

MARINE DRIVE ACADEMY NEWS

479 Church Point Road
P.O. Box 188 Sheet Harbour
Phone: 902-885-2777
Email: mda@hrce.ca
Website: <https://mda.hrce.ca>

Principal: Mr. A. Verge

Vice Principal: Mrs. A. Smith

V4 Issue 1 September/October 2023

Welcome back to another new school year!

Locks & Lockers: We are very pleased to offer locks and lockers to students of grades 3-4 Boutilier, 4-5 Butler, 5-6 Glawson and grades 7-12. **There is no charge for the locks or lockers.** Students who choose to take a locker must use the locks provided by Marine Drive Academy. The lockers are available on a first come first serve basis for students in grades 7-12. Students are asked to pick the locker they would like (if it is available, they will be assigned it) and to see Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Levy during non instructional time to be assigned the locker and the lock combination.

Main Office:

The Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Levy, is away from her desk from 11:00am to 12:00pm. If you call the school and leave a message during this time, please be aware, it will not be retrieved until after 12:00pm.

School Yard Safety: Vehicles are not permitted to drive up over the hill during school hours. This route is reserved for buses dropping off and picking up elementary students & emergency vehicles.

Morning Drop-Off Time: There is no supervision at the school until 8:10 therefore, students cannot be dropped off at school before the staff are available. Please do not drop students off prior to 8:10 as it poses a safety risk for your son/daughter. Please take the first driveway to your left and park in the student pick up/drop off loop.

Students Being Picked Up: Students in Gr. P-12 being picked up must be signed out at the office. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up a student, the office requires a **note or phone call** from the parent/guardian giving the individual permission to take the student. Pre-Primary students being picked up by a parent/guardian or someone other than the parent/guardian must contact the Pre-Primary teacher(s) at 902-885-2777 ext:1591221.

After School Activities

To ensure the safety and security of our elementary students, we require a **written note** signed by parent(s) or guardian(s) if a child is going to an activity after school. For example, an after-school program with Parks and Recreation requires a written note. **Notes must be written on a separate piece of paper, as they are filed at the office.**

Reporting an Absence for PP-12 Students: For your child's safety, it is very important that you contact the school if your child will be absent or late for any reason. Please call 902-885-2777 and extension 1 to report an absence. **Leave your name, the student's name (first & last), and reason for the absence (type of illness and symptoms, medical appt, etc.).** Leaving a message will avoid the school calling home. The absence line is available 24/7.

When the percentage of total students absent most likely due to illness is 10% or higher, the school will need to provide this information to Public Health, so it's important for the school to know when your child is out due to illness and the type of symptoms.

Students Arriving Late: We, at times, have students arriving late. Research shows that there is a correlation to academic success and student attendance. We are seeking parent/guardian support in having this improve. Classes begin at 8:30 AM. When students arrive late it is very disruptive to the learning in the classroom as it requires the teacher to stop instruction to record attendance, while the other students are waiting to re-engage in the lesson. We look forward to this situation improving, with your support.

If a student does arrive late due to an appointment or unforeseen circumstances, they must report to the main office to sign in.

Schoolcashonline

Our school will post items for purchase and assign school fees relevant to your child. You can make all purchases and payments from your phone, tablet or computer.

To get started, we ask all families to register for SchoolCash Online as soon as possible. It's free and takes less than two minutes. You will receive an email once items are posted for purchase.

Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com/> and click *Register* to get started.

Need support? Connect with the SchoolCash Online help desk at schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support

We hope that *SchoolCash Online* makes paying school-related fees more convenient!

Cafeteria Online Ordering

Please place your order online at <https://marinedriveacademymys-ns-hrce.nutrislice.com/m/>



If there is a snow day or 2-hour delay opening and you have placed a cafeteria order for your child, you will be issued a credit on your account. So, the next time you order it should be showing on your account. Also, if your child is out sick a day and you have placed an order you can go onto the Chartwells website at the website above and request a credit for the morning of the day your child is absent or email Tara at tara.lucas@compass-canada.com and she will put in for a credit for you.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to serving you.

Scent/Peanut/Nut Safe School

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 14

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is recognized on the second Thursday in September across Nova Scotia. Recognizing this day early in the school year allows us to set a positive tone by engaging students in activities that focus on the importance of building healthy relationships.

HRCE is committed to ensuring that every school is a safe place to learn and succeed. We put this commitment into action through our policies, procedures, staff development, and school supports. Please join us in taking a stance against bullying by wearing pink on September 14!

Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the children who never returned home and the survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led, grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and support the “Every Child Matters” movement. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

As September 30 falls on a Saturday this year, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 29. All classes will be cancelled on Monday, October 2 in recognition of this day.

Using BusPlanner

BusPlanner will provide everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations. Once you register and subscribe, you may also receive email notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations.

