

Highland Park Elementary School

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May 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians of our littlest students,

Welcome to Highland Park Elementary Kindergarten!

The following is intended to provide you with information about gradual transition times in September for kindergarten students. **Full days for all other students begin on Thursday, September 10th, 2026. However, there are many part days of kindergarten leading up to their first full day.** This allows the children to attend in smaller groups and for shorter periods of time, so they gradually get used to being at school and following school routines. We have found that this process helps support a smooth and successful transition into Kindergarten. Once students begin coming to school FULL days, **Highland Park KINDIE hours are FIRST BELL (7:58am) to 1:53**, Monday through Friday. We release Kindies about 10 minutes early, **so Kindie Pickup is 1:53, by the KISS & RIDE, near the entrance of the school.** Your child's teacher will inform you of pick-up protocol.

*Gradual entry will begin on **Thursday, September 10th for all KINDIE students.** The students have been randomly divided into 2 groups. Please note that we have not put the children in their set classrooms yet, as we still need to confirm numbers in all the grades (K-5) before this can be completed. By Friday September 18th, you will be informed as to which classroom your child will potentially be placed in for the school year. Your child's teacher will contact you.

Gradual Entry will look like this: For gradual entry days, please meet Teachers at the front of the school, by the Main Door Benches. Students will be introduced to teachers, have a chat, and will go into the school as a group. Parents are welcome to bring a coffee and visit *outside* on these first short days. (This time goes by very quickly! Never fear!)

ORIENTATION CLASS PLACEMENT GROUPS

- *If your child's last name begins A to L, please bring your child in the **first group.**
- *If your child's last name begins M to Z, please bring your child in the **second group.**
- *If you are unable to attend at your time, and need to switch, please contact the office.

*We will inform you of your child's class placement by Friday, September 18th, 2026. The purpose of Gradual Entry is that we, as a school (Teachers, Principal, LRT, and Speech Pathologist) create classrooms that are as balanced as we can make them.

Thank you for your support!

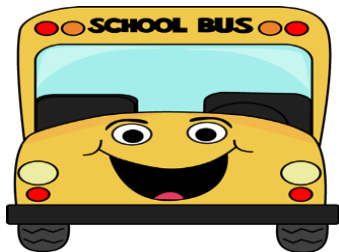
NOTE: There is **A LOT** of start-up information. **Please save this letter.** *It is your **GUIDE.**
Please see SCHEDULE on the following page.

GRADUAL ENTRY SCHEDULE FOR September 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept. 7 Labour Day – NO SCHOOL	Sept. 8 Teachers in Session	Sept. 9 First day of school for everyone EXCEPT Kindergarten. *Last year's classes, until further notice.	Sept. 10 Meet the Teachers OUTSIDE *Group 1 - 8:15-9:15 *Group 2 – 10:15-11:15 Students FIND their name tags & Line up DO NOT BRING SNACK OR SUPPLIES	Sept. 11 Meet the Teachers OUTSIDE *Group 1 - 8:15-9:15 *Group 2 – 10:15-11:15 Students FIND their name tags & Line up DO NOT BRING A SNACK OR SUPPLIES
Sept. 14 Group 1 - 8:15 to 9:15 Group 2 – 10:15-11:15	Sept. 15 ALL KINDIE STUDENTS 8:15-10:45 *Bring a snack	Sept. 16 ALL KINDIE STUDENTS 8:15 to 10:45 *Bring a snack	Sept. 17 All K Students 8:15 to 11:20 *Bring a Snack AND Lunch	Sept. 18 All K Students 8:15-11:20 *Bring a Snack AND Lunch *Parents will be notified of Class Placement
Sept. 21 7:58-1:50 PROFESSIONAL DEELOPMENT DAY NO SCHOOL	Sept. 22 8:00am-1:50 Full day kindergarten *Bring snack and lunch BUSSING for kindies begins. We will get bus TAGS for them, Please let office know.	Sept. 23 8:00am-1:50 Full day kindergarten *Bring snack and lunch	Sept. 24 8:00am-1:50 Full day kindergarten *Bring snack and lunch	Sept. 25 8:00am-1:50 Full day kindergarten *Bring snack and lunch

Beginning IMMEDIATELY, September 10th, the Kindergarten Teaching Team will meet the kindergarten children in front of the OFFICE at the benches in the mornings, for Gradual Entry. Kindergarten teachers will bring your child back to you at the front of the school. **It is crucial you are on time for drop off and pick up due to traffic concerns. If you are late, you may need to park in the IPE grounds across the street.**

Thank you so much.



On Tuesday, September 22nd BUSSING for kindergarten students will begin. A Supervisor will meet & direct them when they get off the bus. Parents, please arrange transportation for your child. ***If you live on a BUS route and your child WILL BE riding the bus, you MUST register your child. Please contact the Transportation Department at 250-546-1922.** It is essential that you take your child to the bus in the morning and meet your child at the bus stop after school. Initially, K students will be met at the bus in the morning and directed to their class line ups. Teachers will walk K

students to their buses AFTER school. Kindergarten students are expected to remain in their bus lines, and not play at the playground, to avoid missing their bus.

***The bus drivers are NOT ALLOWED to drop kindergarten children off without a parent/older sibling, friend etc. to meet them. They will be brought back to the school.**

FULL TIME KINDERGARTEN STARTS...

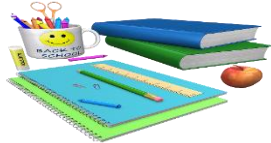
Beginning on Tuesday, September 22nd, all children will attend school, regular kindergarten will be in effect, and kindergarten students will be with their classroom teacher. The first bell is at 7:58 am. Please do not be late as your K Teachers are meeting the Kindies at the front of the school for the first while. Look for your child's Teacher. Also, notify your child's teacher and/or the office if someone else will be picking up your child (introduce them to the teacher, if possible). We are very protective and will not let your child go with someone that we don't recognize or if we have not been notified of a change.

Kindergarten Expectations & Supplies

***Please DO NOT send personal belongings (shoes, clothes) until your child's FIRST FULL DAY.**

THIS YEAR YOU DO NOT NEED TO SHOP FOR SUPPLIES.

1. Indoor **running shoes** (not sandals or slippers) with **Velcro closing (so important!)**
2. One **large backpack** – must be able to hold a large library book
3. **Additional fees** may be requested during the school year for special activities (field trips, special art supplies, parties/snacks)
4. Daily lunch and snacks for your child – **No candy, juice boxes or pop please** (if your child has special dietary and health concerns, please let your child's teacher know)
5. PLEASE send a spillproof **WATER BOTTLE** your child can manage. We do not drink out of our class taps, and they need a bottle to fill at the water station.
6. **Please pay your school supply fee of \$45.00 at the office.**



7. Ensure your child can put on their own shoes. **NO LACES** please and thank you, unless they can tie them. The children need to be able to dress themselves as much as possible. We are always encouraging **Independence**.



8. PLEASE **LABEL** ALL SHOES, EXTRA CLOTHES, COATS, SNOW PANTS & **WATER BOTTLES!!!** (Yes, we do end up with 4 kids in the same snow pants!)
9. Please send a LARGE ziplock bag with a set of clean clothes for your child, as accidents happen, or they fall in mud or slide on a wet slide. You need pants, 2x underwear, 2x socks and a shirt. Please **LABEL THE BAG THEY COME IN.**

We look forward to getting to know you and working with you!

Sincerely,

Your Enthusiastic Kindergarten Teaching Team

