



Ridgetown District High School
 9 Harold Street N.
 Ridgetown, ON
 519-674-5449

September 2023 Newsletter

Visit our website @www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/RDHS712

Find us on Twitter @Ridgetown_DHS

Welcome to the 2023 – 2024 School Year!

We hope that you had a restful and enjoyable summer and are eager and enthusiastic to return to school. We are thrilled to welcome back our Grade 8 students and families as they continue their journey here at RDHS and would like to welcome our new Grade 7 and 8 students, to the Royal family. We are confident that this is going to be an excellent school year full of valuable learning experiences and exciting activities for all students.

2023 – 2024 Staff

Principal	Ms. Bruette
Vice-Principal	Mr. Harwood
Elementary Clerk	Mrs. Melissa Millar
Grade 7/8 Teacher	Mr. Terry
Grade 7/8 Teacher	Mr. Stenton
Grade 7/8 Teacher	Ms. Northcott
Grade 7/8 Teacher Learning Resource	Mr. Ebere
ALLP	Ms. McTavish
Delaware Language	Ms. Jacobs
French Other	Mr. Deseure
French	Mme. Kerr
Educational Assistant	Mrs. DeMaeyer
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Tellier
Educational Assistant	Ms. Vaillancourt
Educational Assistant	Ms. Breault

2022 – 2023 School Calendar at a Glance

Tuesday, September 5	First Day of School
Thursday, September 14 th	Picture Day
Friday, September 15 th	Professional Development (No School)
Thursday, October 5 th	Meet the Teacher Night
Friday, October 6 th	Professional Development (No School)
Monday, October 9 th	Thanksgiving (No School)
Friday, November 17 th	Professional Development (No School)
Friday, December 22 nd	Last Day of School (Christmas Break)
Monday, January 8 th	School Resumes (Christmas Break)
Friday, February 2 nd	Professional Development (No School)
Monday, February 19 th	Family Day (No School)
Monday, March 11 th – Friday, March 15 th	March Break
Friday, March 29 th	Good Friday (No School)
Monday, April 1 st	Easter Monday (No School)
Friday, April 26 th	Professional Development (No School)
Monday, May 20 th	Victoria Day (No School)
Friday, June 7 th	Professional Development (No School)
Thursday, June 27 th	Last Day of School

Important Dates in September

Tuesday, Sept 5th	First Day of School
Thursday, Sept 14th	Picture Day
Friday, Sept 15th	PA Day (No School)
Saturday, Sept 30th	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Thursday, October 5th	Meet the Teacher Night 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

School Bell Schedule

9:05 am	Supervision Begins
9:20 am	School Entry Bell
9:20 am-11:20 am	First Instructional Block
11:20am -11:40 am	Recess
11:40 am-12:00 pm	Nutrition Break
12:00 pm-1:40 pm	Second Instructional Block
1:40 pm-2:00 pm	Nutrition Break
2:00 pm-2:20 pm	Recess
2:20 pm-3:40 pm	Third Instructional Block
3:40 pm	Dismissal

Safe Arrival and Dismissal

Our school day begins with an entrance bell at 9:20 am. Yard supervision begins at 9:05 am. Any student who arrives after 9:20 am will be considered late and be required to obtain a late slip from the office. Being present and punctual each day is critical in a successful school year. Following the routine of entering with their classmates and having a regular routine assists students with developing their own strong work habits.

Our day ends with a dismissal bell at 3:40 pm. Buses will pick the students up at the Harold Street entrance. All students who are picked up by parents, at the end of the school day, are to be picked up at the Harold Street entrance. Should there be a need to arrange an earlier pickup time, please send a note with your student to be given to his/her/their teacher or call the office and ask that the message be given to the teacher. All students leaving early are expected to notify the office when they are leaving, exit, and be picked up at the main entrance on Cecil Street.

If your child is absent from school, we would appreciate a phone call with the child's name, their homeroom teacher, and the reason for their absence. Absences can also be reported online through School Messenger. If this information is not received by the school, a Safe Schools call will be made to determine the reason for the absence and to ensure that the parent is aware of the student's absence. According to Board attendance regulations, no call and the office cannot reach a parent about the reason for the absence, the child's absence is recorded as truant.

Forms

There will be numerous forms coming home this week. Completing these forms accurately and returning them promptly to the school is essential. Below is a list of the forms you should have received.

- **Student Verification Form**

This provides an opportunity to confirm or change personal information including addresses, phone numbers, and contact information. Should this information change at another point in the school year, please contact the school to update this information. The CASL portion on this form gives permission for the Lambton Kent District School Board to send electronic messages to the email address you provide.

- **Media Release Form**

This form gives permission for your child's photo to be used in the local newspaper, school newsletter, the yearbook, and the school website.

- **Acceptable Use of Technology Policy**

When filled out and returned, students will be allowed to use LKDSB Technology and Wi-Fi. Please, with your student, read this information carefully going over all the rules and responsibilities. Students will not be permitted to use technology until the signed policy is returned.

