



UNIACKE DISTRICT SCHOOL

Joy King, Principal

Chris Horne, Vice Principal

Admin Assistants:

Ashley Steele & Jennifer Connors

551 Highway 1
Mount Uniacke, Nova Scotia
B0N 1Z0

Phone: 902-866-5100

Fax: 902-866-5105

Website: [//uniacke.ednet.ns.ca](http://uniacke.ednet.ns.ca)

Twitter: @SchoolUniacke

Welcome to Uniacke District School

2023-2024

We are proud of our school, our students and staff, as well as our programs, facilities and resources, and we want to share our excellence with you.

We educate 500+ students in Grade Pre-Primary to Grade 9. Uniacke District School includes 19 regular homeroom classrooms, Intensive French in Grade 6, Learning Centers for Program Support, Reading Recovery and Intensive Math Support, Counselling Services, SchoolsPlus, Family Studies and Technology Education classes, Music and Computer rooms, a Band program, a Gymnasium, Auditorium, Library, Cafeteria, and Main Office.

We are pleased to take this opportunity to welcome new and returning students to our school. We are committed to providing the best education possible to all learners and we want Uniacke District to be a great place for all students.

We look forward to working together with students, parents/guardians, and staff in a spirit of cooperation to make the school year a great one for everyone.

Uniacke District School Bell Schedule

7:40	First Bus Arrival & Doors Open for Students
8:00	First Bell - Classroom Registration
	Announcements / O Canada
8:05	Classroom Instruction Begins
10:15-10:30	Elementary Recess (P-6)
10:30- 10:40	Junior High Recess (7-9)
11:40-12:20	Elementary Lunch (4-6)
12:20-1:00	Elementary Lunch (P-3) Junior High Lunch (7-9)
2:00	End of Day / Bus Dismissal

- All visitors are asked to buzz the main office. Visitors inside the building by appointment only.
- Teachers are not available to speak with parents during instructional times.
- Please try to avoid phone calls to the office between 1:30pm and 2 p.m. this is a busy time as we prepare for dismissal.
- Students arriving after 8:00 must sign-in at the office and carry a late slip to class.
- Students must also sign-out at the office if permitted to leave school early. Permission to leave early must be obtained via email/note to the classroom teacher.
- Student pick up and walking students will be dismissed from the main gym at 2:05 following the first bus dismissal.

2023 - 2024 Year at a Glance

September 1 - Welcome Back Emails sent to families

September 6 - 1st day for students

September 22 - Inservice - No school

September 30 (Observed on Monday October 2)- Truth and Reconciliation Day- no school for staff/students

October 6 - School Picture Day

October 9- Thanksgiving Holiday

October 27 - Inservice - No School

November 8 - Picture Retake Day

November 10 - Inservice - No School

November 13 - Remembrance Day

November 20-23 - Report cards go home

Nov. 23 - Parent Teacher 5:00-7:00pm

Nov. 24 - Parent Teacher 9:00-11:00am

No school for students Nov. 24

December 20 - Last day of classes

January 2- Inservice-no school for students

January 3 - Classes resume

February 19 - Heritage Day -No school

March 8- Inservice- no school for students

March 11 to 15- March Break

March 25-28 - Report cards go home

March 27 - Parent Teacher 5:00-7:00pm

March 28 - Parent Teacher 9:00-11:00am

No school for students March 28

March 29 - Good Friday

April 1 - Easter Monday

May 15- Black Excellence Day

May 20 - Victoria Day - No school

June 26 - Last day of classes

June 27 - Marking/Admin Day

June 28 - Last day of school for students (1 hour)

