

# Nestor Falls School STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

2020-2021



P.O. Box 219  
Nestor Falls, Ontario P0X1K0  
Phone: 484-2101  
Fax: 484-2222  
<https://nfs.rrdsb.com>  
Find us on Facebook at Nestor Falls Public School

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

PA Day	Aug. 31, Sept. 1 & 2
First day of school (K-3)	Sept. 3
First day of school (4-8)	Sept. 4
Labour Day	Sept. 7
First day of school (all students)	Sept. 8
Thanksgiving Day	Oct. 12
PA Day	October 30
Progress Reports sent home	Nov. 18
Christmas Break	Dec. 21-Jan. 1
Classes resume	Jan. 4
PA Day	Jan. 29
Family Day	Feb. 15
Report cards go home	Feb. 17
March Break	March 15-19
Good Friday	April 2
Easter Monday	April 5
PA Day	April 23
Victoria Day	May 24
PA Day	June 11
Report Cards go home	June 25
Last day of classes for Elementary Students	June 25

*This publication is available in accessible formats upon request*

## SEARCH OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

School property such as desks, cubbies and bins can be searched at any time by school staff.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Councils are advisory bodies to the school principal and, where appropriate, to the School Board. Elected positions form a small portion of the Council. Meetings are held on a regular basis with date and time advised through a newsletter. Everyone is encouraged to attend to keep up to date with their children's education.

## ALLERGIES & SAFETY

If your child suffers from asthma, diabetes, anaphylaxis or other serious medical conditions, please contact the school office. We will work together to create a plan of care that fits the needs of your child.

## SCHOOL STAFF

Principal	Donna Kowalski
Secretary	Diana Krukoski
Classroom Teacher	Ron Cameron
Classroom Teacher	Lucas Koomans
Educational Assistant	Debbie Rydberg
Communication Assistants	Diana Krukoski
Caretaker	Jamie Krukoski

## SCHOOL HOURS

School Starts	8:25 am
First Nutrition Break	10:05 am - 10:30 am
Second Nutrition Break	12:30 pm - 1:15 pm
Dismissal	2:55 pm

## MEDICATION

Board policy does not permit school personnel to administer any medication without proper authorization. Medication forms providing the required authorization and information are necessary to ensure proper use of the prescribed medication and are available from the school office. All medication is to be stored at and administered through the school office.

## DRESS CODE (see poster)

Students are expected to conform to a reasonable dress code appropriate to a school environment. School dress, when appropriate, should not jeopardize the health and safety of anyone in the school. Clothing which advertises alcohol, tobacco, drugs, has a sexual reference or is offensive in any way is not allowed. Students are to dress appropriately for weather conditions.

## RESPECT FOR PROPERTY

The cost of maintaining school buildings and supplies is assumed by the taxpayer. Any additions created by deliberate acts of vandalism are, if the guilty person is undetected, also assumed by the taxpayer. School custodians are hired to maintain the school building, to keep it in good repair, and to keep it clean. Students are expected to keep the school free from litter, report incidents of vandalism and remove graffiti and litter whenever possible. Food and beverages must be consumed in designated areas. Smoking and/or vaping are not allowed on School Board premises.

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Academically, students are expected to achieve the expectations identified at each grade level by the Ontario Curriculum. Modifications and accommodations will be made to support those students who demonstrate difficulty in meeting grade level expectations. Students are expected to follow the Classroom Norms and School Code of Conduct. A copy of these are available from the classroom teacher and will be sent home in the first week of school or on our school webpage. Desks are part of school property and are subject to search.

## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DEVICES (Cell Phones, Tablets, i-Pods, Cameras)

Cell phones are to be used under the direction and supervision of the classroom teacher. The school assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, broken or otherwise compromised personal equipment or devices. Students must agree to the PED contract.

With teacher permission, students may be allowed to use electronic devices during specific times of the school day providing that the devices are used for enhancing the educational experience (eg., calculator or dictation app, e-books, research).

Students who fail to follow this procedure will have the device removed and placed at the office to be picked up by their parent/guardian.

### ATTENDANCE/SAFE ARRIVALS PROGRAM

In the interest of student safety and effective programming, it is important that student absences are accounted for in all schools of the Rainy River District School Board. If a student is to be late or absent, parents/guardians are asked to call the school at 484-2101. Parents may leave a message on the school telephone voice-mail system stating their child's absence. Please include your child's first and last names and grade. Thank you!

If the school has not been notified that the student will be absent from school, the school will call and check on daily student absences. Notes are requested for lates or absenteeism, for early dismissal, for an appointment, or for permission to be picked up by someone other than parent/guardian. Identification may be requested. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

### SIGN IN/SIGN OUT

Students leaving the school before the regular dismissal time must be signed out at the office by our school secretary. Students returning from appointments, as well as those who are late, must be signed in at the office by our school secretary. **Parents must press the call button outside the main entrance and they will receive further instructions.**

### SCHOOL VISITORS

Non-essential school visitors are not allowed at this time. If you need to drop off or pick up your child or anything for your child, please call the office and schedule a time. Someone will come out to greet you.

