

Dear Parents,

Well, we start on Wednesday! How exciting is this!

I wanted to send another email to keep you informed. Everything is coming together so well. You might not recognize the space, as it is starting to look like a real high school now!

There are *very important* items, so I encourage you to read through this. Did you register for orientation on Monday or Tuesday night? There are still a number of open spots under “Appointments G” or “H”. If it is full, simply try another appointment name or email ebaxter@auroraschool.ca for help. We will have a photo area if you want to take your “first day of school” photo then!

I’ve included some of the school rules for cell phones and not leaving campus, as well as some of the results from the June parent surveys for why we made these decisions. It was amazing to be able to build the school with parent and student feedback in mind. Thank you so much for taking the time to fill out those surveys and let me know your thoughts! I truly believe in our Aurora Family working together!

Don’t forget: first day of school this Wednesday, August 24 at 8:40 a.m.!

Can’t wait to see you all!

Items for this newsletter:

1. **School Phone: 780-540-9400; ebaxter@auroraschool.ca**
2. Cell Phones
3. Leaving Campus
4. Bussing Information
5. Daily Timetable

Reminders from last newsletter:

6. Orientation: Aug 22 or 23 by appointment
7. Meet the Teacher BBQ: September 1, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
8. Traffic Reminder and Building Map
9. Bussing Information
10. School Secretary Contact Information
11. Uniform Reminder
12. School Supplies Reminder

New Items:

1. School Contact Information:

- a. Our High School phone number is 780-540-9400
- b. You can email the High School Secretary at ebaxter@auroraschool.ca
- c. Doors are open for students from 7:45 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. to wait quietly inside. Students who are disruptive will have the privilege taken away.
- d. School starts at 8:40 a.m. and finishes at 3:01 p.m.

2. Cell Phones: we will try allowing students to use their phones at lunch and before/after school. Wireless earbuds (airPod style) are not allowed to be used in the building because of security concerns. Students may be allowed to use wired headphones to listen to music on their class chromebook, depending on the work in classrooms. Our surveys were evenly split between allowing and not allowing cell phones, so we will try it (students were strongly in favour, of course!)

- a. Cell phones are not allowed to be used or seen in class and will be confiscated until the end of the day.
- b. If this is disruptive, we may limit the privilege individually or change the rules. Our focus is on student learning.
- c. Students will need to abide by the technology guidelines for responsible use in the student handbook.
- d. As a reminder, cyber-bullying and sending pictures of students without their permission is an extremely serious issue. Students will be suspended, even if the behaviour happens outside school hours. Police may also lay criminal charges against youth or fine parents. We would *never* want that to happen or for someone to be harmed!
 - i. Please speak to your child about the importance of being kind online and not sending pictures of others or intimate images of themselves.
 - ii. We will be having many conversations with them as well to help to keep them safe.

3. No Leaving Campus:

- a. Until we can get a better feeling for the area, students will not leave the building during the day, unless a teacher takes their class for a walk.
- b. At this time, students will stay inside to eat lunch. We have created such a cozy space in our Student Den! Mme. Bachand even got us proper cafeteria tables!
 - i. We made this decision after reading the surveys, where we had 23% of parents say students should not be allowed to eat outside. The rest of the parents were split among the number of students it would be safe to take outside to eat.

- ii. We will take some more time with this issue and see what safety measures and controls we can make. Let's just start the school year safely first!
- 4. **Bussing:** NEW - transfer bus available between Elementary/Middle and the High School. Contact lweidel@auroraschool.ca to sign up
 - a. Do you drop off at the K-8 campus and want your high school student to ride the transfer bus to the High School? You can sign up for the transfer bus for \$437.50 for the year.
 - b. Your high school student **MUST** be on the transfer bus at the Elementary school by 8:20 a.m. We will not wait.
 - c. Transfer buses come back to the Elementary at 3:20 p.m.
- 5. **Timetable:** please see the attached bell schedule.
 - a. Again, we listened to feedback as well as the bussing considerations to make our timetable. 85% of parents and 74% of students wanted a shorter day with breaks that were 2-5 minutes long. 65% of parents and 45% of students were in favour of a 30 minute lunch.

Reminders from last newsletter:

- 6. **Orientation:** We know the first day of school (especially in a new building) can be a bit hard to navigate, so we would like to invite you to an orientation on August 22 or 23 in the evening.
 - a. Students and parents will have the chance to find their homeroom, organize their locker, drop off supplies, and take a quick look around. (This is not Meet the Teacher)
 - b. **You must book an appointment if you are attending.** Appointments are 25 minutes and are available from 4-6:30 p.m. Please click here for an appointment: <http://www.schoolinterviews.ca/code/fgmbt>
 - c. Everyone will go home with a map of the building (also attached) and their class schedule. It is not mandatory, but we hope it will make your first day of school a little easier. It will still be a bit messy, because we're still getting ready, but we thought this would be a good way to make you feel more at home.
- 7. **Meet the Teacher: September 1 - 5:30-6:30 p.m.**
 - a. Mark your calendar for Meet the Teacher night! We will be hosting a bbq with food for purchase as well as the chance to talk to teachers. It is drop-in, so you do not have to stay the whole time.

- i. Watch for your RSVP so you can order a hamburger or veggie burger with a juice for \$6.
 - ii. All family members are welcome if you would like to bring younger siblings, but no babysitting is available.
- 8. **Traffic:** As a reminder, traffic in the parking lot is one-way. Please enter from 123 avenue and exit on 149 St.
 - a. Map of Building (attached) - has teachers and the traffic flow

9. Calendar and Timetable reminder:

- a. The Calendar is attached. High school runs from 8:40 a.m. - 3:01 p.m.
- b. School doors are open for students from 7:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for your convenience, so long as students wait quietly.

10. Uniform reminder (July Newsletter):

- a. All students and staff will be able to wear jeans on Fridays (no rips). Clothing must cover the same body parts as the regular uniform, with no inappropriate words or symbols.
- b. Grade 9 students will be in their normal Middle School uniform Monday through Thursday
- c. Grade 10 students will have a dress code until their uniform is available from TopMarks in January. They may choose to wear their grade 9 uniform from last year if you would like.
 - i. Navy dress slacks (any supplier). No leggings or joggers.
 - ii. Dress Mondays: White dress shirt with a white undershirt. Please ensure it is not see-through.
 - iii. Tuesday - Thursdays: White dress shirt or white polo shirt
 - iv. Navy sweater if desired (Middle School sweater is fine or any supplier. Sweatshirts allowed on Fridays).

11. School Supplies reminder (July newsletter):

- a. Grade 10 students must have either the TI83 or TI84 graphing calculator for math.
- b. All other school supplies are the same as the grade 9 list (attached)
- c. Students were given their locks on the last day of school. They will need to bring their lock and combination to orientation on August 22 or 23, or we will provide a new one for \$10.
- d. Students who need special supplies for their options class (for example, pastels for art) will be contacted as soon as class lists for options are available.