

September 2021-2022 Newsletter



Message from the School

Welcome back John Black students and families! We have had a wonderful week reconnecting with our students and are excited to start a new year with this strong, vibrant and caring school community.

Our community did a great job with all the changes and protocols last year in order to keep our school safe and we expect we'll be able to do the same this year. Big thanks to our students, staff and families for such a great first week of school. For more information about changes to this school year please visit this link to the board website: [2021-2022 School Operations: Student and Family Guide](#)

As we strive to keep our families up to date with important information, please ensure that you check the school website <https://www.ugdsb.ca/jblack/> for the most up to date information. Additionally, email and phone communication through School Messenger will be shared as needed. At John Black PS, we believe that all students are capable of achieving success, especially if they have support from both home and school. We look forward to your participation in your child's education. If you have any questions or concerns at any time throughout the school year, please feel free to call the school. We welcome and encourage communication between home and school, and look forward to maintaining a strong community partnership throughout the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schoettler

Principal

Calendar - [Elementary School Year Calendar 2021-2022](#)



School Hours and Bell Times:

BALANCED SCHOOL DAY

Time	Event
8:50 am - 9:40 am	Period 1
9:40 am - 10:30 am	Period 2
10:30 am - 10:50	<i>BREAK -see duty/recess schedule</i>
10:50am - 11:15 am	<i>BREAK</i>
11:15 am - 12:05 pm	Period 3
12:05 pm - 12:55 pm	Period 4
12:55 pm - 1:15pm	<i>BREAK - see duty/recess schedule</i>
1:15 pm - 1:40pm	<i>BREAK</i>
1:40 pm - 2:30pm	Period 5
2:30 pm - 3:20 pm	Period 6

Forms

Student Verification forms were sent home this week. Please sign and return all forms by **September 14th**.

Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions

UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit:

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy/policy-518-students-with-life-threatening-medical-conditions/> and contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

School Council



School Council would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our returning families as well as send a warm welcome to all our new families. The first 2021/22 School Council Online meeting will be held on **Monday September 20th from 6:30pm-7:30pm**. We will post the link on the John Black website as well as on the John Black School Council Facebook page.

We welcome all members of the school community, new and returning, to come and see what council is about. The night will consist of a Meet and Greet, elections and planning for the upcoming year. We hope to recruit a few new members this year. You can give whatever time you have available and there is never any pressure to sign up for anything.

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else for a position on the School Council Executive Committee, please follow the link below to complete the online nomination form prior to the first meeting: <https://forms.gle/piJ1FsE6b6YXcthk7>

Look for upcoming information regarding our Fall Fundraiser!! School Council fundraising is how we help support our kids and our school. Last year School Council was able to purchase new snowshoe sets for outdoor education, new floor hockey equipment for gym classes as well as 6 new chromebooks for the learning commons!

We look forward to a fun filled year and if you have any questions for School Council you can email us at SC.JohnBlack@ugdsb.on.ca

Late Arrival:

Students who arrive after 8:50 am will be met by our greeter at the side door and check in at the office. Parents are not to come into the building. If there is any communication that needs to come to the office, please call 519-843-2665. Parents please remind your child to check into the office before going to the classroom.

BYOD – Bring your own device

Parents/students please make a cooperative decision about their child bringing technology to school. Laptops, tablets and hand-held devices are allowed within classrooms, for educational use only. They are not to be used without teacher permission. These electronic devices are not allowed in areas that are not directly supervised, such as the hallway, school yard, washrooms and the lunchroom. Please review the school Code of Conduct, Use of Technology section for more information. The school is not responsible for damages that might occur to devices.

Notifying the School of a Student Absence – Safe Arrival

The rules of the Safe Arrival program state that the school must know why a student is not present on any particular day. This means that school office staff will continue to try to contact parents until one is reached; we sometimes make four or five calls for one child. This takes an inordinate amount of time and often stretches the office staffs' ability to carry out other duties. Please assist us in speeding this process up and calling when you know if your child(ren) is/are going to be late or absent. Messages can be left by phoning the school (519 843-2665) and choosing extension 100. Please send any notes or information about absences to the office as well as the teacher.

Home Safe

After being dismissed from class, either at lunch or at the end of the day, students are requested to go directly home or to a caregiver before proceeding to other activities.

This includes playing after school on the playground. Please reinforce this message with your child.

Bus Behaviour

Students are expected to follow the rules of the bus, listen to the driver, remain in their seats, refrain from eating or drinking anything while on the bus, and follow the directions of the bus patrols when entering or exiting the bus.

Bus Reminder

Bus transportation is provided to students based on the distance their home is from the school. Such students are placed on a regularly scheduled bus route and must travel on this route and no other. Bus students may not switch buses for any reason. In addition, students who walk to school may not travel on a regularly scheduled bus route.

Food & Friends Snack Program

The school snack program will run a little differently this school year. Each class will be provided with a bin of prepackaged foods to put in their classrooms. The teacher or lunch supervisor will hand out the food to students who need a little extra food to get through the day. Once the bin is depleted of food the bucket will be returned to the office to be replenished. Examples of food provided is applesauce, fruit cups, fruit nutrition bars, etc. For students who do not have a lunch, bagels and cream cheese, cheese strings and frozen yogurt etc. will be accessible at the office.

Reminder for parents/guardians: Accidents happen – be prepared with Student Accident Insurance

Reminder for parents/guardians: Student Accident Insurance Parents and guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial health care or employer group insurance plans. The Upper Grand

District School board is empowered under The Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students. A Director's letter will be sent home with students containing information with respect to two Programs available for the purchase of Student Accident Insurance. The Insuremykids Program is offered through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada and the Studyinsured Program is underwritten by Certain Lloyds's Underwriters through AON Insurance. Each program offers a variety of options, including family rates at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by the parent or guardian. Paper copies of the application are no longer available.

Purchase is done directly online or by contacting the provider: www.insuremykids.com or call toll free 1-800-463-5437

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or call toll free 1-833-560-0527.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.

Video Surveillance Cameras

As an added security measure, please note that video surveillance cameras have been installed in several areas in our school. These areas are clearly marked with signage and video cameras are not being used in areas where students, staff and authorized visitors have a high expectation of privacy including change rooms, washrooms and staff rooms. Information obtained through video surveillance provides us with an additional way to enhance the protection of students, staff, the public and property. Should you have any questions please refer to the Upper Grand School Board's Video Surveillance Policy #203.

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