

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the address and phone number of Ellenvale Junior High (EJH)?

88 Belle Vista Dr., Dartmouth NS B2W 2X7
902-435-8420

2. What are the bell times at EJH?

The morning bell for students to enter the building is 8:40am and the dismissal bell goes at 2:50pm.

3. Does EJH have a playground?

The outside space consists of basketball courts and a soccer field. We will be putting stencils on the ground for a variety of other games.

4. Does EJH have a cafeteria?

There is not a cafeteria space at EJH where students can eat. Students will eat in their homeroom classroom at the start of lunch and then spend the remainder of lunch supervised outside on school property.

5. Does EJH have microwaves for heating up lunches?

There are no microwaves to heat up lunches.

6. What information is available around transportation?

Every year, transportation details are available to view online through BusPlanner Parent Portal and are typically released mid-July. Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal and view their child's bus information once it is available.

Students must reside within their designated catchment of the school they are attending and meet the minimum distance criteria to be eligible for transportation.

Busing is provided to:

- Pre-Primary children and students in elementary (PP to Grade 6) who live more than 1.6 km from their school.
- Students in junior high and secondary (Grades 7 to 12) who live more than 2.4 km from their school.

If you don't hear anything by mid-July, you may want to check your "junk" box (as sometimes it is filtered and goes to the junk box instead of the inbox) or [email](#) or call our transportation department at 902-431-4723.

7. Will my child be in a class with a friend?

EJH staff have been meeting with teams from all schools to create class lists. Creating these lists involves many considerations, such as student gender, student strengths, student challenges and personalities. We are doing our best to ensure that students have a friend in class with them.

8. What are the current class configurations for EJH next year?

With our current student numbers of Grade 6 students, we will have six Grade 6 classes next year. Staffing is not yet completed and will continue to be reviewed right up until school opening. There will be no combined classes in Grade 6.

9. Will supports and resources be available if my child has challenges or special needs?

At EJH we will have the same access to supports for our students, such as a resource teacher, learning center teacher, school counsellor, speech language pathologist, school psychologist, autism specialist, EPAs, and SchoolsPlus. We have been meeting with our feeder elementary teams, along with student services personnel to prepare for the fall. If you feel your child requires any extra support, please reach out to Scott Wadden, Principal swadden@hrce.ca.

10. Is the EJH Modular Campus accessible?

Yes, it is equipped with a ramp at the main entrance and there are both universal and fully accessible washrooms. There is a lift and accessible washrooms available inside the main building as well. The school grounds and field are also accessible.

11. Will there be an open house so families can tour ELH?

We are planning on hosting tours of the modular campus in June. If the building is not complete in June, then a tour and orientation will occur before school starts in September.

12. Are the Grade 6 students fully insured?

All students in the HRCE receive the same basic Medical Insurance. Families can opt to purchase enhanced coverage through School Insurance Program (SIP).

13. Are Grade 6 students permitted to participate on Junior High sports teams?

Yes, students will be given opportunity to tryout for our school teams.

14. Will the Grade 6 have recess and lunch with the Junior High students?

No, they will only be with the grade 6's.

15. Will there be an Emergency Measures Safety Plan (EMP) in place for all students?

With consultation from the Halifax Regional Police and the Halifax Regional Fire Department we are working on expanding our existing EMP to be reflective of our new building and increased population.

16. Are there after school childcare options available for the Grade 6 students?

The EXCEL Program is a fee-for-service recreational program run by the HRCE. If you are interested in enrolling in before or after school care through EXCEL, please register at your home school IF your child currently attends Portland Estates Elementary or Brookhouse Elementary. If your child currently attends Alderney Elementary, please contact manningr@hrce.ca.

For families who are new to EXCEL, registration is now open. [Click here](#) for details. If you are a returning family who has already registered, no action is required at this time. We will share details and location information once registration is finalized.

17. Will Grade 6 students receive the same programming/curriculum they would have received in their elementary schools?

Yes, they will still be receiving 90 minutes of Math per day and 60 minutes of language arts. 60 minutes of Core French will still take place every second day. Physical Education and Exploring Music are still 60 minutes per week. Typically, the only times they would be going to the main building is for Physical Education and library time.

18. Who are the Teachers for the grade 6's?

601 – Ms. Ayers (BES)
602 - Mr. Thompson (BES)
803 – Ms. Bradley (AJ Smeltzer)
604 – Ms. Burnett (Cald)
605 – Ms. Mitchell (Ald)
606 – Ms. Fioratas (BES)
PHED – Mr. Bignall (Ellenvale)
Music – Mr. Cross (RLJH)
French – Ms. Rodger (PEES)

14. What is the typical Day?

8:40 – First Bell
8:50 – O'Canada, Announcements, and classes begin
10:50 – Outdoor Lunch begins
11:35 – Eat Lunch
11:50 – Afternoon Classes Begin
1:35 – Afternoon Recess
1:50 – Afternoon Classes Continue
2:50 – Dismissal

NEW QUESTIONS

15. Will each student have a locker?

Yes! Teachers will spend a good portion of the first day helping the students with their new locks. Locks will be provided to students and we request not keyed locks.

16. Can Grade 6 Students leave the school grounds during lunch or recess?

No, all students will remain on school grounds and supervision will be provided for them.

17. What grades will be in the new portable?

All grade 6's and four Grade 7 classes.

18. How will Grade 6's be included in Ellenvale student body? (i.e., dances, school events, etc.)

We will make every effort to have our grade 6's part of our school community by allowing them to take part in school events and assemblies, allowing them to try out for teams and be part of clubs, and, if we feel it is appropriate, allow them to attend dances. The decision on dances will be made in the fall.

19. What level of supervision is going to be provided for Grade 6's?

During lunch and recess our students will be receiving the proper amount of supervision as outlined by the HRCE.

20. There was mention in an email that there are universal bathrooms in the new portable. Does this mean both boys and girls would use the same bathroom? What ages will have access to these bathrooms?

There are twelve universal washrooms, which means each room is private with a full door and four walls. **The bathrooms are not stalls and are extremely private.** The handwashing area is communal.

21. If your child is taking the bus, are parents allowed to drop off / pick up sometimes instead? What is the protocol for notification if your child isn't taking the bus on a certain day?

Yes, parents are permitted to drop off/pick up their children instead of taking the bus. There is no need to contact the school if you are dropping off/picking up your child at the normal times. Please be mindful of our parking/stopping rules.

22. Will Grade 6's have access to band program?

Yes, Mr. Pettipas will be our band teacher and it will be run similar to how it has been run at our feeder schools.

23. Is there a communication plan in place for the early school year months between school and parents to ensure transition is going well for all students? Will there be one on one communication that is student specific from the teachers?

Your child's homeroom teacher will be the main contact for you once school begins. This is the same model as elementary schools. School admin will also communicate with homes on a regular basis through emails, newsletters, and daily announcements on our website.

24. How many students are allowed in the main building / gym as per fire regulations at any given time?

According to Fire Regulations laid out by the Fire Marshall, our gymnasium has a maximum occupancy of 931 people. With 600+ students and 50 staff, we would be well within that number.

25. What are the repercussions for bullying? How will the school address inappropriate behaviours with students?

When addressing inappropriate behaviours or bullying, we always adhere to the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy.

26. Will the grading system be the same for the Grade 6's as it would've been if they were still in an elementary school?

Yes, the curriculum, how students are assessed, and how student learning is communicated does not change. The report card will follow the same format for all grade 6 students throughout the HRCE and the province.