### STUDENT USE OF SCHOOL TELEPHONES

Students will not be allowed to use the office telephone for any reason. Should an unexpected school situation or an illness that requires communication with a parent occur, office staff will contact parents. **All home communication with regards to illness must go through the office as per Covid-19 guidelines.**

### COMMUNICATION

As part of ongoing communication with parents/guardians to support students in their academic and social growth, school newsletters will be uploaded to the school website <https://nfs.rrdsb.com> and Facebook pages at the beginning of each month. Communication will also be sent through School Messenger via text, phone call or email. Classroom teachers will use SeeSaw, Google Classroom, email, Edsby and/or telephone calls to communicate with families. Agendas and paper communication will not be used at this time, or will be limited to help support COVID-19 measures/precautions. Parents or guardians are encouraged to contact the classroom teacher if they have questions or concerns.

### RRDSB CODE OF CONDUCT

The RRDSB School Code of Conduct is online at [rrdsb.com](https://rrdsb.com) and aligns with the Parent/Student Handbook. Please review the Code of Conduct with your child/ren.

### NUTRITION BREAKS

Students enjoy a break from the morning and afternoon routines during which time they can get some fresh air and enjoy unstructured time while physically distancing with their friends. All of us are better able to work after a short break and a healthy snack. Please note: **Microwaves will not be available** for use due to Covid-19 precautionary measures. The use of thermoses is encouraged. In addition, students will need to bring their own cutlery and a water bottle that can be refilled at our water filling station. **Water fountains will be unavailable.**

Breakfast and snack programs are on hold for the time being.

Fresh air and exercise will be extremely important to students and staff throughout the pandemic. Our expectation is that all students will participate in outdoor breaks. Exceptions to this practice will be made in very special cases. During inclement or extremely cold conditions we will conduct indoor recesses.

### OUTDOOR EDUCATION

This year more than ever, students will be learning and playing outdoors as much as possible. In order for children to fully participate in outdoor learning, they must be dressed appropriately. Stable footwear, a jacket or sweater and a hat are important. **Please ensure your child dresses for time spent outdoors each and every day.**

### MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

It is a requirement that students in grades 4-8 wear a mask or face covering on the bus and while at school. It is recommended that students in JK-3 wear a mask or face covering. Students may remove masks for outdoor activities and recess.

Parents are encouraged to wash student masks daily. Staff are required to wear medical grade masks in conjunction with face shields or safety goggles at all times when students are present. RRDSB Procedure 7.58 (found on the board website) outlines guidelines for the use of and care for masks or face coverings.

### PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Whether at the bus stop, on the playground or in the school, physical distancing is key to reducing the spread of any type of respiratory virus. Students and staff will be reminded through teaching, morning messages, newsletters and signs around the school and on the bus to maintain a 2 m distance between one another, wherever possible. Hand shaking and high fives will be on hold for now. Elbow bumps and air fives are encouraged!

### LOCKDOWN DRILLS

Students and staff regularly participate in school lockdown drills. These drills are designed to prepare students and staff should an intruder enter the school grounds or building. Students are to conduct themselves in a respectful, responsible manner during safety drills. **Physical distancing** and all other Covid-19 related measures will be in place during lockdowns.

### HANDWASHING AND SANITIZATION

In order to assist in reducing possible transmission of any illness or virus, students and staff will practice handwashing habits that include washing upon entry and before exiting the building, before and after eating food and at natural breaks throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building for instances when handwashing is not possible. **Handwashing techniques will be taught, following the guidelines of the NWHU.**

### ILLNESS

If a student becomes ill at school, the office will contact the parent/guardian or emergency designate and request that the student be picked up. If your child becomes ill at school, your child will wait (supervised) in a private area. When you arrive at the school, press the call button and your child will be brought to you. Should your child be exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, parents the NWHU for further information (**274-3261 ext. 4913**). Students are to stay home until they are no longer ill.

If your contact information changes at any point throughout the year, it is vital that the school office is made aware so that you can be contacted promptly. Having up to date contact information is essential so that contact tracing can easily occur if required.

### BUSSING

The school bus is considered to be an extension of the school, and the "Code of Conduct" applies to students who ride the bus. Students in grades 4-8 are required to wear a mask or face covering while on the bus. While not required, students in JK-3 are encouraged to wear a mask or face covering. Seating charts have been designed to allow for efficient contact tracing should there be a positive COVID-19 case and to ensure maximum student safety. Seats will be assigned. While on or waiting for the bus, students must act in a responsible manner and follow all directions given by the driver and as taught by school staff. Students must sit in their assigned seats and refrain from eating and drinking on the bus.

To increase ventilation, windows of the bus will be opened by the driver, whenever weather permits. All bus drivers will be wearing proper PPE consisting of a mask and face shield where possible. Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus, as well as extra masks should a child arrive without one.

Drivers and bus supervisors will inform the principal of misbehaviour or conduct that does not follow COVID-19 guidelines. As per Rainy River District School Board guidelines, students will have only one pick up and drop off point. The school cannot accommodate requests for bussing changes. Requests for changes must go through the Transportation Dept.