Uniacke District School Teaching Staff 2023 -2024

Primary: Nicole Sanson & Emily Greenough

Primary/one: Darren Webb

Grade 1: Jenn MacMaster-Steele

Grade 1/2: Jennifer Bell

Grade 2: Mary-Lynn Brinson, Dawn McCarthy

Grade 3: Michael MacDonald & Tracy Butts

Grade 4: Rebecca Sharkey & Haley Davis

Grade 5: Craig Daniels

Grade 5/6: Amanda Lindsay

Grade 6: Sam Gilliss

Grade 7: Amanda Kincade & Haley MacNeil

Grade 8: Judy MacDonald & Brittany Garvie

Grade 9: Aaron Neaves (7-9 Tech Ed) & Kennedy Wellwood

School Counselor: Sonia D'Angelo-Vibert

P/1 PE, Grade 8 Health & Food/Child Studies: Hannah Williams

Music: Ryan Harvey

Phys. Ed: Rodney Myers

Core French 4/5 & Grade 6: Allison Hay

ELS/Reading Recovery: Jill Locke

Learning Support: Hilary Hogan

Learning Support: Erin Van-Dusen

Learning Support/LD Support/Instructional Lead: Amy Crowell

Learning Center: Michaela Isenor

Child Youth Care Practitioner (SchoolsPlus): Isabella Pownell

African Nova Scotia Support Worker: Perry Colley

Adolescent Outreach Worker: Melissa Mackereth

School Psychologist: Jon Sebesta

Speech Language Pathologist: MacKenzie Comeau

Educational Assistants: Casey Bauer, Natalie Chaisson, Yvonne Ferarri, Paula Gilby, Joanne Haley, Lora Hines, Nicole MacDonald, Tonnette MacPhee, Amber Patterson, Lisa Wills,

School Maintenance: Nancy Clarke

School Custodians: Deanna Clarke, Lavinia Hibberts, Jim Hibberts

Student Success Planning

Uniacke District School is participating in Nova Scotia Student Success Planning (SSP), a program that promotes the improvement of student achievement and school performance that is results based and data driven. The focus is on identifying our needs and implementing a plan to promote growth in our specific areas of need. Our focus in 2023-2024 is literacy, Mathematics and Wellbeing.

Parental/Guardian Concern

When/if you have questions regarding student progress (including a review of student assessment results) and /or well-being, we have established guidelines for having your questions addressed at the school level. The following is a list of recommended steps for you to follow to ensure your child's needs are met:

1. Talk to your child.
2. Contact your child's teacher.
3. Contact the school vice-principal or principal.
4. If the concern cannot be adequately addressed in steps 1 to 3, the school may arrange a meeting with the parent, teacher(s) and administration.

Restorative Approach

School is a big part of a young person's life. A restorative approach in school requires students to think about themselves and how they deal with one another, and to work on developing healthy relationships and learning how to manage conflict. Adopting a restorative approach in a school can have a positive ripple effect into the home and the community.

Students will have more opportunities to figure out how to be in appropriate relationships and to manage diversity. A restorative approach in schools offers new knowledge, methods and skills for problem solving. Children using these restorative skills latch on to them and thrive, leading to better behaviour and relationships overall.

A collection of restorative practices support a restorative approach in schools. Some examples of restorative practices are:

1. affective statements and questions (language that describes how something made someone feel – sometimes students are not aware of the impact their behaviour might have on others).
2. restorative conversations (conversations that help teachers support an open dialogue starting with questions like “Can you tell me what happened and how you became involved?” instead of “Why did you do that?”).
3. restorative meetings (staff meetings and parent/School Advisory Council meetings that are organized to encourage authentic engagement through the use of circle processes).

4. restorative conferences (formal responses to serious incidents led by a facilitator that involves all parties including support persons).
5. classroom circles (circles are structured but semi-formal opportunities for connection among students. They can include, check-in circles and check-out circles to gauge how students are feeling at the beginning and at the end of the day, circles to establish classroom norms, circles to discuss academic goals, circles to address behaviour problems or even proactive circles. They are an effective tool to build community in a classroom)

Instructional Cycle

Uniacke District School operates on an 8 day cycle. Scheduled closures throughout the school year the day moves, but on unscheduled closures such as storm days the day is skipped.

