



St. Margaret's Bay Elementary

24 Ridgewood Dr., Head of St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, NS B3Z 2H4,

www.smb.hrce.ca (902) 826-3300

Dear Families,

Welcome to new and returning families of St. Margaret's Bay Elementary (SMBE). As we enjoy the last days of summer I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself to the community and provide you with some helpful information as you prepare for the first day of school. My name is Kelly Joy (Principal) and I along with Lynn Reichheld (Vice Principal) and Ms. Roberta Inglis (Admin Assistant) are your admin team.

The school is a welcoming building full of dedicated staff who care deeply about the success of your children. I know I speak for all staff in offering you a warm welcome to the 2024- 2025 school year, we look forward to being a partner in your child's journey.

As we return to school this year, our focus will be on student learning and well-being we will enhance collaboration to improve our sense of community and relationship building. We will continue to provide a safe and equitable learning environment that strengthens all students' social and emotional development.

Mr. MacNeil (Woody) and Ms. (Connie)Schmidt have cleaned our school and the floors are sparkling. School staff have been working on making their classrooms ready to welcome students back and the school is buzzing with professional development and preparations.

We are counting down the days, and we are so excited to see you! We are all eager to get the new school year started! We will be sending home regular communication via email so please check your email regularly.

In this notice you will find additional information about our return to school on September 5th. **Please go to our school website - www.smb.hrce.ca to check for updates.** Keep checking your email for more information!

Kelly Joy, Principal and Lynn Reichheld, Vice Principal

Important Dates

September 4

Professional Development Day

September 5

First day of school!

In a
WORLD
where you can be
anything
BE KIND

Frequently Asked Questions

Who will be my child's teacher this year?

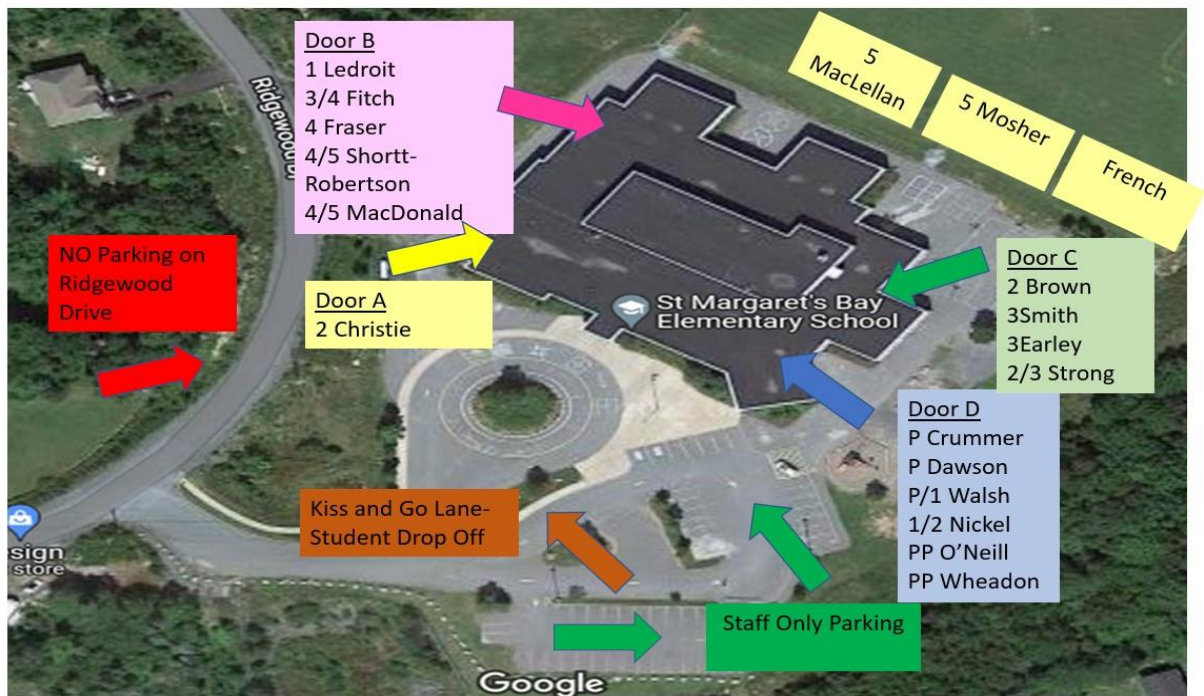
- Teachers will be reaching out by email by end of day Tuesday to introduce themselves to families and children and provide any relevant information about the first day of school. This is one of the most important communications as they are asking you to confirm end of day dismissal arrangements. Please reply to your child's teacher/teachers. Please note that class change requests will not be accepted.

