

Family Handbook



Nelson Whynder Elementary School 2022-2023

STUDENT CREED

By Chike Akua



**I am a student seeking to be a scholar.
The standard is excellence today and
tomorrow.
I am disciplined, focused, and on-time.
I am organized, respectful, and responsible.
I am on a mission to elevate myself, my family,
my community, and Humanity.**

www.MyTeacherTransformation.com

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www.AfricanOriginsOnTour.com



The words of the Student Creed constitute the deconstruction of negative values and the reconstruction of positive, life affirming values. (Chike AKua)
Students at Nelson Whynder repeat the Student Creed each morning during the morning announcements.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear students and families:

Welcome back to another year at Nelson Whynder Elementary! It is Truly great to be back in our building with full opening after two years of pandemic restrictions. We are so excited that you are a part of our school community.

All of our staff are looking forward to working with our students to ensure a productive year of excitement in learning. It is our goal to help our students continue to develop into good citizens of Nelson Whynder.

To be good citizens, students will continue to:

- Actively engage in the academics of the classroom so they are always reaching for excellence.
- Be grounded in their own history and culture while acknowledging the history and culture of others.
- Walk with dignity showing respect for self, others and the environment.

We will continue to follow the revised EECD Provincial Back to School Plan and guidelines set forth by Public Health and update as necessary. The current plan can be viewed at this link, <https://backtoschool.ednet.ns.ca/home>

We are excited to have Ms. Desmond return as our Vice-Principal. As well, all of our classroom, Art, PE, LC and intervention teachers are returning. Ms. Downey will be supporting student success in Resource. We welcome new staff to our building for Core French, Music, Band, School Counselor and an additional EPA. We are looking forward to a powerful year of academic support.

Last spring we had a very successful Parent/Guardian Well-being day. Now that restrictions continue to be lifted we hope to host additional parent engagement events in supporting your child with literacy, mathematics and Africentric approaches to education. Keep your eyes posted to our monthly newsletters for more information and dates.

Again we look forward to collaborating with you as we journey together on a new year of teaching and learning in support of your child's academic growth and well-being.

Sincerely,

Ms. Anne Johnson-McDonald, Principal , Ms. April Desmond, Vice-Principal

NWES School Calendar 2022-2023

<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER 2022</p> <p>1 Organization Day P-12</p> <p>2 & 6 PD Day P-12</p> <p>5 Labour Day</p> <p>7 First day of school for students</p> <p>8 Stand Up Against Bullying Day</p> <p>22 Terry Fox walk/run</p> <p>29 Recognize Orange Shirt Day</p> <p>29 Curriculum Night</p> <p>30 Truth & Reconciliation Day (no school) Orange Shirt Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER 2022</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mi'kmaq History Month</p> <p>3 Spirit Week Begins</p> <p>10 Thanksgiving (No classes)</p> <p>26 Picture Day</p> <p>28 Provincial Conf Day (No Classes)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER 2022</p> <p>11 Remembrance Day Observed (No classes)</p> <p>21 Assessment and Evaluation Day (no classes)</p> <p>30 Report Cards home</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER 2022</p> <p>1 AM PD Day-PM Parent Teacher (no classes)</p> <p>2 PD Day (no classes)</p> <p>8 Christmas Concert</p> <p>15 Concert snow date</p> <p>TBA Turkey Dinner</p> <p>20 KWANZAA Activity Stations</p> <p>21 Christmas break P-12</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">JANUARY 2023</p> <p>3 School Re-Opens</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FEBRUARY 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">African Heritage Month</p> <p>1 Registration Month Begins</p> <p>20 Heritage Day (No classes)</p> <p>21 Pancake Day</p> <p>23 Pink Shirt Day</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MARCH 2023</p> <p>6 Spirit week begins</p> <p>13-17 March Break (No classes)</p> <p>20 Assessment and Evaluation Day (No classes)</p> <p>29 Report Cards home</p> <p>30 PD Day (AM) - Parent/Teacher (PM)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APRIL 2023</p> <p>7 Good Friday (No classes)</p> <p>10 Easter Monday (No classes)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MAY 2023</p> <p>22 Victoria Day (no classes)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">JUNE 2023</p> <p>28 Grade 6 Closing Event</p> <p>29 Assessment & Evaluation P-12 (no classes)</p> <p>30 Last Day of School/Report Cards home</p>

