



St. Stephen's Elementary School

3669 Highland Ave., Halifax, NS B3K 4J9

tel: 902-493-5155 fax: 902-493-5158

email: sses@hrce.ca | website: <https://ssh.hrce.ca/> | Twitter: [@SSEShrce](https://twitter.com/SSEShrce)

Communicating Student Learning

2020-21



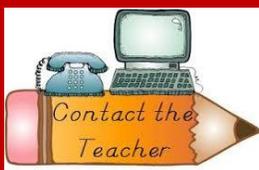
Introduction

Communicating student learning to SSES students, families and caregivers is of fundamental importance. We understand and believe a child's learning is enhanced when there is strong communication between home and school. This communication happens in a variety of ways throughout the school year. This year, the ways we communicate will look quite different as our ability to connect with families in person will be limited.



Back-To-School Plan

The Back-to-School Plan makes it possible for our students to return to school this fall. Although school routines will look different this year, students will continue to receive the same quality education, services and supports as before COVID-19. The plan has contingencies in place to support learning should a second wave occur, including scenarios for if there is COVID-19 activity in a specific part of the province, or if there is an outbreak in a specific school.



Setting up a Meeting (contacting your child's teacher)

It is always possible to request a meeting with your child's teacher by scheduling an appointment via email or by phone through the office. Please do not arrive at the school with the intent of having a meeting without a mutually pre-arranged time. Teachers often have other meetings and children who require attention. Scheduled appointments enable the teacher to give his/her undivided attention. Positive and regular contact with your child's teacher has a very positive impact on a student achievement. If a matter remains unresolved, it should be then directed to the administration. Should the matter not be resolved by this communication, please refer to the "Parent Concern Form" which can be obtained online by clicking [\[Here\]](#). The Parent Concern Reporting Form may be used, at the request of the parent, when all attempts to resolve the concern at the school have not been successful.



Curriculum Night

This event will take place on September 17th from 6-7 pm virtually with Google Meet or Zoom. This will take place with classroom teachers where they will meet with families over Zoom video-conferencing to share classroom expectations, grade level curriculum and homework policies. It will also provide families the opportunity to ask questions about the logistical, health and safety protocols that have been put in place.



Homework

Homework can help students develop academically and personally when the work is carefully planned, directly connected to classroom learning, meaningful to students, and appropriate for a student's age and stage of development.

- Prepare information or materials for future learning activities (e.g., gather resources, read something for a class discussion, or rehearse for a presentation).
- Practice new knowledge or new skills (e.g., read for pleasure, practice physical skills, practice a musical instrument, use new knowledge to complete a project, or practice basic literacy and math skills).
- Enrich students' understanding of a topic and apply it in new ways (e.g., research local news, investigate a science experiment, write daily or weekly reflections in a journal, or apply skills to a class project).



Report Cards

There are three reporting periods throughout the year. This year, report cards will be sent home on November 26th, 2020, April 1st, 2021 and June 30th, 2021.



Scheduled Parent/Teacher Interviews

There are two scheduled times to meet regarding student progress. This year, the first Parent/Teacher Conference will be held virtually through Zoom or Google Meets on December 3rd, 2020. These meetings are ten minutes in length. Should you need a longer 1 to 1 meeting that is longer than 10 minutes, please contact your child's teacher. The second Parent-Teacher Conference will take place on April 8th, 2021. The format for this meeting will be determined in March.



Teacher Support Team (formerly School Planning Team)

Our Teacher Support Team meets weekly to discuss student needs. Students are referred by staff about issues that might be of concern. Parents/Guardians are informed if adaptations to a child's program are required and also if their child will be discussed during our Teacher Support Team. All decisions regarding additional supports for students are made through this process. Parents/Guardians are always notified of what decisions are made to best suit the child's learning needs.



Recognition, Assemblies & Fantastic Phone Calls

Recognizing student achievement is an important aspect in motivating students to do their best. We recognize student achievement with Fantastic Phone Calls, Spirit Assemblies. We also strive to reinforce the good things students do each day by offering verbal praise/encouragement.



