore throat	YES	NO
	Chills	YES	NO
	Difficulty swallowing	YES	NO
	Runny nose/nasal congestion (in absence of underlying reason for this such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.)	YES	NO
	Feeling unwell/fatigued	YES	NO
	Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, atypical abdominal pain	YES	NO
	Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	Muscle/joint aches	YES	NO
	Atypical headache	YES	NO
	Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has your child had close contact (face-to-face contact within two metres) with anyone with a respiratory illness or confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?	YES	NO
3.	Has your child returned from travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

- If you answered **NO** to all questions, your child may attend school.
- If you answered **YES** to any of the symptoms, a COVID-19 test is needed.
- If you answered **YES** to question #2, please consult your local Public Health Unit for further direction.
- If you answered **YES** to question #3, isolation is required for 14 days if you've travelled outside of Canada. If your child develops symptoms, a COVID-19 test is needed.

## **Masks**

All students in grades 4-12 and all staff in the LKDSB are required to wear masks. Students may use medical style, N-95, or cloth masks. Face shields can be worn in addition to masks, but not instead of masks. Masks should create a seal over the bridge of the nose and beneath the chin. When outdoors for recess, or during outside instruction, students will be able to take mask breaks, so long that they observe social distancing guidelines while mask free.

## **Water bottles**

The water fountains will be closed, but water bottle filling stations will remain open. We ask that any student bringing a water bottle have it clearly marked with their name.

## **Hand Hygiene**

The LKDSB and CKPHU are stressing the importance of hand hygiene. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands before and after using various items, entering some areas of the school or contacting some hard surfaces. Please discuss the importance of proper handwashing, and sanitizer use with your child.

## **Lockers**

Elementary students at RDHS will be using lockers. Student lockers are assigned based on homeroom. Our classrooms being former secondary school rooms lack the size and storage for students' items. Students will be asked to bring only what is necessary for class into the room, leaving all other items in their own locker out of contact with others.

## **School Supplies**

A suggested list of school supplies is available on the RDHS website at: <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Documents/RDHS%2078%20Supplies%20List.pdf> . Students are more than welcome to bring only the most basic supplies and then purchase/bring other items on an as needed basis.

## **Forms**

There will be numerous forms which you receive home this first week. Completing these forms accurately and returning them promptly to the school is essential to the well-being of your child. You will receive the Student Verification Forms where addresses, phone numbers and contact information can be changed and updated. Having current phone numbers is essential if there happens to be a medical emergency and the school needs to contact parents. Should your phone number change at some point later in the school year, please call the school to update this information. Student insurance forms will also be sent home with information as to how parents can purchase insurance for their student. Media Release forms will be sent home with each child. These forms are a method to have your student's photo published in the local newspaper or on the school website. Should you wish to have your child's photo remain out of the media, this information would be indicated on the Media Release form. The Acceptable Use of Technology Policy when filled out and returned will allow students to use LKDSB technology and wifi. Please read these carefully and go over the rules and responsibilities with your child. Students will not be permitted to use technology until the signed use policy is returned.

## **Orange Shirt Day**

Wednesday, September 30th is Orange Shirt Day. On this day we honour the survivors of residential schools as well as those children and young people who never returned home. We plan to commemorate this day on Wednesday, September 30th by encouraging staff and students to wear orange and by using this day as a catalyst to encourage learning and understanding about the residential school system and the impacts that system has had on Indigenous Peoples.

## **BYOD**

Mobile technology has become a part of daily life. The LKDSB has invested in a BYOD wifi network that will allow students to Bring Their Own Device and login to use the internet much like they would on a school computer. We welcome students to bring their own mobile devices to support their learning. The BYOD users are subject to the same expectations as when using LKDSB technology, and the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy always applies. The use of technology will be at the discretion of the teacher, and there will be times that students will not access devices. Please

be aware that the LKDSB and RDHS 7-12 will not assume responsibility for any device that is lost, stolen, or damaged when brought to school.

## **School Council**

The school council meets at different times throughout the school year. Our meetings will be conducted virtually for the foreseeable future. These meetings are open to any parent, guardian or community member who is interested in attending. There are positions such as school council chair and secretary which are open for nomination and election. Should you be interested in either of these roles or finding out about what they entail, please contact Ms. Bruette or Miss McFarland. Our first school council meeting of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th at 6:30pm via Skype. Please plan to join us via the link below:

<https://meet.lync.com/lkdsb-net/bernadette.bruette/R909P68T>

## **Staying Connected with RDHS 7&8**

For the most up-to-date information, please consider following us on Facebook. Our Facebook page is intended to be an information page that gives reminders about upcoming events. This page is information only and does not take comments or messages. Should you ever need more information regarding an item posted on our Facebook page, please contact the office. In addition to this our school website can be found at <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/=>. You can find information about upcoming important dates, and our newsletters will appear on this page.