Entrance and Dismissal

- Classes will enter and exit at designated doors (see below).
- We are requesting that parents drop their children off at their designated doors between 8:10am and 8:20am. Parents will meet students at the crosswalk at the 2:30 Dismissal. Please avoid gathering at the front steps area to reduce congestion and confusion as primary & pre-primary are dismissed. Older siblings (gr. 1 – 6) will be asked to wait at the side-walk area as well when picking up younger students.
- The Community Centre Afterschool program staff meet the students by the Fire Hall.
- Parents/guardians are asked to call ahead when picking up a child early for an appointment. Students will be dismissed from the front door.
- For the safety of students, the entrance to the parking lot will be blocked off from 8:05 – 8:30am and 2:20 – 2:30pm. Only staff will be allowed to enter the parking lot during these times.
- Day Care Van and Special Needs Bus will also drop off and pick up students at the front door.

Designated Entrances

Pre-Primary	Main Door (by Office) *ramp
Primary/1	Main Door (by Office) *sign
Grade 2	Front on the Left Doors by Resource Room
Grade 3	Side Doors by Gym/Small Playground
Grade 4/5	Back Doors by Big Playground
Grade 6	Back Doors by Big Playground

Visitors

- Parents and Visitors are welcome in the building but are asked to check in at the office. We are limiting access to the classrooms to ensure reducing interruptions during instructional time and to maintain health and safety measures.
- Hand sanitizing is recommended but not mandatory.

Hand Sanitizer/Washing hands

- Everyone including students are encouraged to sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting a threshold (building, classroom, bathroom etc.).
- Hand sanitizer will be located at designated entrance doors and outside of each classroom.
- Everyone is encouraged to practice good and frequent handwashing techniques throughout the day.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION/BUSSING

- Bussing is available for students from Pre-Primary to 6 who live further than 1.6 Km from the school. If your child is eligible for the bus you should have received an email the first week in September.
- **Students living closer than this distance can request courtesy bussing.**
- Parents/Guardians can request courtesy bussing by completing the application online by [clicking here](#) or by contacting Connect@HRCE at 902-431-4723 or transportation@hrce.ca and request Courtesy bussing for Nelson Whynder. . HRCE requires that all students riding the bus be registered for reasons of safety and contact tracing.

ATTENDANCE

Research has proven that students who attend school on a daily basis, arrive prepared, and on time for classes, are much more successful in school. The staff of Nelson Whynder Elementary School monitors daily attendance very closely and look forward to communicating with parents in order to help students maintain a positive focus on their academics. The following guidelines have been established to make sure that attendance does not become an issue:

- Students arriving late for school will be greeted by someone from the office. Please phone the school secretary (Ms. James) at 462-6030 before classes begin if your son or daughter will be late, otherwise you may receive a call from the automated Safe Arrival system.
- Please phone the school secretary at 462-6030 or use the Safe Arrival School Messenger (see below) before classes begin if your son or daughter is ill or has another legitimate reason for being absent, otherwise you may receive an automated call from the system.
- Please ensure the school has up to date contact information.
- Parents are asked to contact the Office if they need to pick up students during the day for an appointment. Students will meet parents/guardians in the front door.

SAFE ARRIVAL BY SCHOOLMESSENGER

A New Way for Families to Report Student Absences

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring all students arrive to school safely each day. Parents/guardians of students who attend our school now have the option to report their child's absence in advance using a toll-free number, the PowerSchool Parent Portal or an app!

SchoolMessenger /SafeArrival – an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for families to inform their child's school if they will be away – powers all three of these options.

If your child will be absent, please let us know by using one of the following methods:

- **Toll-Free Number** - Call 1-833-582-6940 to report an absence using an automated system.

- **PowerSchool Parent Portal** - Log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> and access the SchoolMessenger website to report an absence.
- **SchoolMessenger App** - Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address).

