

# Communicating Student Learning 2019-2020



## JOSEPH GILES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Dartmouth, NS  
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Mr. Jimmy Hurley                      Principal

Ms. Keri McLeod                      Vice-Principal

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### Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year, and a very special welcome to all the families who are new to our community. Co-operation and communication between home and school is very important throughout the year. We strive for harmony, respect and honour in the school, on the playground and during the journey to

and from school. I look forward to working with all families this year.

### Mission Statement

The mission of Joseph Giles Elementary School, as a nurturing community, is to guide students to become lifelong learners and caring citizens, by creating an environment in which exploration, diversity and, teamwork are valued.

### General School Information

Main Office.....(902)464-5192  
Safe Arrival.....(902)464-5196  
Fax.....(902)464-5197

### Absent/Late

If a student is going to be absent from school for any reason, please call:

### Safe Arrival: 464-5196

Calls should be made before 8:30am. The school secretary, Ms. Kearney, will call parents who have **not** contacted the school. Please ensure that the school has a home number, work number, cell phone number and an emergency number for your child. **If any changes are made to these numbers during the school year, please contact the school immediately.** It may be necessary to send a child home during the day due to illness or injury. We do not have the facilities to accommodate sick children.

**Children arriving late must sign in at the office.**

**All visitors including parents, volunteers, workers, and other school board employees must first sign in at the office and receive a visitor tag.**

### Inclement Weather/School Cancellations

Students will be permitted to enter the school upon arrival on inclement weather days at **8:10 a.m. and go to their classroom.** Students will also stay in their classrooms at recess and lunch and if, in our judgment, the weather is not suitable for outdoor activities. Each year we encounter days when schools must be closed due to weather or road conditions. This decision is made by the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, not individual schools. We are part of the Auburn Family of Schools.

### School Programs

All classroom programs are based on the Public School Program which outlines the goals and policies of public school education in Nova Scotia.

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## **Nova's Scotia's Integrated Curriculum**

All of the structural changes that we make and partnerships that we strengthen set the stage for the major changes that are required in our curriculum. The curriculum is the cornerstone of an education. It sets the standards for what teachers teach and what students learn. With an improved, streamlined curriculum, we are taking steps to ensure our students will be prepared for life, regardless of the fields they choose. The Integrated Curriculum is specifically focused on improving the two most important fundamentals in education: math and literacy.

### **What is Integration?**

Integration is an approach to teaching and curriculum design that focuses on making explicit connections within subjects, across subjects, and to the real world. Integration purposefully draws together key skills, knowledge, and attitudes across subject areas into meaningful chunks of learning. Through integration, teachers can develop powerful, relevant, and meaningful learning opportunities for all students.

### **What is integrated curriculum?**

An integrated curriculum develops skills and understandings that overlap across subjects. It enables students to see and experience

connections amongst subjects and can connect real-world and relevant learning opportunities to the classroom. Integration supports and better reflects how students typically process information and can foster deeper learning experiences.

An integrated curriculum focuses on making connections and purposefully draws together key skills, knowledge, and attitudes across subject areas. That purpose supports the development of powerful, relevant, and meaningful learning opportunities for all students.

### **What can integration look like in Language Arts?**

During integrated language arts time teachers will explicitly instruct students in language arts outcomes. Teachers will continue to use effective instructional strategies such as reading and writing workshops. Other subject area outcomes (Health, ICT, Science, Social Studies, and Visual Arts) will be integrated into the learning opportunities planned for and provided to students.

### **What can integration look like in Mathematics?**

During integrated mathematics time teachers will explicitly instruct students in mathematics outcomes. Teachers will continue to use effective strategies such as direct and guided instruction and discovery lessons. Other subject area outcomes (Health, ICT, Science, Social Studies,

and Visual Arts) will be integrated into the learning opportunities planned for and provided to students.

### **Provincial Homework Policy (Grades P–12):**

The Provincial Homework Policy has come about from Nova Scotia's Action Plan on Education: 2015. More than 19 000 people responded to the survey and this policy was developed as a result.

Homework can help students develop academically and personally when the work is carefully planned, directly connected to classroom learning, meaningful to students, and appropriate for a student's age and stage of development.

### **For Further Information**

Parents/guardians wishing to review the relevant provincial curriculum guides may download and view them from our school website by going to the Links tab on the left hand side of the web page. Copies are also available at the school for viewing. The Halifax Regional School Board policy on Student Assessment and Evaluation can be accessed by visiting the Board's website: [www.hrce.ca](http://www.hrce.ca).

### **The purpose of homework will vary by grade and subject:**

- Homework assigned in grades primary–6 will:
  - enhance student learning of foundational skills in reading and math (e.g., reading for pleasure, educational games)

– gradually introduce time to practice or apply learning in other subject areas

– promote healthy growth and development (e.g., practicing physical skills, interviewing family members)

Homework can be a wonderful opportunity to talk to your child about what’s happening at school, and to see what your child can do on his or her own. Homework can help children to review and practice what they have learned in class. It can also develop self-confidence and allow the child to be an independent learner.