To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

BusPlanner Text Messaging

We are excited to introduce text messaging through BusPlanner. **To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message. You can opt-in by logging into BusPlanner Parent Portal.**

By opting in, you will receive texts from BusPlanner, **including late notifications, general notices, and bus cancellations due to inclement weather.**

To opt-in to text messages on BusPlanner Parent Portal, please follow these steps:

1. Log in to BusPlanner Parent Portal
2. Click *Parent*
3. Select *My Account*
4. Click *Mobile Numbers*
5. Check box to confirm you *want to receive text alerts*

6. Enter up to five phone numbers
7. Select *Update*

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

Water Bottles

Students are asked to bring a water bottle to fill up at the water coolers.

Bell Schedule

Elementary Periods

Junior and Senior Periods

8:30-9:00	Period 1	8:30-9:30	Period 1
9:00-9:30	Period 2	9:30-10:30	Period 2
9:30-10:00	Period 3	10:30-10:45	RECESS
10:00-10:15	Period 4	10:45-11:45	Period 3
10:00-10:15	RECESS	11:45-12:30	LUNCH
10:30-11:00	Period 5	12:30-1:30	Period 4
11:00-11:30	Period 6	1:30-2:30	Period 5
11:30-12:15	LUNCH		
12:15-12:45	Period 7		
12:45-1:15	Period 8		
1:15-1:45	Period 9		
1:45-2:15	Period 10		
2:15-2:30	Flexible Meeting Time		

Non-Teaching Substitutes

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education maintains substitute lists for non-teaching positions to provide short term coverage to schools when permanent staff are away. Substitutes are placed in day-to-day assignments on an as needed basis.

Do you or someone you know have experience as an administrative assistant/secretary and would like to have your name added to the substitute list. Please call Mrs. Levy for more information.

Volunteering

To volunteer in HRCE schools you must have a specific purpose to be in the school or on the property, as identified by a teacher or administrator. Anyone interested in volunteering at MDA must meet with the current administration. In accordance with HRCE's Student Protection Policy, prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Center for Education, all volunteers will provide: A completed Child Abuse Register Search which can be found at: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/coms/families/abuse/ChildAbuseRegister.html> and a certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check available from your local RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies, **including a Vulnerable Sector Search**. (issued within 6 months of start date).

Cell Phone Support Request: Technology in the form of cell phones in the classrooms can be somewhat of a double edge sword – accessible to information to support learning in the classroom but also accessible to parent(s)/guardian(s) who wish to text their child. Texting your child during class/learning time leads to disruption and distraction. We ask our students to refrain from using their cell phones during instructional time, therefore, we are asking parent(s)/guardian(s) to respect the learning/instructional time of your child, and to refrain from texting your child during this time. If you need to communicate a message via text, we ask that this be done during your child's respective break times. As previously communicated, in the case of an emergency, please contact the main office at 902-885-2777 extension 0.

Thank you, in advance, for helping us to keep students focused on learning.

School Accident Insurance Program

Student Accident Insurance

Basic Plan covers ALL public-school students at NO charge

Expanded Gold Plan covers for only \$14.95/Year

Covered summary and Gold Plan details at sip.ca

Register your kids in the Gold Plan at sip.ca




Not for Profit

Head Lice Prevention Information: The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD), has committed to following the recommendations of health care professionals and supporting school communities in the treatment and prevention of head lice.

The department's focus on the treatment and prevention of head lice is an effort to support student attendance and full participation at school. In accordance with these principles and healthcare standards, students with head lice should be treated at home and continue to attend school as usual. The confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and best interests of students and their families will be respected at all times.

“No-nit” or “no head lice” policies that keep children away from school are not effective. Head lice are common among students: they do not spread disease and cases of head lice are often misdiagnosed.

Additional information on how to prevent, find, and treat head lice is available at <https://www.nshealth.ca/sites/nshealth.ca/files/patientinformation/07135.pdf>

Important School Dates		
September	October	November
		
Sept 7 th – First Day of School for Students	Oct 2 - Truth & Reconciliation Day – NO CLASSES	Nov 7 – SAC Meeting at 6:30
Sept 14 – Stand Up Against Bullying – Wear PINK	Oct 4 – Gr. 7 Immunization Day Grad Photos	Nov 13 – Remembrance Day observed – NO CLASSES
Sept 19 – PP-11 Picture Day	Oct 5 – Gr. 12 Information Meeting at 6:30	Nov 17 – Assessment & evaluation Day for PP-12 – NO CLASSES (this is a change for our Sr. high students)
Sept 21 – 5:00pm: Community Welcome and School Clothing store. Curriculum Night at 6pm	Oct 9 – Thanksgiving Day – NO CLASSES	AM – Prof. Learning PM – Parent-Teacher 12:30-2:30 & 6:00-8:00 for PP- 12 – NO CLASSES
Sept 26 – PTA Meeting at 6pm	Oct 10 – SAC Meeting at 6:30	Nov 28 – PTA Meeting at 6:30
Sept 29 – Truth & Reconciliation – Wear Orange	Oct 19 – School Dance	

Events Calendar: You can find our upcoming events on our website at: <https://mda.hrce.ca>