For more information about reporting your child's absence and a list of frequently asked questions, visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/safearrival>

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The teachers at Nelson Whynder Elementary School focus on supporting student achievement. Therefore, teaching and learning opportunities are varied so that students can demonstrate their learning using their various talents, strengths, and gifts. We expect to set our students up for excellence. Staff will continue to engage in professional learning opportunities so they are equipped to increase student learning and support well-being in keeping with curriculum expectations and teaching standards with an Africentric, Anti-racist approach to education. Our Student Success Plan (SSP) goals are as follows:

- Literacy - Foster student independence, competence and confidence in all components of literacy learning
- Mathematics - To improve student achievement in applying partitioning and representing to operations
- Well-being - We will improve student well - being at our school.

For each goal we have specific high leverage strategies in keeping with the Nova Scotia Teaching Standards, Inclusive Education Policy and best practices. We are committed to cultural responsiveness and Africentric approaches to education. This plan will be updated throughout the school year as necessary.

At Nelson Whynder Elementary, there are many ways to assess student learning. By using a variety of assessment strategies, we are able to meet the wide range of student needs in our school. It should be noted that technology is a valued teaching tool at our school. Teachers will continue to work diligently to familiarize students with google classroom making it a part of their regular programming. Our educational programs and assessment practices follow the curriculum as outlined by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for subject and grade. Teachers will provide details during parent engagement events such as curriculum Night.

Nelson Whynder is committed to supporting all students. Through a team approach, parents/guardians, school staff and students work together to ensure strategies and supports are in keeping with student strengths, challenges and interests. Parents/guardians can initiate dialogue regarding student progress and programming at any time by contacting the classroom teacher or Administration.

HOMEWORK

Homework is important to student success in our school. It helps students review and practice what they have learned and help to develop independent learning. Homework for example can look like reading a just right book, journaling and writing about their experiences, and practicing math facts through games. The provincial homework policy can be found at the following link:
<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/homeworkpolicy.pdf>.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Home School Communication is very important. Teachers will communicate in a variety of ways including classroom newsletters, phone calls and emails. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact teachers to discuss their child's progress and school experiences. Parents should feel free to contact their student's teacher via e-mail or through the school phone. Please note teachers have up to two teaching days to return or respond to parent phone calls and/or emails.

Curriculum Night, Parent/Teacher interviews and Parent engagement events are a good way for home and school to connect and keep up to date with curriculum and student progress. We are excited that we can again meet with parents in person. Please see the schedule on pages 3 & 4 for dates.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Healthy foods are important during school age years for growth and learning. For this reason, Nelson Whynder Elementary has a **Breakfast Program** which will provide a variety of individually packed healthy foods. Breakfast is delivered to the classrooms and is available to students from 8:20 -8:30 am. Breakfast program will begin Sept 12th.

LUNCH

- Lunch times run from 11:30 – 12:20 for all classes.
- Students must bring their own lunch in the morning (no drop offs please) Students must bring their own supplies (containers, spoons, forks etc.). The office will not be supplying these items for recess and lunch. **Also staff will not be heating up student lunches.**
- Pizza Day will be returning and we are also working on providing another hot lunch day for a small fee. Stay tuned for more information and order forms.

WATER FOUNTAINS

Our school water fountains have returned to use for safe drinking with two new fountains installed. The use of the fountains are for bottle filling only. For health reasons the option to drink directly from the mouth has been removed. Please ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle.

SCHOOL LIBRARY

Our school library has a great collection of books from a variety of categories. We are constantly updating our selection. We also make it a priority to purchase high interest and fun Africentric books. Students are expected to return the borrowed books by the due date so other children can enjoy the books as well. .

NUT AWARE

At Nelson Whynder Elementary School, we are a nut aware facility and recognize that some members of our school community are dangerously allergic. **Please do not send in nut products. .**

SCENT AWARE

Nelson Whynder Elementary is a scent aware facility and recognizes that scented products are a health hazard to some members of our school community. **Please avoid using scented products. .**

MEDICATIONS

Students who require taking medication at school must provide the necessary documentation required by the HRCE administration of medication policy from their parent or guardian, authorizing the use of the substance. **All medications (both prescribed and over the counter) are to be distributed by authorized school personnel after completion of appropriate forms.**

ALLERGIES/HEALTH CARE PLANS

Parents/Guardians of students with severe allergies or other health related difficulties are required to familiarize school staff at the beginning of each school year in order to ensure that the proper treatment may be administered in an emergency situation. **Please ensure the medical section is updated on the Registration form sent home in September.**

FIELD TRIPS/SPORTS EVENT/COMMUNITY OUTINGS

A permission form to allow students to access the Arnold D. Johnson Sports field and other areas of the community off school property during school hours with staff supervision will be coming home in September. Students must have permission forms signed before they can attend a field trip, sports event or community outing.

