



Week of September 4, 2023

Upcoming Dates	
Sept. 5	First Day of School
Sept. 22	PA Day
Oct. 4	School Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 11	Curriculum Night

We look forward to welcoming all of our learners on Tuesday, September 5. Class placement information will be shared by email on **Friday, September 1**. For your reference here is the [YRDSB School Year Calendar](#) and [the VDPS school website](#) including our school calendar which gets updated regularly.

SCHOOL HOURS

Bell times: 9:10 a.m. and 3:40 p.m.
Supervision begins at 8:55 a.m. each day.

Starting on Wednesday, September 6 we will follow a soft entry procedure for all students which means that students may enter the building and go straight to class starting at 8:55 a.m. There will be supervision in the Kindergarten classrooms and school hallways during this time, and at the Kiss and Ride from 8:55 a.m.- 9:10 a.m. *Please do not leave your children unsupervised on school property prior to this time.*

BUS TRANSPORTATION

School bus transportation starts on the first day for all students **except** Year 1 Kindergarten (JK). Please go to the [School Bus City website](#) to confirm your bus stop. On Tuesday, we will provide a bus tag to eligible students. The tag is for their afternoon route.

If there is a change in your child's transportation needs, please email the office (viola.desmond.ps@yrdsb.ca) so we can update our records.

A Google Form was sent to all families who have children eligible for school transportation. Kindly complete the form by Friday, September 1 at 9:00AM if your child will be riding the bus home from school.

If your child still has a bus tag from last school year, please remove it from their backpack before the first day of school.



FIRST DAY PROCEDURES: ARRIVAL

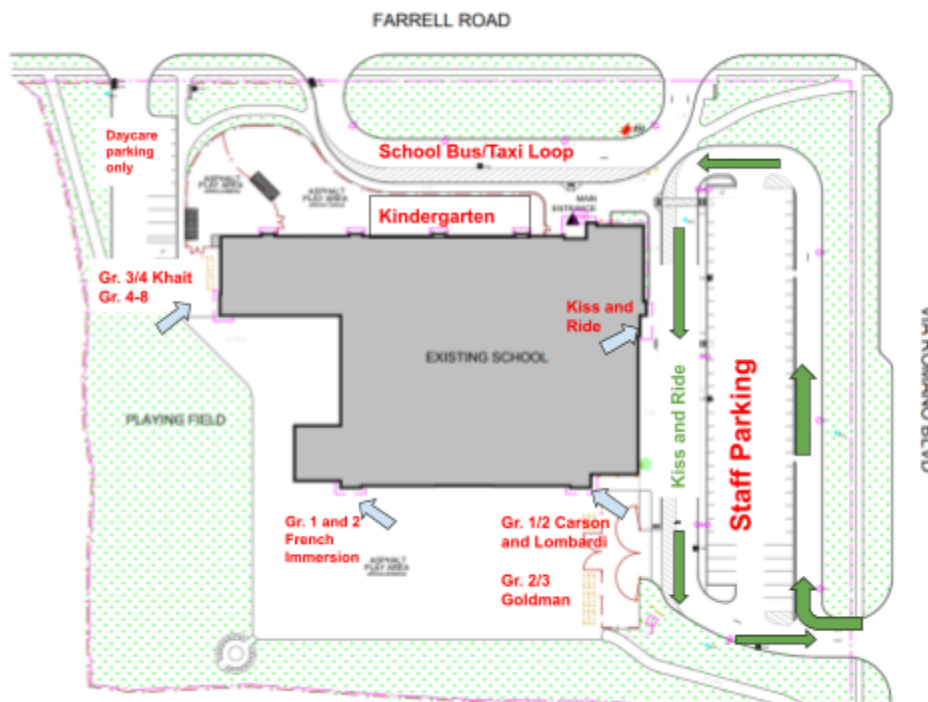
<p>Kindergarten</p>	<p>Year 1 (JK) students attend in a supported entry model as outlined below:</p> <p>Year 1 students attend on Tuesday, September 5 from 11:20 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please note, this does not include lunch time. Year 1 students attend for the full day, starting on Wednesday, September 6</p> <p>Year 2 (SK) students attend full day starting on Tuesday, September 5</p> <p>Parents/Guardians bring their children to the Kindergarten play area gate located near the main entrance of the school. An educator will direct the child into their classroom where they will be greeted by their second educator. Parents are not permitted into the Kindergarten play area. Please do not congregate near the gate in order to allow all children to enter safely.</p>
<p>Grades 1-8</p>	<p>Students in Grades 1-8 will meet outside in the following areas:</p> <p>French Immersion - will meet at the south west door near the basketball court</p> <p>Grade 1, 2, 3 (Ms. Carson, Ms. Lombardi and Mr. Goldman) - will meet at the south east door near fence</p> <p>Grade 3/4-8 (Ms. Khait, Ms. Bhimani, Ms. Ricciardi, Ms. Cogan, Ms. Gahiri, Ms. Rossi and Ms. Ages) - will meet at the west doors near the child care</p> <p>Teachers will be standing outside with signs with their class code. French Immersion teachers will have orange signs. English program teachers will have blue signs.</p> <p>Students will line up in front of their teachers. Once a teacher has all of their students, the class will enter the school. Parents, please do not congregate on the tarmac or near the doors as this makes it difficult for teachers to take attendance. We want to make sure the lineups and entry are safe for students and staff.</p>
<p>Bus</p>	<p>All students who arrive by bus will be directed to their doors/teacher by school staff.</p>

