

Communicating Student Learning 2017-2018



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PO Box 276, 168 Redoubt Way, Eastern
Passage, NS, B3G 1M5
Email:tcs@hrsbn.ca

Ms. Anna Marie Sarto Principal

Mr. James Hurley Vice Principal

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year, and a very special welcome to all the families who are new to our community. Co-operation and communication between home and school is very important throughout the year. We strive for harmony, respect and honour in the school, on the playground and during the journey to and from school. I look forward to working with all families this year.

Mission Statement

The mission of Tallahassee Community School, as a nurturing community, is to guide students to become lifelong learners and caring citizens, by creating an environment in which exploration, diversity and, teamwork are valued.

General School Information

Main Office.....(902)465-8650
Safe Arrival.....(902)465-8653
Fax.....(902)465-8010

Absent/Late

If a student is going to be absent from school for any reason, please call:

Safe Arrival: 465-8653

Calls should be made before 8:35am. The school secretary will call parents who have **not** contacted the school. Please ensure that the school has a home number, work number, cell phone number and an emergency number for your child. **If any changes are made with these numbers during the school year, please contact the school immediately.** It may be necessary to send a child home during the day due to illness or injury. We do not have the facilities to accommodate sick children.

Children arriving late must sign in at the office.

All visitors including parents, volunteers, workers, and other school board employees must first sign in at the office and receive a visitor tag.

Inclement Weather/School Cancellations

Students will be permitted to enter the school upon arrival on inclement weather days **at 8:15 a.m.** Students will be permitted to remain in the lobby until the first bell rings in the morning, in their classrooms at recess and noon if, in our judgment, the weather is not suitable for outdoor activities. Each year we encounter days when schools must be closed due to weather or road conditions. This decision is made by the Halifax Regional School Board, not individual schools. We are part of the Cole Harbour Family of Schools.

School Programs

All classroom programs are based on the Public School Program which outlines the goals and policies of public school education in Nova Scotia.
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Nova's Scotia's Integrated Curriculum

All of the structural changes that we make and partnerships that we strengthen set the stage for the major changes that are required in our curriculum. The curriculum is the cornerstone of an education. It sets the standards for what teachers teach and what students learn. With an improved, streamlined curriculum, we are taking steps to ensure our students will be prepared for life, regardless of the fields they choose. The Integrated Curriculum is specifically focused on improving the two most important fundamentals in education: math and literacy.

What is Integration?

Integration is an approach to teaching and curriculum design that focuses on making explicit connections within subjects, across subjects, and to the real world.

Integration purposefully draws together key skills, knowledge, and attitudes across subject areas into meaningful chunks of learning.

Through integration, teachers can develop powerful, relevant, and meaningful learning opportunities for all students.

What is integrated curriculum?

An integrated curriculum develops skills and understandings that overlap across subjects. It enables students to see and experience

connections amongst subjects and can connect real-world and relevant learning opportunities to the classroom. Integration supports and better reflects how students typically process information and can foster deeper learning experiences.

An integrated curriculum focuses on making connections and purposefully draws together key skills, knowledge, and attitudes across subject areas. That purpose supports the development of powerful, relevant, and meaningful learning opportunities for all students.

What can integration look like in Language Arts?

During integrated language arts time teachers will explicitly instruct students in language arts outcomes. Teachers will continue to use effective instructional strategies such as reading and writing workshops. Other subject area outcomes (Health, ICT, Science, Social Studies, and Visual Arts) will be integrated into the learning opportunities planned for and provided to students.

What can integration look like in Mathematics?

During integrated mathematics time teachers will explicitly instruct students in mathematics outcomes. Teachers will continue to use effective strategies such as direct and guided instruction and discovery lessons. Other subject area outcomes (Health, ICT, Science, Social Studies, and Visual Arts) will be integrated into

the learning opportunities planned for and provided to students.

Provincial Homework Policy (Grades P–12):

The Provincial Homework Policy has come about from Nova Scotia's Action Plan on Education: 2015. More than 19 000 people responded to the survey and this policy was developed as a result.

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.

For Further Information

Parents/guardians wishing to review the relevant provincial curriculum guides may download and view them from our school website by going to the Links tab on the left hand side of the web page. Copies are also available at the school for viewing. The Halifax Regional School Board policy on Student Assessment and Evaluation can be accessed by visiting the Board's website: www.hrsb.ns.ca.