Assessment

Teachers plan, assess and evaluate student learning against Department of Education and Early Childhood Development expected learning outcomes. Expected learning outcomes are statements describing what students are to know, show and do in each subject/course.

Teachers maintain regular communication with students and parents regarding students' learning, progress and well-being. Teachers will be providing more detailed information about their assessment practices in their welcome communication. If/when you have a concern with any assessment practices at UDS please contact your child's teacher.

School Wide Supports

UDS is very fortunate to have access to many supports to ensure our students have a successful year, socially, emotionally and academically. We have a Learning Support Team, Behaviour Supports, SchoolsPlus in the form of a Child Youth Care Practitioner (CYCP), SchoolsPlus Clinicien, Adolescent Outreach Worker, school psychologist, speech language pathologist and a School Counsellor. In some cases the school will initiate conversation about accessing these resources, but please know families can reach out to the school anytime to request support.

Attendance

Attendance is important and compulsory. There is a recognized, close relationship between attendance and achievement. Regular attendance, coupled with consistent work, should be the objective of each student. The Provincial School Attendance Policy defines 'persistent absenteeism' as "any student who has missed 10% or more of school days for any reason, including unexcused or excused absences, over an academic year". Nova Scotia elementary schools have 195 days of instruction for students. A student who misses 19 days of school is deemed persistently absent. Chronic absenteeism has a negative impact on the development of social-emotional skills which are vital for students to develop the required persistence to learn. Students who miss school for four or more weeks during a school year are affected the most. Parents can improve school attendance rates by helping their children arrive at school on time every day, following school timetables, locating sources of school anxiety that may make their children want to skip school and planning ahead to minimize absences.

We appreciate parents/guardians working closely with the school to assure their child's regular and prompt attendance.

- It is important that parents/guardians telephone the school (866-5100) as soon as they know their son/daughter will be late or absent from school. If the school does not answer, please leave a detailed message including the student's full name, grade, and teacher. This phone call provides us with the excuse required for all absences.
- We must know where our students are at all times. Therefore, students are not permitted to leave school property during the day without the permission of a guardian.

- Students who arrive late in the morning or afternoon must first report to the office for a late slip.
- Students who wish to participate in school events, outside of regular school hours, must have been in attendance for that full school day.

School Cancellations

Whenever it is necessary to close school for the full day (stormy weather, etc.) the notice is broadcast over the appropriate radio stations in Truro (CKCL), Windsor (CFAB), Halifax (CHNS, CJCH, and CBC). You will hear one of the following announcements:

“All schools in the Chignecto-Central Regional Centre of Education(CCRCE) are cancelled”

or,

“All schools in Colchester East Hants” (Uniacke District is included in Colchester-East Hants)

If our school must close for any reason during the day (storm, lack of heat/water, etc.) then students are sent home as soon as reasonably convenient. Every effort will be made to notify elementary families. Parents/guardians should make arrangements in advance to prepare for such situations and inform their children. Please have a pre-arranged plan with a neighbor if you are not going to be home. It is also important to inform your children of where they are to go after arriving home at their bus stop. Checking with your neighbor before you leave home will ensure no child is “left out in the cold” should school be canceled for any reason.

School Alerts System

The school uses an ALERT system to send texts/emails to communicate important information with families. Please ensure your contact information is up to date by reviewing the registration forms sent home on the first day of school. If you have not already done so please sign up to our text messaging system to receive very important information regarding bus changes or upcoming events. This is our go-to means of communication, especially when we need to alert parents quickly. Please **text Y to 978338**.

Extra-curricular Activities

UDS recognizes the importance of developing the whole individual. The school offers opportunities for student involvement in extra-curricular activities. These extracurricular activities are a privilege and should a student present with concerns *academically or behaviorally*, privileges may be denied until the student demonstrates improvement.

