



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,

Twas the night before school and all through the town,
The teachers were ready in classrooms all 'round.
Desks, name tags, and lists of new classes,
Communication and emails sent out by the masses!

New pencils, new folders, new notebooks, galore,
All packed and ready sitting by the front door.
Busses arrive and travel the miles,
Straight to the school for hugs and big smiles!

Before School Check:

- Fill your child's water bottle, snacks and lunch
- Read the other memos sent out by the school posted on the webpage over the last few weeks.
- At dismissal students will be walked to their exit door (walkers) and then the bus students will be led by their classroom teachers to their bus.

For those who are returning "Welcome back" and for those who are new "Welcome to SMBE". I'll be outside tomorrow with my helpers in orange vests. If you need anything reach out!

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 5

First day of school!

September 12

Curriculum Night
Pink shirt day

In a
WORLD
where you can be
anything
BE KIND

Frequently Asked Questions

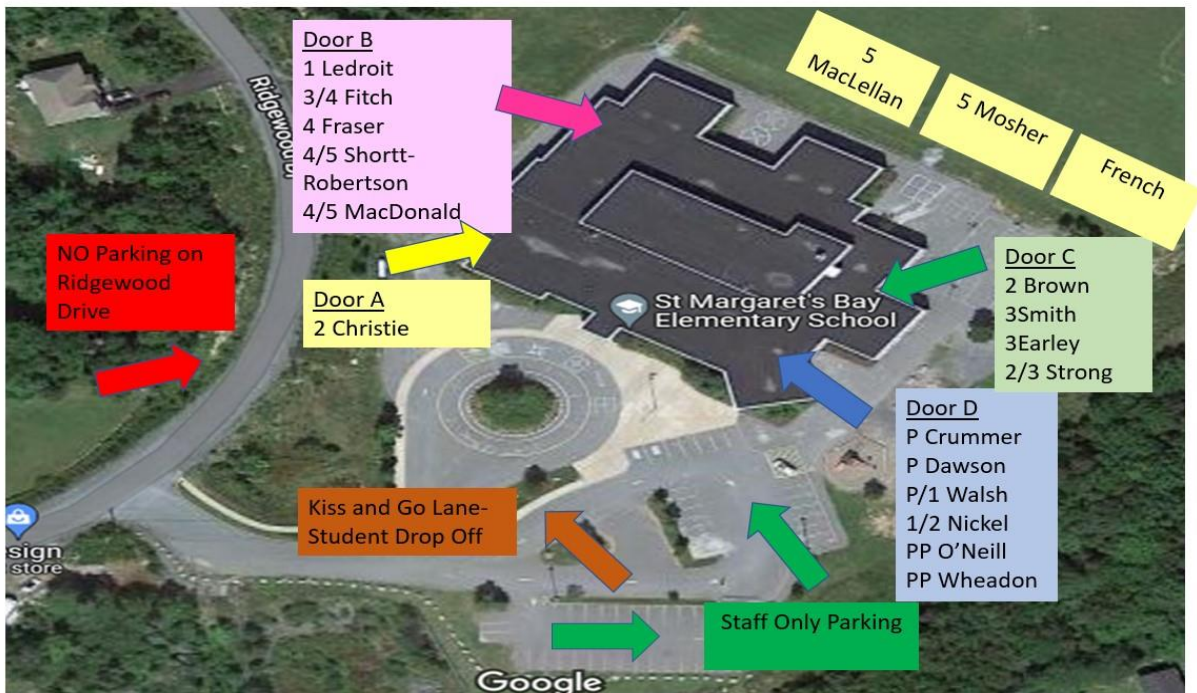
Arrivals and dismissal?

- 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 into 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 😊
- Helpers will be wearing orange and yellow vests if your students need support upon arrival. Primary helpers will have the coloured balloon assigned to the classroom as per the teacher email. Ms. Crummer (Green balloon) Mrs. Dawson (yellow balloon) and Mrs. Walsh (Blue Balloon)
- 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 as 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 who are not taking the bus will still need to be dropped off to the teachers by a parent/guardian out front under the St. Margaret's Bay School Sign. Please park as you can in designated spaces and walk to the front. There are minimal spaces available to park in so please do your best to be quick.
- 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.
- There are no dogs permitted on the school property this year between 7am-6pm. Although we love dogs, we have to respect that some students are terrified and this sets the tone for the day for those students. Please respect the no dog policy and leave your dogs at home!
- 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



What happens if my child takes the bus?

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.

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 and then go to 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 always remain seated 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 for cleaning and refilling.

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 they 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 unless they are on the bus**), 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. Please don’t allow your children to jump out in the middle of the driveway. Additionally, please wait to let students out of your car until you are in the “drop off area”. By all of us working together, and following these directions, drop off should be effective and efficient for all. Thank you for your assistance in keeping all our students safe as they arrive/depart each day.

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 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 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 when weather permits). Please dress for the weather as we may still go out in a light drizzle.

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.