***Any student who arrives late must go to the main entrance and ring the bell. Office staff will let the student in and direct them to their classroom.**

FIRST DAY PROCEDURES: DISMISSAL

Kindergarten	Dismissal from the Kindergarten play area. Parents need to wait outside the play area and staff will bring the children out. Please be patient on the first few days as dismissal takes time in order to safely dismiss our youngest learners.
French Immersion Dismissal	Students in Gr. 1 and Gr. 2 French Immersion will exit through the south west door near the basketball court
Classes: 1/2 -1 1/2 -2 2/3	Exit through the south east door near the parking lot This includes students from the following teacher's classes: Ms. Carson, Ms. Lombardi and Mr. Goldman
Classes: 3/4 - 8	Exit through the west door near the childcare. This includes students from the following teacher's classes: Ms. Khait, Ms. Bhimani, Ms. Ricciardi, Ms. Gahiri, Ms. Cogan, and Ms. Rossi
Bus	Students taking the bus will line up in the foyer by their bus route sign. Staff will take attendance as students get on the bus. Please remove old bus tags before school on Tuesday.

First Day Entry Doors and Daily Exit Doors

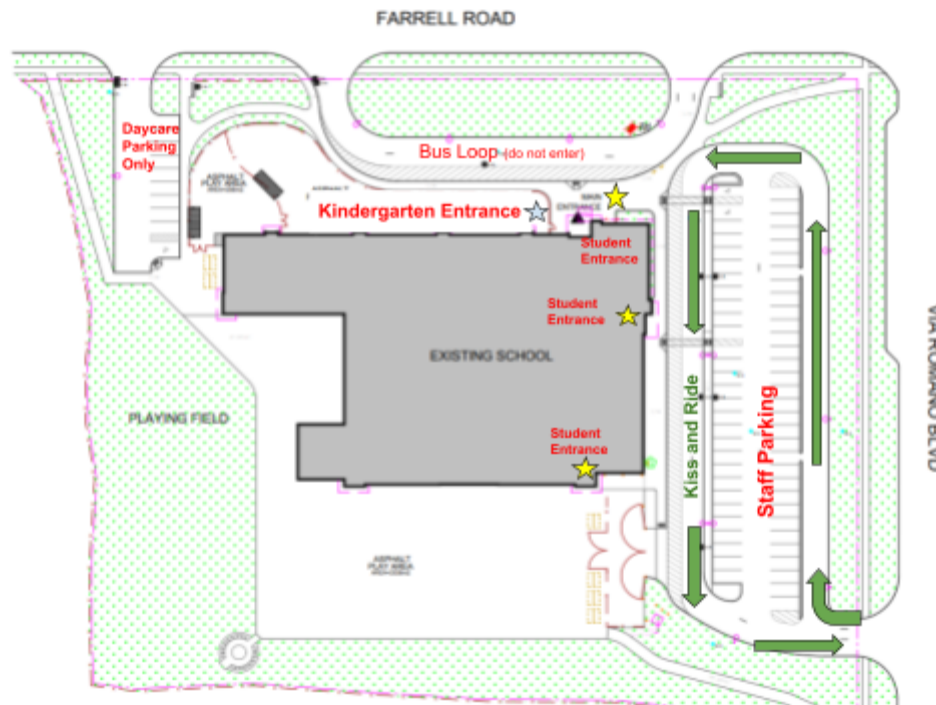


On Wednesday, September 6 we will follow our “soft entry” procedures that were previously established. Students enter the building starting at 8:55am and go directly to their classrooms. Staff will be supervising throughout the school.