Dances

When Junior High dances are held, they will be from 6:00 to 8:00 in the evening. Parents are expected to pick up their children promptly at 8:00p.m. Students wishing to leave the dance early must check with staff at the office so that arrangements can be made. Please note the following guidelines for dances:

- The school dress code and school rules, including expectations for electronic devices, are in effect for all dances.
- Students wishing to bring a guest must contact the school counselor before the dance so that the guest’s school can be contacted. Guests are expected to follow all school rules and they are the responsibility of the UDS student who invited them.
- All students, including guests, must be “in good standing” to enjoy the privilege of attending a dance.
- If a student has been In-School or Out-of-School suspended since the last dance or is not in attendance on the day of the dance, they will **not** be permitted to attend.
- Food and drinks are not permitted in the gym.

Text Books and Library Books

All textbooks are the property of the school and must be returned in good condition. Students and their families are responsible for the replacement costs of missing or damaged texts.

Technology

Students in grades 7-9 will be assigned a school laptop, unlike Chromebooks of the past these devices **cannot** travel between school and home. Students will be expected to follow all school expectations while using these devices (found in our technology guidelines document). Students in P-6 will have access to Chromebooks, but will not be transporting them between school and home.

Cellphone Guidelines/Expectations

Please see the attached document specific to cellphone use at UDS. Cellphones are NOT permitted to be used during instructional time and are expected to be locked away, they will not remain on a person. If a cellphone is out/visible during instructional time actions will be taken by school staff.

Morning Arrival

School doors open at 7:40am and all students enter the school immediately as buses arrive. Parents are reminded to drop students off near the main entrance and then exit through the bus loop when buses are finished unloading.

Thank-you for following our directions with drop-off and not exiting through the bus entrance and for parking when more time is required.

Dismissal

Dismissal time for bused students is 2:00pm, pick ups begin at 2:10pm. The end of the day can be busy with 450 students packing up and heading to buses. *We ask that parents not arrive to pick up their child prior to 2:10.*

If you require a change in your Child's transportation, (ie pickup as opposed to bus) please do so before 1:30 pm. Our office becomes very busy after that time and phone calls are not always answered.

We ask parents/guardians not to park at the library in the afternoon for pick-ups. The library is a business that requires parking for patrons only. When parents park there instead of the school lot it creates an issue for the library.

Homework

The importance of homework is that it serves as a check of students' understanding and as a review of class work. It is important that students set aside time each night for reading and practice /review of skills taught in school. Teachers will assign *purposeful and meaningful* homework throughout the year. The amount will vary by subject, age, and grade. We are not establishing 'time requirements' by grade as the type and amount of homework will fluctuate through the three terms. When homework is given, we ask that you support your child's learning by giving a best effort to complete assigned work.

Junior High Electives

Junior high students will be taking Music, Tech Ed and Family Studies as an elective participating twice a cycle (90 min classes). Students will be participating in one of these electives each term throughout the year and therefore will not be doing Music (Visual Arts)/Tech-ed/Family Studies for the whole school year. Teachers for these subjects are as follows:

MUSIC/VISUAL ARTS: Ryan Harvey

Tech Ed: Aaron Neaves

Family Studies: Hannah Williams

Extra Help

Extra help is available at recess, lunch or after school to students who request it through their classroom teacher. Transportation for students who stay after hours is the responsibility of the parents.

Valuables

Students are cautioned to avoid bringing cash or valuable items to school. We recommend that clothing and other personal items, along with school bags and supplies, always be labeled for easy identification. The school cannot be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

Appropriate Dress

All students are expected to dress respectfully and appropriately for the school environment. **Students are dressing to come to ‘their place of work.’ School-appropriate clothing should be comfortable and respectful, and should cover body parts.**

Appropriate dress does not include:

Hoodies worn up over the head.

Clothing with advertisements, labels, or graphics for alcohol, tobacco, or other illegal substances on them.

Clothing with violent or sexual images/graphics/language.

