

Email Home

September 3rd, 2024

Good evening parents and guardians of the LTJH community,

As our summer comes to an end, we look forward to fall and what the new school year will bring!

Please take some time to read and review:

First Day – Thursday September 5th

When students arrive, they will be asked to wait outside until their grade level is called. As busses and staff will be arriving, we ask students to wait in the following areas: Grade 6s are to wait near the back entrance. Grade 7s and 8s will wait in the side parking lot away from cars, or in the front on the sidewalk or steps. Those students waiting on the front sidewalk should stand behind the yellow safety line.

Regular School Day

9:00 School Opens - Breakfast Items / Lockers

9:10 Homeroom / First Period Class – Announcements and O’Canada

12:10 Lunch

1:00 End of Lunch / Locker time

1:10 First Class after Lunch

3:10 Dismissal

Arrivals and Dismissals

For safety reasons, we are asking non-staff vehicles to not come into the driveway/parking lot during drop off and pick up times. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated as busses need as much space as possible to drop students off in the morning and for pick up in the afternoon.

Emergency Drills

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Leslie Thomas Junior High School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We will be implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

Two of the procedures our school will be practicing are a Hold & Secure and a Lockdown drill. During Hold and Secure external doors are locked (secured) and no one leaves or enters the school. During a Lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured, and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked, and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. In both situations, students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a Lockdown drill or Hold and Secure.

These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills.

During the month of September, we will conduct drills each week. Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Cellphones

As directed by the province, students will be expected to have their cell phone turned off and stored in their lockers during the instructional day (please see attached letter from the Minister that was sent out in June). As per the directive, grade 6 students will not have phones during lunch or recess, while students in grade 7 and 8 will be able to have access to cellphones during the lunch hour. The expectations at Leslie Thomas are as follows:

- Upon arrival students will turn phones off and store them in their lockers
- Cellphones found during instructional time will be kept in the office until the end of the day including lunch.
 - If the same student continues to have cellphone during instructional time, it will return to the office until the end of the day and parents/guardians will be notified to pick it up.
 - Any other instances will be addressed using the Provincial Code of Conduct.

LTJH has an adequate supply of Chromebooks and students will have access to these throughout the day. Cell phones have become a distraction for many of our students during

instructional time. Phones should not be seen during instructional time, which includes classrooms, hallways, bathrooms and the office. The expectation will be that phones are turned off and placed in their lockers.

Lunch Lady/Pizza Days

We will have a pizza day and a lunch lady order day. More info to come when available.

Important Dates

1. September 12 - Pink Shirt Day
2. September 17 - Curriculum Night (6-7pm)
3. September 19 - Picture Day
4. September 27 – Orange Shirt Day
5. September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no school)

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Thursday!

LTJH Administration and Staff