



Auguston Traditional Elementary School

Welcome Back!!

Hello families and welcome back to what we hope will be another fantastic school year! I am Kris Sward and the Principal here at Auguston and I am excited to build upon the experiences and relationships we developed last year as we embark on some new adventures. I am thrilled to be able to welcome our new and existing staff and students back into our building next week.

Below are just a few start up information items we need to share as we look towards our first day of school next Tuesday, September 5. A more detailed school newsletter will be coming later in September with more information about events we have planned for the Fall. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school or via email. *Contact Us:* <https://auguston.abbyschools.ca/contact/auguston>

Class lists

With several families leaving Auguston, many new families moving in, as well as a few staffing changes, we have the potential for changes to our enrolment numbers and configuration. Due to this uncertainty, we will not finalize class lists until the end of the first week of classes. For the first week, students will be grouped by grade and rotate through teachers as they complete a number of orientation and learning activities. We appreciate your understanding with this complex matter.

We have received a number of class requests this year. Though we review them all and attempt to honour each one, the process of building our classes is complex and we may not be able to meet every request we received last Spring. Please know that a lot of time and effort is put in by our staff to ensure students have support systems in place, know other students in their classes and are placed where we think they will find the most success this year.

First Day of School ~ September 5, 2023 ~ 8:40-11:35

On the first day of school, students in grades 1-5 will line up on our back field. There will be chairs set up with grade numbers 1-5 and students can gather in their grade area and meet their teachers there. Supervision will start at 8:30 and the bell to start classes will ring at 8:40.

Parents can pick their students up from the field on Tuesday at 11:35*. At that time, staff will advise you of where your child should line up and be picked up from for the remainder of the first week.

**exception is Gr. 1 students will be picked up on Tuesday at 11:35 at the Multi-Purpose Room - Rm 130, in between the Kindergarten classes - and dropped off/picked up from the MPR for the remainder of the week.*

Supervision ends at 11:45 on Tuesday morning and our bus students will be supervised until they are picked up at 12:05.

Parents of Kindergarten students should refer to the gradual entry schedule for more detailed information on start up plans for K's. Our first week is filled with one-on-one interviews with our Kindergarten teachers before starting in short group sessions the following week.

Expansion Project

If you've been following our progress over the summer months, you will notice that there is not much progress at all. Unfortunately, we are still waiting on permits to be approved before actual building can start. In the meantime, our crews have been doing prep work, moved the portables on-site and connected them to services, and fenced off the areas that they will be working in.

Our playground is a bit smaller and some of our equipment has been temporarily moved off site to accommodate the building project. We have also lost our blacktop area as a gathering and play area. This leaves us with limited room to move and play, however we will make the most of what we've got and team up together to make it work.

Bell schedule

On **Wednesday** we move to our regular bell schedule for the year:

8:30 Supervision starts (get ready bell at 8:35)
8:40 School Starts
10:40-11:00 Recess
12:20-1:04 Lunch
2:35 Dismissal
2:45 Supervision ends (bus students supervised until 3:05 pickup time)

First week plans

Tuesday is a half day and students will need to bring a snack for recess. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are full days for instruction and students will need a recess snack and lunch each day.

Students will not be settled into their classes until Friday so please **do not send school supplies** for the first week. Until then they will share activities with multiple students and teachers in their grade groupings and we will provide the necessary materials. Grade 4 and 5 students that have purchased school supplies through our supplier, Teacher's File, will have them sent home on Tuesday for labelling. They are asked to bring them back ready to go on Monday, September 11th when all students are asked to bring their school supplies to school.

Dress code will be in effect this week. We understand if some of the crested jackets and shirts have not arrived yet, however collared shirts and pants or skirts will be expected. Here is the link to our dress code guidelines: <https://auguston.abbyschools.ca/parentsstudents/dresscode/auguston>

Health and Safety for all

Please continue to check your child for symptoms of colds, flu, Covid, or other illnesses and keep them home if they have a fever, are contagious or feel unwell. If your child develops symptoms of sickness at school, we will contact you to arrange to have them picked up and keep them comfortable in our sick room until they are collected.

As a school we will continue to ensure personal space is respected, hand hygiene is practiced, and cleaning protocols are followed. Wearing a mask is not required at this time, but is a personal choice and will be respected if you choose to have your child wear a mask while at school.

As we do every year, we will be going over evacuation protocols with our students, including fire drills, lockdown drills and earthquake drills throughout the year. With our construction project, our exit routes have changed a little bit. We will still use our field as our muster station and will ensure that all students have access and exit routes that are safe and work

around the construction site. These drills will be practiced regularly to ensure that students know what to do and where to go in the event of an emergency.

Traffic Safety

One of our major concerns this year will be traffic safety with the increase in construction traffic as well as our ongoing parking issues here at Auguston.

Please be mindful of the following safety tips to ensure the safety of our students and staff in and around the school:

- Posted speed limits of 30km/h start before the corner of Stephen Leacock Drive by our field and extend past our bus loop in front of the school. There are also two very busy crosswalks out front of the school on either side of our front bus loop. Please drive slowly, watch for kids and be mindful of the busy areas, particularly at pick up and drop off times.
- There is absolutely NO STOPPING or parking in our two bus loops – if you need to stop longer than it takes for a child to climb into or out of your vehicle, you need to find a parking spot. If you need to get out to assist your child(ren) into or out of your vehicle, please find a parking spot. If your child is not there ready to jump into your vehicle, please do a loop to allow the traffic to keep moving. Both bus loops are one-way loops.
- Parking will be a challenge for us this year. With our construction project ongoing and a potential project across the street at the presentation centre as well, we are going to have limited parking for staff and parents. Please, if at all possible, walk with your children to or from school to ease up on our traffic congestion. If you need to drive, please observe our 'No Parking' areas – bylaw enforcement officers will patrol randomly to ensure compliance with our No Parking zones. Please be patient with us and each other if you are asked to move or do a loop of the bus loop. Our aim is to keep everyone safely moving towards their destinations in the most efficient ways possible.

Our dedicated staff is looking forward to a great year ahead. Again, please feel free to connect with me with any questions or concerns you may have over the coming weeks and months.

Kris Sward

Principal

Ph: 604-557-0422

kris.sward@abbyschools.ca