

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer.

I would like to begin by welcoming our new students and their families to the Winona community. As a new staff member, I have received a very warm welcome from both staff and students. I am certain that others new to Winona will immediately recognize that this is a friendly school with a very dedicated staff. Below is some information for families as you start planning the upcoming week and getting your routines back in place.

Our school bell times this year are 8:40 am – 3:00 pm. Student Drop-off and the Kiss & Drop Lane open at 8:25 am. Please remember that, for safety reasons, students should not be dropped off before 8:25 am as staff members are not outside for supervision until that time.

Grade 1-8 classes will assemble and dismiss on the same area of the blacktop each day. On the first morning, teachers will have signs indicating their classroom and name. If you have any difficulties, the staff in blue shirts or orange vests can assist you.

As we move beyond the first day, we ask that you “drop and go” at the gate to support student safety, independence, and morning supervision routines.

At the end of the day, many of our classrooms will be utilizing our outdoor space, and bus lines will be assembling, for this reason, we ask that you refrain from entering the schoolyard.

Tuesday, September 6, 2022 -

- Grade 1-8 Students - First Day of Classes
- JK & SK Students – No Classes
- New Kindergarten Students are invited in for a short school visit with a caregiver. Classroom educators will be reaching out with details of your visit.

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

- All JK and SK Students – First Day of Classes

Bell Times - Bell Times for the 2022-2023 school year are as follows:

8:25 am – School Yard Supervision Begins/Busses Unload/Kiss & Drop Lanes Open

8:40 am – Bell Rings - Student Entry

3:00 pm – Bell Rings – Student Dismissal

Dismissal Plan - It is important to communicate your child's dismissal plan to the homeroom teacher. This will help to ensure that all students are in the right place at the end of each day.

Water Bottles - Please send your child with a reusable water bottle so they can stay hydrated through our hydration stations.

School Supplies - On the first day, students will be provided with supplies (pencils, markers, rulers, etc) by the school. Families may send a few extras, however, this is not required. Individual teachers may request specific items throughout the school year.

Parent Portal - Families need to familiarize themselves with the [HWDSB Parent Portal](#). The portal includes important links to attendance reporting, SchoolCash online, transportation, and important forms and surveys. Your child's class assignment for September will also be posted on the portal beginning on August 29.

School-Based Communication - We will continue to keep you posted through our website and school messenger. Be sure to [subscribe](#) if you would like to be emailed directly when news is posted on our website. [Health Measures for the Start of the 2022-23 School Year](#)

Dress for the Weather - There will be lots of outdoor time during the first few weeks. Send your child to school ready for time outside and all types of weather (i.e. jacket, extra socks, layers). Both indoor and outdoor shoes will be required as our yard can get muddy and wet.

Transportation - Please visit the [HWDSB transportation page](#) for details about transportation services. Families will need to [set up an account](#) to find their child-specific information. Your child's OEN can be found on their report card. Please note that transportation is often delayed during the first few days, as everyone establishes their routine.

Courtesy Transportation - Only eligible students will be able to ride the bus. Please ensure that you have made alternate transportation arrangements if you are a past courtesy rider. Courtesy forms are available in the office or [online](#). They will be reviewed once all eligible riders have been confirmed.

Kiss & Drop Lane Drop-off in the Morning - We ask parents to use the "Kiss & Drop" Lane rather than parking their car. By using Kiss and Drop Lane, you will help alleviate pressure in the bus area and improve safety for the children.

Our Kiss & Drop works best if you have your child ready to exit with their backpack, etc. on their laps rather than in your car trunk. Staff will be along the sidewalk to receive and direct younger children as well as walk Kindergarten children to their fenced play area. All other children will proceed to a designated/marked area for their grade and class cohort each day.

Vehicles are not permitted to park at any time in this lane so as not to disrupt traffic flow. The front drive lane is also a Fire Access Lane so parking in this zone at ANY TIME is prohibited by law.

Parking Lot Drop-off in the Morning - If you must drop off your child in the parking lot, we ask that you walk your child safely through the lot. Two areas will be designated as cross-walk areas. A staff member will be on duty by the buses to assist with crossing.

Student Pick-up at Dismissal Time - At the end of the day, students will be organized on the field in their class cohort groups and bus students will line up on the pavement area. We will be asking older siblings to assist at this time of day by picking up younger siblings from their class cohort group. Please help us by keeping the sidewalks clear and the parking lot flow moving.

Life-Threatening Allergies - We want all children, including those with life-threatening allergies, to feel safe, supported and accepted at school. Please be aware that students at our school have severe life-threatening food allergies to any food containing nuts. We request that you do not send any lunches or snacks containing nuts. Your child's teacher may also reach out if there is an additional severe food allergy in your child's classroom that needs to be considered.

Supporting a Positive Return to School – Please reach out to the school if you have any questions or concerns about a positive return to school. To further support families, two MSTEams sessions facilitated by our Social Work department are available to support families. Visit [this link](#) for more information.

Enjoy your long weekend and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school next week.

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