Arrivals and dismissal?

- All students will arrive at school no earlier than 8:10am (when teacher supervision begins). They will be met at the bus loop area as they arrive to start the school day at 8:10. School staff will assist your child in to the main doors and we will ensure that your child will find their classroom. Teachers will be waiting to greet your child inside as we start our first day together 😊
- There is no supervised outside play before the school day begins. Teachers will supervise students in their classrooms.
- It will be very important that we all do our part to limit congestion/crowds from gathering at the start and end of the day we do not have parking for families to get out of their cars. Please drop off in the kiss and go lane! Signage will be provided on Thursday.
- When students arrive the first day of school, either walking independently from the sidewalk or by bus they will immediately be directed to the main doors and head directly to their classrooms. **ALL STUDENTS WILL ENTER THE MAIN DOOR upon arrival.** Pre-Primary students will still need to be dropped off to the teachers by a parent/guardian out front under the St. Margaret's Bay School Sign.
- It can be a very exciting (and a little bit nervous) day for students so we are asking for the support of all parents to wish their child well at the school doors, this will allow all students to feel supported and set the expectations for the rest of the school year, right away.
- Dismissal- Where possible walkers will be dismissed from the door closest to their classroom see map
Door A- 2 Christie
Door B- 1 Ledroit, 3/4 Fitch, 4Fraser, 4/5 Shortt-Robinson, 4/5MacDonald
Door C- 2Brown, 2/3 Strong, 3 Smith, 3 Earley
Door D- Primary Crummer, Primary Dawson, P/1 Walsh, 1/2 Nickel, Pre Primary Teachers will notify parents of their dismissal routine.

Portable 1 (white in colour) 5 MacLellan

Middle Portable- 5 Mosher



- Pre Primary parents will review the instructions provided in the email and students will be unbuckled from the bus and escorted into the building by the ECE teachers.

What happens if my child takes the bus?

Children who take the bus will be met at the bus and directed to the main doors at the front of the school even if they are in a portable.

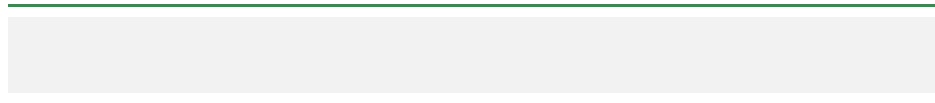
At the end of day students will be placed on the bus by their teachers.

Can I come to school to meet the bus?

We would ask that you do not come to school to meet your child as they get off the bus as your child will be safely escorted into the school by several adults. If there are parents at the bus it could create a crowd and we would like to minimize crowds for safety. Unfortunately this is no longer a place to take pictures. Please take your back to school pictures at home.

What happens if students are late?

If students arrive late to school they will buzz the main door and stop off in the office before they are directed to their class.



What will after school dismissal look like?

- All students will be dismissed from their designated exit doors and accompanied by their teacher. If you are waiting for your child at the end of the day, please do not crowd the doors. It is important that all parents/guardians are present for dismissal time when the bell rings as there is no supervision of students after the bell. On occasion if you are late to the door your child will be sitting at the office waiting.

My child will be taking the bus. What do I need to know before the first day?