The purpose of homework will vary by grade and subject:

- Homework assigned in grades primary–6 will:
 - enhance student learning of foundational skills in reading and math (e.g., reading for pleasure, educational games)

– gradually introduce time to practice or apply learning in other subject areas

– promote healthy growth and development (e.g., practicing physical skills, interviewing family members)

Homework can be a wonderful opportunity to talk to your child about what’s happening at school, and to see what your child can do on his or her own. Homework can help children to review and practice what they have learned in class. It can also develop self-confidence and allow the child to be an independent learner.

Making time for homework can be a challenge. Your child needs time for family and community activities, physical activities, hobbies and unstructured play. Homework should be organized to meet the needs of individual students and families. If some nights are not good because of other commitments, then it is important to plan for a block of time on other nights or the weekend.

Parents can help with homework by:

- Finding out class and school expectations
- create a time and space to do homework
- provide supplies
- show interest
- provide positive feedback
- contact the teacher with concern

Parental/Guardian Concerns

Throughout the year there may be questions and concerns that arise pertinent to your child’s progress. If you have a concern, you are encouraged to address the teacher first. A meeting can be arranged with the teacher where the administration may or may not be present. If a follow-up meeting is arranged with the administration, resolution of the matter raised will involve the teacher, even if the teacher is not present at all meetings. The goal is to resolve the issues in a climate of mutual respect while maintaining the dignity of all concerned and keeping in mind the best interests of the child.

If the standard forms of communication of parents prove to be inappropriate (eg. English as an Additional Language – EAL – parents), alternate methods of communication will be pursued to ensure that all parents have a clear understanding of their child’s progress.

Review of School Plan

The School Plan for Communicating Student Learning will be reviewed and amended as needed by the principal after consulting with staff and the School Advisory Council. This review will take place in conjunction with the annual updating of the School Improvement Plan

Allergies And Alerts

Peanuts: For the past several years, our school community has made great efforts to become a peanut sensitive school. We have several students who have severe, life-threatening allergies to peanuts and peanut by-products.

We are asking for your continued support and cooperation as we do our best to ensure the safety of all students attending Ocean View.

Scents: We are a scent aware school. With the growing awareness of events that cause disturbances in learning, there are students, teachers, and parents at Ocean View Elementary that have allergies to perfumes and products that range from mild to strong scents. If you plan to visit the school, please be aware of these individuals and refrain from wearing scented perfumes. Thank you.

Visitors: For the safety of all our children, it is essential that *every visitor* sign in at the office and wear a visitor ID, even if you are at the school on a regular basis and even if staff know you. In our continuous effort to maintain an inviting but safe and secure school, we must know who is in the building at all times and the purpose of their visits. All doors are locked after the 8:30 bell except the main office door which is locked after 8:45. We ask that *all visitors* comply with these requests.

TALLAHASSEE SCHOOL CALENDAR 2017-2018

August 30	Late Registration
September 4	Labour Day – no classes
September 5	Organizational Day – no classes
September 6	PD Day –no classes
September 7	First Day of School for Students
September 14	Stand Up Against Bullying Day
September 29	PD Day P-12 – no classes
October 9	Thanksgiving Day – no classes
October 10 & 11	Photo Day
October 19	Bus Evacuation Drills
October 27	NSTU Provincial Conference – no classes
November 13	Remembrance Day observed – no classes
November 18	PTO Fall Fair
November 22	Assessment and Evaluation Day – no classes
November 30	Report Cards go home
December 7	No classes- AM (PD) and PM (Parent-Teacher) Evening Parent Teacher Visits
December 18&19	Holiday Concerts (Class Night TBD)
December 21	Last Day of Classes- Christmas Break
January 3	Back to School
February 1-28	Registration Month for 2018-19 school year
February 19	Mona Louise Parsons Heritage Day (no classes)
March 9	Assessment and Evaluation Day – no classes
March 12 - 16	March Break
March 20	Back to School
March 27	Term 3 begins
March 30	Good Friday – no classes
April 2	Easter Monday – no classes
April 5	Reports Cards Home
April 18	Parent Teacher visits evening
April 19	AM - PD Day - P-12 – no classes PM - Parent - Teacher Interviews - P-12 – no classes
May 18	PD Day P-12 – no classes
May 21	Victoria Day – no classes
June 28	Assessment and Evaluation Day – no classes
June 29	Last Day of School – Report Cards go home