Toys:

Students are **not** to bring toys to school. Toys cause distraction in the classroom and have proven to cause problems on the playgrounds by being broken, misplaced, or taken. If students require toys for use during after school care, they are to remain in backpacks during the school day.

Water Bottles

Students should be coming to school each day with a refillable water bottle. We have water coolers onsite that students can use throughout the day.

Lost and Found

Lost articles are held in the school until the end of each school term. Lost items not claimed by the end of the term are donated to charity.

Visitors

All school visitors and volunteers are required to first report to the Main Office via the buzzer system. We will not be allowing parents/guardians inside the building unless invited by school personnel for a meeting.

Phone Calls

To maintain the effective operation of our school, we thank parents/guardians for making advanced arrangements and providing written notes for their children so that the school day is not interrupted.

Should there be a need for students to contact home, they may come to the office, with written permission from teaching staff.

Nuts and Allergies

We have children in our school who have severe nut/peanut allergies. We are a nut-free school. This includes all nuts and peanuts and peanut butter. We ask parents to be respectful of this when packing student snacks and lunches.

If your child has an allergy that we are not yet aware of, please contact the main office.

Scent Free

We are a scent-free school. We have students and staff with environmental sensitivities that include fragrances. Please refrain from wearing heavily scented products: perfumes, body-sprays, creams/lotions, AXE deodorants, etc.

Hot Lunch Cafeteria Service

Two Gals and a Kitchen are offering hot lunch for the school. Menus will be sent out weekly via a Google forms link (you can complete the quick form from a mobile device, tablet or desktop), you simply click the link then order as you please. There is only one option per day and the meal costs \$5.50 (milk or water included). Ordering can only be done in advance and cannot be made the day of. The Google form will be live for three days closing on Saturday at noon.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO COMPLETE ONE FORM FOR EACH CHILD ORDERING
(You will be prompted after submission to resubmit for the next child).

Two Gals and a Kitchen have been contracted by the school to supply lunch service to our students. Our region/school is moving towards a cashless school system, therefore all E-Money transfers and inquiries should be made directly to Two Gals and a Kitchen via the following address:

twogalsandakitchen2020@gmail.com

When sending e-money please put your **childs name** in the comment section so that the lunch team can identify who's account is attached to which child. If e-money transfer is an issue for you please contact the school and we can assist you in making payment.

If a child is not in school or there is an unexpected closure money will be credited back to your child's account for future use in ordering.

As always if you have any questions or need assistance with the new system please do not hesitate to reach out to Cynthia at Two Gals and a Kitchen or the school office.

BUSSING

Bus Changes

Students are only permitted to travel on their assigned buses, unless there is a change in the location of child care (Primary-Grade Six students only). Upon receipt of a written request, signed by the parent/guardian, an official bus pass **may** be issued from the main office for the student to give to the bus driver if space permits.

We regret that bus changes for completing homework projects or social reasons such as play dates, birthday parties, and sleepovers cannot be honored.

We have been experiencing a high number of bus changes made by the Region, some happening mid-day. When we are notified we send out an alert to parents, but the CCRCE website is also updating ALL bus changes, please visit the link below to access:

<https://ccrce.ca/late-bus-notifications>

The Transportation team will also be sending text messages to families to inform you of buses running 20 minutes late or longer. They will be using School Messenger and sharing text notices by school. Please review your child's bus information to understand route #'s.

Bus Conduct

Students are expected to practice safety and demonstrate respect at all times while traveling on school buses. Students who do not listen to bus drivers' instructions follow bus safety rules or display inappropriate behavior will be referred to school administrators for disciplinary actions. It will be the responsibility of parents to provide transportation if a student should be denied the privilege of traveling on a school bus.

Transportation Inquiries

All inquiries about stops should be made to the Nova Family of Schools Transportation Department via phone **1-866-428-4696**, **option 2** is East Hants.

Thank you for supporting us as we create a safe, secure, and respectful learning environment for your child.