Concerts and Performances

Typically, we often have special concerts, presentations and performances in our school. Aside from our annual December and June concert, there will be other times throughout the year when children showcase their talents and abilities. We also bring in special presenters who have relevant messages for our students. We will provide advance notice when special events are taking place at St. Stephens. This year we will look for opportunities for virtual events until such time that we can all congregate in a larger group.



School Advisory Council

School Advisory Councils (SAC) bring Parents, Staff and Community members together to advise on issues involving Student Success Planning to providing feedback on Provincial policies, all in the best interest of student learning. All partners on the SAC have a voice so that the needs of students are represented and the school is responsive to the community it serves. The fundamental purpose of the SAC is to ensure that all students receive the best possible learning opportunities by engaging partners in an ongoing process of problem-solving and shared decision-making. We have 6 meetings a year.



School Website

Our school website hosts a calendar of important dates, an archive of monthly newsletters that are sent to families by email. You will also find a Staff directory that lists names of staff, email addresses, teacher websites and twitter feeds. It also contains information about our School Advisory Council and PTA events and school contact information. Our home on the internet is located at: <https://ssh.hrce.ca>



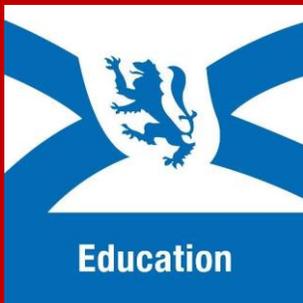
Newsletters

We send home school newsletters once per month with additional notices as necessary. Parents/guardians are kept informed of upcoming events and other school initiatives and activities. Each newsletter contains a list of important dates for that month.



HRCE Website

Our Halifax Regional Center for Education website is a comprehensive resource with links to many documents relevant to parents. Take some time to explore this informative resource: <https://www.hrce.ca>



Principles of Learning

The public school program is based on principles of learning that teachers and administrators should use as the basis of the experiences they plan for their students. These principles include the following:

1. Learning is a process of actively building knowledge.
2. Learning is improved when it takes place in a social and cooperative environment.
3. Students need to continue to view learning as an integrated whole.
4. Learners must see themselves as capable and successful.
5. Learners have different ways of knowing and demonstrating knowledge.
6. Reflection is an important part of learning.

What Children Should Learn? The Learning Outcomes Framework

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development gives direction to teachers on what children should learn. We have outcomes for all curriculum areas including: Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, French, Health, Art, Physical Education and Music. To learn more about the Nova Scotia Curriculum click [\[HERE\]](#)

Combined Classrooms

Combined classes group children from two or more consecutive grades in one classroom. Every day, in both single-grade classes and combined grades, teachers work with large groups, small groups, and individual students. All classrooms, whether

single grade or combined, include students performing at a range of achievement levels. In every case, schools strive to create a classroom environment that will support the needs of all students. For more information click [\[HERE\]](#) .

Student Assessments

Assessment is collecting information on student progress using a variety of tasks designed to monitor and improve student learning.

- **Formative Assessments (Assessment for Learning)** are ongoing assessments that take place during the teaching and learning process for the purpose of showing growth over time, determining student needs, planning next steps in instruction and providing students with descriptive feedback.
- **Summative Assessments (Assessment of Learning)** take place at the end of a learning period for the purpose of determining the extent to which learning has occurred. These assessments are used to make statements about student learning.
- **External Large-Scale Assessments** are assessments and evaluations that are conducted by the province or HRCE in order to collect data for the use of national, provincial, regional, school and classroom levels. **This year, there will be no Large-Scale assessments conducted by the EECD or the HRCE.**

Parent Concern Protocol

If you have a question or concern regarding your child, the channel of communication begins with your child's teacher. If the issue remains unresolved, it should be then directed to the administration. Should the matter not be resolved by this communication, please refer to the "Parent Concern Form" which can be obtained online by clicking [\[Here\]](#). The Parent Concern Reporting Form may be used, at the request of the parent, when all attempts to resolve the concern at the school have not been successful.