- Please log onto MyBusPlanner (link found on HRCE website) to confirm pick up and drop of times and locations.
- It is important to note that on the first few days your bus may be running behind as drivers learn new routes. Please be patient in this process.
- While riding school buses, students should remain seated at all times and follow the safety rules of the bus

Should my child bring a water bottle to school?

- Yes! Please send a **full water bottle** with your child each day. They will be bringing them home at the end of the day.

How do I monitor the health of my child?

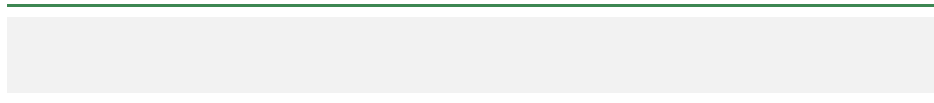
- Our shared health is our shared responsibility. We need families to monitor the health of their child daily each day before they come to school and keep them home if they have cold or flu like symptoms such as fever, cough etc.
- If your child is displaying symptoms, please keep your child at home when the are ill- even if their symptoms are mild, and contact 811. We do not want students coming to school when they are sick. By monitoring daily, you are doing your part to protect our shared health.

What is the Student Drop Off/Kiss and Go?

- If you are dropping off students from grades Primary to Five at school - (**Pre-Primary are excluded as parents need to hand them off to their Pre-Primary Teachers**), feel free to use the Student Drop off area that we call the “Kiss and Go”. Please follow the flow of traffic arrows that will lead you around the staff parking lot to the designated area. One of the school staff will be there to direct students along the sidewalk and into the school. Please do not exit your vehicles as this causes major back-ups in the flow of traffic. Additionally, please wait to let students out of your car until you are in the “drop off area”. By all working together, and following these directions, drop off should be effective and efficient for all. Thank you for your assistance in keeping all of our students safe as they arrive/depart each day. S

How do I contact Safe Arrival if my child will be absent that day?

- Safe Arrival: 1-833-582-6940 - Student safety is our number one priority. If you are reporting your child absent from school, please call the toll-free number above, to let the school know if your child will be absent. Other options you can take to mark your child absent would be to go to your child’s PowerSchool <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> or download the School Messenger App. If your child will be late, please call the school directly to let Ms. Roberta know. 902-826-3300 Ext 0.



How do I let you know that my child has medical concerns/conditions?

- If your child has life-threatening allergies or a documented medical condition listed on file at school, our Admin Assistant will contact you by the end of the day Tuesday. Please fill out the appropriate documents that she will send you and forward them back to her asap at ringlis@hrce.ca

How does the new Provincial Cell Phones Policy affect my child?

- This year, the Nova Scotia government has put in place a new directive around cell phones in schools. Starting this year, any student with a cell phone in an elementary school will need to have it turned off and kept in their backpack during school hours (including recess and lunch). If families need to contact students during school hours, please call the main office at 902-826-3300.

Does my child need to bring lunch?

- Children must bring lunch and recess snacks with them each morning. Please include the appropriate utensils (fork/spoon). There are no cafeteria services in September/October. Students will be bringing home any unfinished lunch items in their lunch bags, please make sure to check them daily.

How will lunch work?

- Lunch will still run from 12:00-1:00. Some classes will eat lunch in their classrooms and some will eat in the cafeteria with a rotating schedule. In addition students will have free time (outside if the weather permits). Please dress for the weather as we may still go out in a light drizzle.

What is the latest on the School Lunch Program?

- The NS Government Lunch Program is scheduled to take place towards the end of October. We will forward information about this program once we have full details of when/how implementation will begin. We are unsure of the opening date of our Cafeteria but will let families know when this will be happening once, we have confirmation. Looking forward to an amazing 2024-2025 school year!

I have additional questions. Where can I get answers?

- Check the school website www.smb.hrce.ca
- If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the main office.
- **SMBE does not have any affiliation or contribution to information on any community social media platforms/groups other than our school website - www.smb.hrce.ca and twitter - @StMargBay.** We cannot guarantee the accuracy of information found on any other platform.