



Auguston Traditional
Elementary School

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to school everyone! To our new families and those who have been with us forever, we are looking forward to seeing your bright, happy faces back at school next week! We are gearing up for what we hope will be another fantastic school year!

I am Kris Sward, the Principal here at Auguston Traditional, and I am excited for our new adventures and learning ahead. We have a beautiful school and grounds, an amazing staff and a wonderful community to work and learn in together. Our expansion project was completed last year and we are fully moved in, with a daycare and before and after school care running this year, too. Our biggest project for this year will be a playground expansion, something you will hear a lot about as we move forward with our plans.

In this memo, there are just a few start up information items that we need to share as we look towards our first day of school next Tuesday, September 2nd. It is a half day on Tuesday and students will be in session from 8:40 – 11:35am. Wednesday we will start our regular school hours of 8:40am – 2:35pm.

A more detailed school newsletter will be coming later in September with more information about events and activities that we have planned for the Fall. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school or via email.

Staffing Updates

In addition to welcoming back everyone on our staff, we are excited to welcome a few new faces to our Auguston Traditional team including: EAs Mrs. Rankin, Mrs. Cheema and Mrs. Ceccioni; a new LSS teacher Mrs. Beisiegel; a new Indigenous support worker Mr. Kelly; and a new job share teacher in grade 3 Mrs. Rosborough. Welcome to our school!

A full staff list, including grades taught, will be included in our September newsletter that will be sent home in a couple of weeks.

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 right up until day one. 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 patience and understanding as we find the best fit for all of our staff and students.

We received a number of class requests this year. Though we reviewed them all and have attempted to honour each one, the process of building our classes is complex and we will 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 great success this year. Even if it seems scary at first, within a week students will be happily settled in and making new friends. It also looks like we may need to have a number of split classes this year. Please be assured that our teachers will work with each student to meet their individual needs, regardless of their grade level.

First Day of School ~ September 2, 2025 ~ 8:40-11:35

On the first day of school, students in grades 1-5 will line up on our playground and back field. There will be posters 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. Please look for the appropriate signs in the following general areas:

Grade 1's will meet on the blacktop by the foursquare courts

Grade 2's will meet on the blacktop by the hopscotch

Grade 3's will meet on the basketball court

Grade 4's and grade 5's will meet on the field

Parents can pick their students up from these areas 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.

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](#) emailed out at the beginning of the summer 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 at the end of the week.

Bell schedule

On **Wednesday, September 3rd** we will 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

12:23-1:05 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 this week so please **do not send school supplies** until Monday, September 8th. Until then they will share learning activities with multiple students and teachers in their grade groupings and we will provide the necessary materials (*if students can bring a zip-lock bag with a few pencils, eraser, pencil crayons/crayons & felts for the first week, that would be much appreciated*). Students that have purchased school supplies through the school will have them sent home during the first week for labelling. They are asked to bring them back ready to go on Monday, September 8th 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 white collared shirts and navy 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.

We will continue to work on hand washing, respiratory hygiene (ie coughing or sneezing into our arms, not hands), cleaning protocols and respecting personal space as we try to keep everyone healthy. Masks are acceptable and available at the office if they are needed.

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. For these drills, we use our field as our muster station and post a 'drill in progress' sign out front of the school. These drills will be practiced regularly to ensure that students know what to do and where to go in the event of an emergency. If you notice a sign as you are attempting to enter the school, please be patient with us as we complete our practice.

All exterior doors of our school will remain locked during the day with the exception of our front doors. This is to ensure that we don't have strangers walking through our halls. Please check in with the office if you are coming to drop items off or even checking our lost and found, we like to say hi and help you with what you are looking for.

Traffic Safety

One of our ongoing concerns is traffic safety in our neighbourhood, particularly with the increase in traffic during school drop-off/pickup times. Please remind your friends and neighbours that our school zone is back in effect and to be mindful of our students and families crossing at our crosswalks.

Parking is restricted on the street in front of the school and we place traffic cones in 'no parking' areas. These are meant to allow good sight lines for our crosswalks and safety for students in and around our school grounds.

We also ask that you do not park in the presentation center parking lot across the street during the school day as this is not tied to our school district property. There may be construction starting there soon and we have been asked to use our street parking and spots in our parking lot that are available for use (please honour the VIP parking spot near the sports field backstop (a yearly prize from our PAC fundraisers) and the 'office staff' parking spots closest to the pathway)

Please also be aware 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) in or out of your vehicle, please find a parking spot. If your child is not there ready to jump into your vehicle at the end of the day, please do a loop to allow the traffic to keep moving. Both bus loops are one-way loops and need to keep moving for efficient traffic flow.
- 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 (marked with bright orange pilons) – Abbotsford Police and our 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.

Strong Start

Miss Menzies will be running our Strong Start parent and tot drop in program again this year every morning in Room 128 starting October 1st. We will share more information about this amazing program in our September newsletter.

Daycare and Before and After School Care

Creating Smiles Society is running our daycare and before and after school care for us this year. They've been open since the end of July/early August and will be busy with a full load of students joining them before and after school and throughout the day. K/1 before and after school care will be happening in Room 108 and before and after school care for grades 2-5 will be in Room 129. For more information or to register, please contact them at: creatingsmilessociety@hotmail.com.

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.