

Welcome Sandhills Suns!

Parent Information



School Day – Hours

Morning classes begin at 8:35 a.m.

First Nutrition Break: 10:35 - 11:15 a.m.

Second Nutrition Break: 12:45 - 1:25 p.m. School ends at 2:55 p.m.

Waterloo Region District School Board's Promise To Families

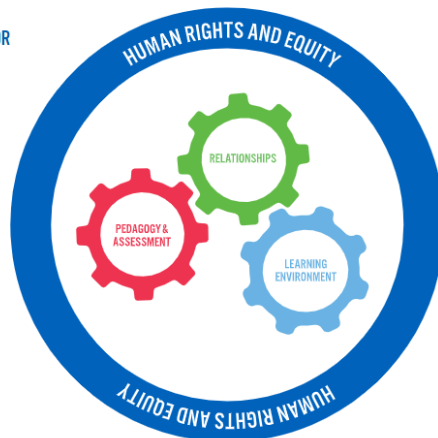
CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING FRAMEWORK



IN SUPPORT OF THE WRDSB STRATEGIC PLAN...

Together we will nurture supportive relationships in an inclusive, safe and caring environment and practise culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy and assessment, creating equitable conditions for learning and optimal outcomes for each and every student.

CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING



STUDENT OUTCOMES

ACHIEVEMENT

WELL-BEING

EQUITY & INCLUSION

GLOBAL COMPETENCIES

- Critical Thinking
- Innovation and Creativity
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Citizenship
- Self-Directed Learning

Attendance

Consistent attendance is essential to your student's overall progress, and continued absences undermine the benefits that a school experience can provide. Regular attendance enables active participation in school activities that enhance learning and promote personal development.

If your child must be absent from school, please contact the school's attendance line at **519-744-4430, dial 1, or email**

shl-attendance@wrdsb.ca 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Provide your student's name, classroom teacher, and reason for absence. In addition, you may also send in a note to the teacher. If you require picking up your student early, please contact the office ahead of time, and we will attempt to have your student waiting for you in the office.



Safe Welcome Program

All students are expected to be punctual and adhere to scheduled school hours. As the school day begins at 8:35 a.m., it is recommended that your student is at school ready to enter by **8:30 a.m.** For those who are dropping off or picking students up on school property, we ask that you do not come onto the tarmac area. Once on the tarmac, students should make their way to their class line-up area independently or with a classmate only. Staying on the field or wood chip area will allow teachers to welcome/dismiss students, especially our youngest learners, in a safe and less congested manner. We also want to remind families that students are not to be filmed/video recorded entering the school.

Attendance is taken twice daily. Late students must report to the office. Persistent lateness or absences from school may result in discussions or consultations with administration or involvement with the school board's social worker.

The Waterloo Region District School Board and Sandhills Public School are committed to creating a safe and welcoming learning environment for our students and staff. Schools province-wide have implemented the 'Safe Welcome Program.' All visitors to Sandhills are asked to press the intercom by our main entry door by the office to enter. Students and staff will use access cards to enter and exit the building throughout the day. We educate our students about not opening the entrance doors for visitors. Please be respectful of this protocol and do not request or expect students to allow you entry to the school, which puts them in a difficult situation.

Playground and Outdoor Expectations

The playground and creative equipment are closed before and after school for the Extended Day program to use them. All students are encouraged to go directly home at the end of the school day.



Homework

Homework is one means parents and guardians have to maintain a day-to-day connection with their student's education. When parents and teachers work in an educational partnership, a difference is made for our students. Studies show that students perform better in school if their parents are involved in their education (Ontario Curriculum, 1998). At Sandhills, we believe strongly in establishing a close working relationship with parents to foster student well-being and achievement.



Most homework assigned by teachers is completing work that was not finished in the allotted time during class. It is good to set aside a consistent time each evening to review the day's events and complete any assigned tasks. Reading with or to a parent, or reading alone, is an excellent activity for all students.

Protection Against Loss of Valuables/Money

Please ...

- do not bring valuables to school;
- lock bicycles and scooters in bicycle racks provided;
- check at the Lost and Found area as well as the office immediately after a loss has been discovered;
- **label** all indoor and outdoor clothing, boots, and items brought to school.



The Umbrella Project

In collaboration with 'The Umbrella Project,' the staff at Sandhills are committed to helping your child learn the skills of emotional well-being. Our Character Education program targets specific behaviours for emphasis over the year to improve student well-being and generate a common language of these behaviours. We use the metaphors of "The Umbrella Project" and the characteristics defined within to support the existing "Sandhills Guide."

The Umbrella Skills we focus on are:

Empathy	Grit	Kindness
Gratitude	Self-Compassion	Intrinsic Motivation Integrity
	Resilience Mindfulness	Hope

For more information on the Umbrella Project, please visit:

Website: <https://umbrellaproject.co/parents/>

Twitter: @umbrellapjct

Facebook: The Umbrella Project

Traffic and use of the Staff Parking Lot

Student safety is our primary concern at all times. Increased traffic in and around the school zone creates hazards for students. Furthermore, with only a few exceptions, all Sandhills students live within the radius determined by The Board to be within walking distance. It is for these reasons that the expectation is that Sandhills is a walking school.

Except for qualifying students (e.g., some Kindergarten students), exceptional circumstances approved by the Principal, and registered Extended Day Program users, **there is no student drop off or pick up by way of the school parking lot at entry or dismissal times.** If parents feel that a drive part way to school is appropriate, we encourage the use of 'Drive to 5' locations identified by the school that indicates places that are a 5-minute walk to the school.

If you have an appointment at the school or must pick up/ drop off your student during the school day (e.g., medical appointments, an unexpected illness, etc.), there is limited visitor parking outside our front door for that purpose only.

Bicycles, Scooters, Skates and Safety

- Bikes and scooters must be walked on school property.
- Students must walk on sidewalks or park pathways and cross the school parking lot at the school's front with the traffic patrol or at the school's back.

Inclement Weather/Emergency Closing

If the school is closed unexpectedly for any reason, please follow the following media outlets for updates.

- Web: www.wrdsb.ca
 - Twitter: @wrdsb
 - Instagram: @wr_dsb
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/wrdsb
 - Local Radio: KFUN FM 99.5, KOOL FM 105.3, CKGL AM 570, CHYM FM 96.7, DAVE FM 107.5, CJOY "Magic" FM 106.1, CKWR FM 98.5, COUNTRY 106.7, CKBT "The Beat" FM 91.5, FAITH FM 94.3,
 - Television: CTV – Southwestern Ontario
- Staff will attempt to call you or your emergency contact to get instructions if we need to contact you.
 - Keep the office informed of any changes in contact numbers or changes in addresses so that you can be easily reached in the event of an emergency.
 - **Sandhills has bussing for some kindergarten students.** If the buses are cancelled, it will be announced through the above media outlets. If busses are cancelled, the school will be closed, and students are expected to sign on to their virtual platform (Google Classroom or Brightspace) for asynchronous learning for the day.



Boomerang Lunch Program

Everything that comes to school goes home, including uneaten food, packaging, or waste material, is returned home in your child's lunch bag.

Please note: We are a nut-free school.