Making time for homework can be a challenge. Your child needs time for family and community activities, physical activities, hobbies and unstructured play. Homework should be organized to meet the needs of individual students and families. If some nights are not good because of other commitments, then it is important to plan for a block of time on other nights or the weekend.

Parents can help with homework by:

- Finding out class and school expectations
- create a time and space to do homework
- provide supplies
- show interest
- provide positive feedback
- contact the teacher with concern

### Parental/Guardian Concerns

Throughout the year there may be questions and concerns that arise pertinent to your child’s progress. If you have a concern, you are encouraged to address the teacher first. A meeting can be arranged with the teacher where the administration may or may not be present. If a follow-up meeting is arranged with the administration, resolution of the matter raised will involve the teacher, even if the teacher is not present at all meetings. The goal is to resolve the issues in a climate of mutual respect while maintaining the dignity of all concerned and keeping in mind the best interests of the child.

If the standard forms of communication of parents prove to be inappropriate (eg. English as an Additional Language – EAL – parents), alternate methods of communication will be pursued to ensure that all parents have a clear understanding of their child’s progress.

### Review of School Plan

The School Plan for Communicating Student Learning will be reviewed and amended as needed by the principal after consulting with staff and the School Advisory Council. This review will take place in conjunction with the annual updating of the School Improvement Plan

### Allergies and Alerts

**Peanuts:** For the past several years, our school community has made great efforts to become a peanut sensitive school. We have several students who have severe, life-threatening allergies to peanuts and peanut by-products.

We are asking for your continued support and cooperation as we do our best to ensure the safety of all students attending Ocean View.

**Scents:** We are a scent aware school. With the growing awareness of events that cause disturbances in learning, there are students, teachers, and parents at Ocean View Elementary that have allergies to perfumes and products that range from mild to strong scents. If you plan to visit the school, please be aware of these individuals and refrain from wearing scented perfumes. Thank you.

**Visitors:** For the safety of all our children, it is essential that *every visitor* sign in at the office and wear a visitor ID, even if you are at the school on a regular basis and even if staff know you. In our continuous effort to maintain an inviting but safe and secure school, we must know who is in the building at all times and the purpose of their visits. All doors are locked after the 8:30 bell. We ask that *all visitors* comply with these requests.

## Joseph Giles Elementary School Important dates for 2019-2020 School Year

### August

Wednesday, August 28            Late Registration Day

### September

Monday, September 2            Labour Day

Tuesday, September 3            Organization Day P-12 (no classes)

Wednesday, September 4            PD Day P-12 (no classes)

Thursday, September 5            First Day of School

Thursday, September 12            Stand Up Against Bully Day-students wear pink

Monday, September 16            SAC Meeting 6:00

Monday, September 16            PTO Meeting 7:00

Thursday, September 19            Curriculum Night 6-8 /PTO Ice Cream Social

Friday, September 27            Professional Development Day-No classes for students

Monday, September 30            Picture Day

### October

Wednesday, October 2            Bus Evacuation (9:45-11:00)

Monday, October 14            Thanksgiving Day

Friday, October 18            Rain date for bus evacuation

Thursday, October 24            Halloween Dance (6-8)

Friday, October 25            Provincial Conference Day (no classes for students)

### November

Friday, November 8            Remembrance Day Assembly

Monday, November 12            Remembrance Day

Friday, November 22            Assessment Day (no classes for students)

Friday, November 22            Term 1 ends

Wednesday, November 27            Parent/Teacher 6-8

Thursday, November 28            PD a.m./Parent Teacher 1-3 (no classes for students)

Monday, December 2            Report Cards go home

### DECEMBER

Wednesday, December 11            Set-up for Santa Shop

Thursday, December 12            Santa Shop

Tuesday, December 17	Holiday Celebration
Wednesday, December 18	Snow date for Holiday concert
Friday, December 20	Last day of school for 2019
<b><u>JANUARY 2019</u></b>	
Monday, January 6	First day of School
<b><u>FEBUARY</u></b>	
1-28	Primary Registration Month
Monday, February 17	Africville Day (no classes for students)
Thursday, February 20	PTO Bingo (6-8)
<b><u>MARCH</u></b>	
March 16-20	March Break
Wednesday, March 25	Assessment and Evaluation Day (no classes for students)
<b><u>APRIL</u></b>	
Wednesday, April 1	Report Cards sent home
Thursday, April 2	PD-AM
	Parent/Teacher 1-3, 6-8 (no classes for students)
April 10	Good Friday
April 13	Easter Monday
<b><u>MAY</u></b>	
Friday, May 15	PD Day
Monday, May 18	Victoria Day
Friday May 22	Set up for Spring Fair
Saturday May 23	Spring Fair 12-4
<b><u>JUNE</u></b>	
Monday, June 29	Assessment Day (no classes for students)
Tuesday, June 30	Last Day of School