Students may be dropped off at the Kiss and Ride, or may enter through the doors shown on the map below. Please **do not enter the bus loop**. Also please note directional signs for our Kiss and Ride.

When using the Kiss and Ride, **do not leave your vehicle**. If you wish to walk your child to an entrance door, please park on the road.

Entrances for Soft Entry starting on Wednesday, September 6



School Council

All parents/guardians are invited to participate in our School Council. If you are interested in running for an elected position, please complete the nomination form that will be shared in the YRDSB school forms email that will be sent out shortly. The first School Council meeting for this school year and the elections will take place on **Wednesday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m.**

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)

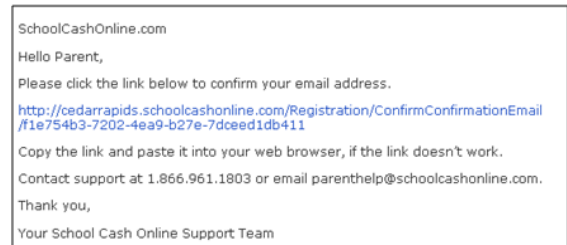
In order to receive information of a commercial nature that we plan to include in future Family Weeklies, **including fundraisers, lunch time programming, and hot lunch programs**, you will need to **opt in** using **this form**. We will also post the Family Weeklies to the school website.

School Cash Online

Field trips, yearbooks, fundraisers and some **hot lunch programs** are paid for by families using School Cash Online. If you already have an account, ensure it is set up to provide you with **notifications** of new items.

If you do not yet have an account, please see the information below with instructions for setting up an account.

Follow the steps below to register:



Step 1: Register

Please go to the School Cash Online parent site:
<https://yrdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

Select the **“Register”** button



Enter your parent information to create an account.

*For Security Reasons your password requires **8 characters**, **one uppercase** letter, **one lowercase** letter and a **number**.

Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be automatically forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account. The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.

Step 3: Find/Add Student

NOTE: Enter Student Number (not OEN)

This step will connect your children to your account.

Select the School Name from the list

Enter student information: Student Number and Last Name

Select **Confirm**

On the next page confirm that you are related to the child,

Add Student * indicates a required field

1. Type in the School Board name and select one from the list

York Region District School Board
 Type in the School Board name and select one from the list

2. Select School Name from the list

Select school...

3. Enter student information

Student Number

Last Name

Confirm

[I don't want to add a student](#)



Ph: (905) 585-0033 & (647) 749-4316 Email: viola.desmond.ps@yrdsb.ca
Twitter: @ViolaDesmondYR

check in the Agree box and select **Continue**
Your child has been added to your account

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select “**Add Another Student**” option in My Account/My Students and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.
If you do not wish to add additional children, select “**View Items For Students**” option.
A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

NEED HELP?

If you require assistance, select the **GET HELP** option in the top right hand corner of the screen or contact School Cash Online – Parent Help Desk at 1-866-961-1803 or parenthelp@schoolcashonline.com.

Message from Our Trustee

September 2023

Dear families,

It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.

The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child’s education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child’s learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.

As your school trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees has many **responsibilities**, including making **policy** and **budget** decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to **contact me** if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated

VDPS Weekly



Ph: (905) 585-0033 & (647) 749-4316 Email: viola.desmond.ps@yrdsb.ca
Twitter: @ViolaDesmondYR

throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our [newsroom](#), listen to our [podcast](#) and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.

This year, we are pleased to welcome our [new Director of Education Bill Cober](#), who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach. Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.

I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Estelle Cohen

Trustee, Vaughan Wards 4 and 5

Telephone: (289) 221-0141

Email: estelle.cohen@yrdsb.ca