



Primary Orientation Info/Overview:

Welcome to Primary@CPS! Many of our primary students for next year are coming from our Pre-Primary program. This has given them the opportunity to become familiar with their school, the playground and the structure of the school day. In addition, parents/guardians are also familiar with routines, school communication, bell times and procedures. Some students will be new to Crichton Park and we welcome you to our wonderful community. Either way, this is an exciting time in a child's life and the beginning step in their educational journey!

We have included lots of information for you in this Primary Orientation package. Please read it over, look at the videos and share the most relevant information with your soon to be Primary student.

Please take a peek at the video: What Primary Looks Like

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQc0RHN9hiQ>

Primary is a time for building relationships, developing social skills and growing as learners. Oral language development plays an important role in Primary.

Primary students will:

- Match written words to spoken words
- See the relationship between letters and sounds
- Engage in daily explicit and systematic phonics instruction
- Experiment with reading behaviours and various 'just right' texts
- Find pictures on the page helpful in understanding the meaning of words
- Experiment with different genres of writing
- Make predictions about stories, wonder aloud, question, use new vocabulary and make connections between stories and their world/environment
- In Math - primary students learn to recognize numbers 1-10, rote count to 20 forwards and backwards from 10-1 and partition numbers 1-5. They learn to recognize numbers quickly 1-5 (dots on a card, dice or dominoes, five frame, fingers on a hand)

- Participate in math fluency games to enhance number sense



School Configuration for next year: (subject to change)

- We have over 300 students including our Pre-Primary program.
- We have 12-13 classrooms Grades P-6.
- We have two full time Learning Centre Teachers, one Resource Teacher and an Elementary Literacy Support Teacher.
- Mr. Bruce is our Music teacher. Students receive music instruction twice a week for 30 minutes each block.
- Ms. Hudson is our Phys. Ed teacher. Primary students get Phys. Ed classes three times a week for 30 minutes each block.
- Mr. Thompson is our school librarian. Students usually go to the library once a week for 30 minutes. They can sign out a book each week as long as the borrowed one gets returned.

Hours of the day:

Supervision begins outside 8:40 am

Entrance Bell 8:50 am

Classes Begin 9:00 am

Recess 10:30 - 10:45 am

Lunch 12:00 - 12:55 pm (outdoor play first followed by eating time at 12:30)

Dismissal 3:00 pm



- We urge you to have your child to school on time. This helps to set the routine with your child that school is important and that you must be on time. **If arriving late for any reason, please come to the front door and have your student check in at the office for attendance purposes.**
- Please ensure that your child is dressed for the weather as they will be playing outside at both recess and lunch.
- Supervision at lunch - Lunch monitors supervise students during the lunch hour. We are always looking for lunch monitors. If you are interested in being a lunch monitor full or part time, please contact Mrs. Gibson in the office.
- Dismissal - At dismissal the primary teachers will release the students to parents/guardians or caregivers from their outside classroom door. **It is very important for you to be on time.** There is no supervision for students after school.
- Please be aware that there is no driving on the school grounds or into our circular driveway. We encourage families to park on a side street when dropping off as there is no stopping on Lyngby in front of the school. Also, please do not pull into the staff parking lot between 8 am and 4 pm. Thank you!

Safe Arrival:

- Safety is a priority at Crichton Park. We want to ensure that we know that your child is excused from school. The school uses the SchoolMessenger's Safe Arrival system. This is an absence-management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence. To report your child's absence, call 1-833-582-6940 before 9:30 am.

Safety in the Building:

- The school is locked at all times. You must ring the doorbell to get inside. There is a camera on the front door so we can see who we are allowing to come inside.
- **We ask parents to report to the office when visiting the building.** If dropping off items for your child (lunch, backpack, library book, etc.) please leave them at the office and we would be happy to deliver these to your child.



- Allergies - We are a **NUT SENSITIVE** and **SCENT FREE** school. Please watch for the school newsletter in September and our website for updated and current information on allergies in our school.
- **If your child has any medical concerns be sure to inform the school.**
- Medication – If your child needs medication at school, you must sign a form at the office and the medication will be stored in the main office in a locked cabinet (this is for puffers as well) and administered by the principal or teacher in charge. Students requiring Tylenol or Advil must also fill our forms or have it administered by a parent. Students are not permitted to have medication in their backpacks.

Concerns for the teacher:

- If you have a concern, you can send a note in your child's school bag or send an email. As you can understand, teachers are not available to chat in the morning when the students come in as they are busy with the children.

Communication:

- Notices from the teacher/classroom will be sent home in paper copy when needed but mostly through email (or Seesaw).
- A school newsletter is sent home at the beginning of the month. These are sent to families via email through our School Messenger system. Other important notices will be sent to your email as well.

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I Like Me, I Am Kind.
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Written by Coffee and Cornoni. Raising Kind Kids. Illustrated by Flourish.



Media release forms:

- You will receive an email to update demographics. Part of this is a media release section for you to complete so we can have your permission to use pictures taken with your child in it, for a variety of things. We sometimes post images on our school

website, the HRCE website, the Regional Executive Director's report, etc. You will also be asked to include this information when you receive an email requesting demographic update in September.

Food services:

- We have a provincial pay what you can School Lunch program. <https://nslunch.ca/>

Inclement weather:

- Please check the HRCE website. Decisions are typically made by 6 am.
- In the event of an early dismissal we call every family if school is closed early to verify where your child is to go. You will also be asked to include this information when you receive an email requesting demographic update in September.
- Sometimes schools will open 2 hours later than usual start of the day. Our delayed opening time is 11:00 am. There is no Excel offered in the mornings when there is a delayed opening.

First Day of School:

- Teachers will meet students outside their classroom door at 8:50.
- If your child is nervous or anxious, please give a quick kiss and a hug goodbye for the day. We will take good care of them and let you know if there are any problems with the initial transition.

School Readiness:

Please take a peek at the video: **What Can Parents Do to Prepare Children for School?**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=up1X2VQmHLE>

- Provide opportunities to button buttons, zip zippers, practice putting on shoes
- Practice opening packages and containers like juice boxes, snacks, etc.
- Practice dressing independently.
- Toileting on their own including flushing, washing hands and proper wiping technique.
- Read to your child. Encourage your child to ask questions about the story.

A video message from Primary students to beginning Primary students:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5IzIQFcV80>



Friendly Reminders

- Dogs at School: Please keep dogs off school property when students are present including arrival and dismissal. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Office Protocol: Please check in at the office if entering the school for any reason during the school day.
- Parking lot: Staff parking only from 8am-4pm. Please use street parking for drop-offs and pick-ups, including Excel.
- Front of school: This is for accessible parking, deliveries and prearranged pick ups/drop offs.
- Student Safety: Students may be out front during recess and lunch, so avoid driving and parking in front of the building.
- No Stopping Zone: The area in front of the school is a no stopping zone (refer to HRM signage).
- Address Updates: Inform the office of any changes to your address currently in PowerSchool.
- Serious allergies: These include sesame, peanuts and tree nuts. There are sensitivities to scents.