REGISTRATION AND SELF IDENTIFICATION

Each year it is necessary to update our student information files. Our students will be bringing a registration form home in September which is to be updated and returned to the school. In addition to the basic information the form also contains a section for emergency contact, emergency dismissal instructions, medical information, media release consent, and request for French Language schooling and. Also, there is a section entitled Student Self Identification; Parents/Guardians and/or students are encouraged to self-identify. By doing so, this enables the Department of Education and HRCE to have a greater awareness of the diversity of the student population and the communities served and to better access resources to meet the needs of students.

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

At Nelson Whynder Elementary, we are very proud of the success of our students within classrooms and beyond. We celebrate the success of our students in a variety of ways such as monthly positive participation awards, shout-outs during announcements and in school newsletters, positive phone calls to parents, as well as individual and class rewards.

PROVINCIAL SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Everyone has the right to a quality education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes respect, self-esteem and school spirit and is free from any form of violence, intimidation, threat, abuse or mistreatment. Students, parents, teachers, support staff, principals, and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education share responsibility for creating a school-wide approach to maintaining a positive and inclusive school climate where all students are supported and develop healthy relationships, make good choices and achieve success in their learning. The Provincial Code of Conduct can be found at:
<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/docs/provincialschoolcodeofconduct.pdf>.

POLICY FOR SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Nelson Whynder Elementary welcomes volunteers! The Halifax Regional Centre for Education has a **policy** regarding volunteers in our schools. The Board recognizes its responsibility for ensuring that all students attending our schools are protected by taking reasonable precautions to screen volunteers who may be working with students. The link can be found at: <https://www.hrce.ca/volunteer>.

BAND & VIOLIN

We are excited to have a band program for our grade 6 students. Students will have 60 minutes of band per week. During the first week of school the Band teachers will survey student interest to see which instrument they would like to play. We try as much as possible to borrow instruments from HRA or other sources. Parents can also rent instruments from Long & McQuade if they so choose.

Nelson Whynder Grade 4, 5 and 6 students will have the opportunity again this year to engage in the free Strings program (violin). To register go to <http://dacm.hrsb.ns.ca>. For more information contact Mr. Wilhelm RWilhelm@hrce.ca.

TECHNOLOGY-PERSONAL DEVICES BROUGHT FROM HOME

- There is no need for students to bring devices from home as we have an adequate supply of Chromebooks and iPads at school.
- Students are responsible for the safety and care of their devices brought from home, although bringing devices from home should be discouraged.
- Student cell phones are not to be used in school or on the playground. They must remain on mute in their school bag.
- Students are responsible for the safety and care of their devices brought from home; this is not the responsibility of the teacher or Administration.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Realizing the challenges the pandemic may have placed upon families financially, we have streamlined the school supply list (please see attached below). Any additional items will be purchased by the school with money raised through fundraising activities last year.

Grades Primary - 3 Supply List

- 1 school sized backpack (please label)
- Lunch bag (please label)
- 1 package of crayons
- 1 package of markers
- 1 package of colour pencils
- 2 packages of pencils
- 1 pair scissors

- 2 glue sticks
- 2 white erasers
- 1 pencil case
- 1 pair of headphones

Note: indoor sneakers are expected to be worn in gym class. Grade primary students should also keep a change of clothing at school.

*****Please bring all supplies with your child's name on it on the first day of school*****



Grade Four/Five/Six Supply List

- 1 school sized backpack (please label)
- Lunch bag (please label)
- 1 Binder
- 1 Package Page Dividers

- 1 package of crayons
- 1 package of markers
- 1 package of colour pencils
- 4 packages of pencils
- 1 pair scissors
- 4 white erasers
- 1 pencil case
- 1 pair of headphones
- 2 Glue Sticks

