



LESLIE THOMAS JUNIOR HIGH

Home of the Lions

100 Metropolitan Ave, Lower Sackville, NS

<https://ltj.hrce.ca> 902-864-6785 B4C 2Z8

Derek Ferguson (Principal)
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September 2023

First Day

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.

Picture Day – Thursday September 14

Adams Photography will be onsite Thursday September 14 for student photos.

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
3:010 Dismissal

Arrivals and Dismissals

For safety reasons, it will be important that we all do our part to limit the number of non-staff vehicles in the parking lot before and after school.

If you drive or walk your child to school, you can support this measure by

Calendar of Events

September 1 - Organization Day P-12 (No classes)

September 4 - Labour Day

September 5 - PD Day P-12 (No classes)

September 6 – PD Day (No Classes)

September 7 - First Day of School for Students

September 14 – Picture Day

September 14 – Curriculum Night 6 Pm

October 2 – Truth and Reconciliation Day (No Classes)

- Dropping off between 8:50 and 9:00
- Picking up between 3:10 and 3:20

During arrival and dismissal, parents picking up their child(ren) are asked not to enter school property.

Literacy Support

Our school is fortunate to be receiving a Literacy Support Teacher who will be supporting Grade 7 students for the next eight weeks. The Literacy Support Teacher will be working with students both in class and in small group settings, with a focus on reading skills. Welcome, **Kayla-Beth MacNeil!**

SchoolCash Information

To get started, please register for SchoolCash Online. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase.

Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/> and click Register to get started.

Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at [schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support](https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support)
We hope that SchoolCash Online makes paying school-related fees more convenient!

Lunch Registration

We will once again be offering lunch registration. Students have the option to sign up to stay for lunch each day or to sign up to leave school property each day. A form will be going home on the first day with further details and we ask families to complete this registration as soon as possible.

For the first week, until lunch registration is complete, if you are granting your child(ren) permission to leave school grounds, please write a note daily granting them permission to leave school grounds. Students leaving school property should be going to a predetermined location such as their home, childcare or alternate location.

Lunch Lady (Tuesday) / Pizza Thursday

The Lunch Lady, a local meal provider, will be returning. You can check out their website at:

<https://thelunchlady.ca/>

Thursday Pizza Orders will also be returning on September 14. You can make monthly pre purchases at <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/> . Students will receive a slice of pizza and juice pack for \$5.

Water Bottles

We recommend students bring a water bottle each day to reduce the sharing of water sources in the school. Water coolers will still be available. Sending your child with a full water bottle in the morning is greatly appreciated. Students are to sanitize their hands before and after using the water cooler.

Lunch Preparation

Families should prepare lunches that do not require to be heated.

Lunch Monitors

We are looking for several lunch monitors for the upcoming school year. Lunch will be from 12:05 – 1:05. If interested please contact Principal Ferguson at dferguson@hrce.ca . You can also apply for this position on the HRCE website at the following location: <https://www.hrce.ca/employment>.

All applicants will be required to provide a current Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Registry Search.

Volunteers and Coaches

Throughout the year, we may put a call out for coaches and volunteers (field trip chaperones as an example). To volunteer at LTJH we require a 'Child Abuse Register' and a 'Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Check' for more information and links please go to the [HRCE Volunteering webpage](#).

Lock and lockers

During the first week, all students will receive a school lock and locker. No outside locks are to be used.

Windows

For safety, only staff are allowed to open and close windows.

Student Fees

Due to continued economic pressures, LTJH will not be collecting student fees again this year. However, we may ask for fees for extracurricular activities, and events.

Use of Technology

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 the cell phone hotel in each room. If a phone is sent to the office, it will remain in the office until the end of the day.

Video Surveillance:

Our school uses a video surveillance system as part of our continued efforts to support a safe, positive and effective learning environment. We recognize that the images recorded by this video surveillance system are personal information and, as with all other personal information, we take steps to balance privacy rights with safety and security concerns. The school has the legal authority to collect this personal information under Section 24 of Nova Scotia's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Only designated staff has access to our video surveillance equipment and such access is restricted as required by law. The system is used to enhance school safety and to deter or take action in response to unlawful behaviours.

SafeArrival by SchoolMessenger

Reporting Student Absences

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day. Families can report future absences using an app, website, or toll-free phone number. If your student is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from SchoolMessenger.

To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal

Parents/guardians can log in to <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the link to the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.

SchoolMessenger App

Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices, create an account and use their email that the school has on record for them as their username

Toll-Free Number

Parents/guardians can call 1-833-582-6940 to report future absences using an automated system.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Absences can be reported at any time before the start of school on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once.

If you have students attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.

Please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival> for more information.

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 14

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is recognized on the second Thursday in September across Nova Scotia. Recognizing this day early in the school year allows us to set a positive tone by engaging students in activities that focus on the importance of building healthy relationships.

HRCE is committed to ensuring that every school is a safe place to learn and succeed. We put this commitment into action through our policies, procedures, staff development, and school supports.

Please join us in taking a stance against bullying by wearing pink on September 14!



[Kids Help Phone](#)

Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led, grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and support the “Every Child Matters” movement. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

As September 30 falls on a Saturday this year, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 29. All classes will be cancelled on Monday, October 2 in recognition of this day.



[Truth and Reconciliation Day](#)

Using BusPlanner

[BusPlanner](#) will provide everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations. Once you register and subscribe, you may also receive email notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations.

To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.



SchoolCash Setup

SchoolCash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees. Now, with a few clicks, you can pay for your child's yearbook, class trips and so much more, quickly and conveniently. Simply [click here](#) to register an account to be able to pay in several different payment forms.

HRCE is growing!

Almost 58,000 students are currently enrolled in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE)! In the last five years, enrolment has increased by nearly 8,000. This is an exciting time for our province, our city and for HRCE!

As our communities continue to expand, we continue to adapt. From new modulars and portables to a new dual-campus model, we continue to find new ways to ensure every student has a safe and welcoming learning environment in which to grow and thrive.

With this growth comes a lot of important changes for our region. Please visit the [HRCE website](#) for the latest updates!



**WE ARE GROWING!
CHANGE IS
HAPPENING.**



Do you know how to raise a concern?

Did you know that there's a protocol in place to help families contact schools or the HRCE office when you have concerns about your student's education or well-being?

- All concerns should first be shared with your child’s teacher.
- If your concern is not resolved, you should then contact the principal.
- If your concern remains unresolved, you can reach out to [HRCE’s Parent Navigators](#) who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources or connect you with the school supervisor.
- If your matter continues to be unresolved, you can then initiate a formal review process in which the matter will be investigated by the appropriate HRCE Directors.
- The final step is for your concern to be passed on to the Regional Executive Director.

Click here to view the [Parent/Guardian Concern Policy](#).