- **Permission to Leave School Property Form**

During the first nutrition break, 11:20am – 12:00pm, Grade 7 and 8 students have the opportunity to leave school property, go home or go uptown, for lunch. For your student to leave school property, this form must be signed and returned.

- **Permission to Participate in Walking Excursion Permission Form**

Throughout the school year, our students participate in walking excursions in our community to genuinely enrich the classroom experience and reinforce curriculum expectations. To allow flexibility for students to participate in these valuable community activities, this permission form will allow for walking trips during the 2023-2024 school year.

Student Accident Insurance

Did you know? Expenses from your child's accident may exceed the benefits provided by your government and group insurance plans! Some costs may not be covered at all! Please note that the Lambton Kent District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities including extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or their employer's health care plan. To help protect your family, consider obtaining student accident insurance which provides coverage against accident expenses including emergency dental care, ambulance transport, casts, crutches, physiotherapy, and more. As a convenience to you, the Lambton Kent District School Board has arranged to offer student accident insurance through insuremykids. Whether your child is involved in an accident at school or during non-school hours, insuremykids® can help protect you financially. To learn more or purchase an insuremykids® plan, visit insuremykids.com or contact the school.

RDHS is Nut Aware!

Please be aware that we are a "Nut Aware" school and as a result, we ask families not to send foods containing nuts (including peanuts and tree nuts), to school to protect the safety of all members of our school community. We recognize that this is an inconvenience for some families but thank you in advance for respecting the health needs of others. For great suggestions on nut free lunches, visit www.eatrightontario.ca.



Inclement Weather

Ridgetown District High School is in Zone 6 and Zone 7. Please listen to local radio stations, visit www.schoolbusinfo.com, or download the My SBI Mobile App to receive updates on bus delays or cancellations due to inclement weather. Buses that have been canceled in the morning due to inclement weather will not run in the afternoon. If parents drive students to school in the morning, they are responsible for picking their children up and taking them home in the afternoon. Buses that have been canceled in the morning due to fog will operate in the afternoon. Please remember to call the school if your child will be absent due to bus cancellations.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria will unfortunately no longer be operating at RDES/RDHS.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Mobile technology has become a part of daily life. RDHS is equipped with a BYOD Wi-Fi network that will allow students to bring their own devices, log in to the network, and use their own devices as they would a school computer. We welcome students to bring their own devices to support their learning and students who use the BYOD Wi-Fi network are subject to the same expectations as when using

LKDSB technology. 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 when students will not have access to devices. Please be aware that RDHS or LKDSB do not assume responsibility for any device that is lost, stolen, or damaged when brought to school.

School Supplies

A detailed list of recommended school supplies can be found on our school website, [https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/=). Students are welcome to bring all supplies at the beginning of the school year or bring supplies as needed. Students can store extra supplies in their assigned lockers.

Frequently Asked Questions

The document found on our school website titled, RDHS 7-8 Frequently Asked Questions, [https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/=), provides answers to commonly asked questions and important information for our returning and new students.

School Cash Online

Parents and guardians, please remember to sign up for school cash online; information is available on our RDHS website and the LKDSB website: <https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

Student Transportation

A reminder that parents all have access to an online portal where they can retrieve bus information for their students, update medical conditions and find other useful tools/information. Please use the following link:
<https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/>



Electronic Newsletter

This year, much like last year, to reduce the amount of paper and copying, there will be no paper copies sent home. We are asking that parents access the monthly newsletter through the RDHS website. You can bookmark the site using the following address, [https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/=). The school newsletter will also be e-mailed via School Messenger each month.

School Council

The school council meets at different times throughout the school year. These meetings take place in person at RDHS, with an option to participate virtually, and are open to any parent, guardian, or community member who is interested in attending. Please watch our social media accounts and website for upcoming dates. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Bruette or Mr. Harwood.

Staying Connected with RDHS

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 and does not take comments or receive messages. You can also find important dates and upcoming events by following us on Twitter @ridgetown_dhs as well as on our school website, <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/=>.

Staff Contacts

Staff	Position	Email Address
Bernadette Bruette	Principal	bernadette.bruette@lkdsb.net
Mike Harwood	Vice-Principal	michael.harwood@lkdsb.net
Greg Terry	Grade 7/8 Teacher	gregory.terry@lkdsb.net
Nick Stenton	Grade 7/8 Teacher	nicholas.stenton@lkdsb.net
Brittany Northcott	Grade 7/8 Teacher	brittany.northcott@lkdsb.net
Darren Ebere	Resource Grade 7/8 Teacher	darren.ebere@lkdsb.net
Kristin Jacobs	Lunaapeew Language	kristin.jacobs@lkdsb.net
Brayden Deseure	French Other	brayden.deseure@lkdsb.net
Samantha Kerr	French Other	samantha.kerr@lkdsb.net

Communication between home and school is key to your child's success. If you ever have concerns or questions, please speak directly to your child's teacher. If any concerns remain, please contact school administration.