

Junior School FAQs 2023-2024

Who participates in Orientation Day?

All **new** students to the Junior School in SK to grade 6 are invited to the Orientation morning planned for **Tuesday, September 5th, 2023**. Students are not required to wear their uniform for this event. Students are to be dropped off at school for 8:45 am, ready for a 9:00 am start. **Please see below for drop-off and pick-up zones**. These will be the zones for the entire year, so Orientation Day will be good practice. Students will be ready for pick-up at 11:00 am from the same location where they were dropped off. Siblings can be dropped off and picked up from the zone of the youngest child in the family. Faculty will be on hand to help answer any other questions you may have.

Junior kindergarten students will **not** take part in Orientation Day. They will begin school on either Wednesday or Thursday, September 6th or 7th in their staggered entry format, as outlined in the welcome letter coming to you from your child(ren)'s teachers. Senior kindergarten students will also have a staggered entry.

When is the first day of school at CDS?

Students in Grades 1-6 (new AND returning) will have their first day of school on **Wednesday, September 6**.

After two days of staggered entry, all students in JK and SK will attend together on **Friday, September 8**.

Wednesday, September 6 is also the day of our Welcome Back Barbecue from 2:30-4:00 pm. Please note school will dismiss early on this day to accommodate the barbecue. Primary students (JK-Grade 3) who will not have an adult attending will go to After Care. All students and their families are welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Where will my Junior School student(s) enter and exit each day?

YELLOW LOOP - new lot in front of new Junior School addition

Children in Grades JK-2 (along with their older siblings) must be dropped off and picked up in the YELLOW LOOP at either 3:20 pm or 4:30 pm pick-up times. The YELLOW LOOP is the new parking lot along Dufferin and immediately in front of the new Junior School addition. **All students in JK-2 are to be signed out by an adult with their homeroom teacher at the end of the day.**

At drop off in the morning, parents may KISS and RIDE in the YELLOW LOOP, or they can park and escort their child to their classroom. The most important rule in the YELLOW LOOP is that **all primary students are holding the hand of an adult while walking in the parking lot.**

RED LOOP - north lot beside Junior School Gym

Children in Grade 3 (along with their older siblings) will be dropped off and picked up using the RED LOOP (beside the Junior School gym). **All Grade 3 students are to be signed out by an adult with their homeroom teacher at the end of the day.**

Children in Grades 4-6 with WITH NO siblings in Middle School and Senior School will be picked up and dropped off in the RED LOOP as well.

BLUE LOOP - lot in front of PAC/Middle School/Senior School building

Students in Grades 4-6 WITH an older sibling in the Middle School or Senior School should be dropped off and picked up at the BLUE LOOP (in front of the PAC/Middle School/Senior School building).

What if my child takes the bus?

A Junior School faculty member will be present to on-board and off-board our students in the bus loop. If you have any bus-related questions, please contact Patricia Redshaw at patricia.redshaw@cds.on.ca or ext. 226.

Are parents able to walk their child into the building in the morning?

Parents are absolutely welcome in the building. Albeit, the Kiss & Ride works beautifully for our Junior School students, it is mostly our primary students who often want a parent/guardian to walk them to their cubby. Please be reminded that if you are visiting during the school day, you need to sign in and out at the Junior School Office.

When I have a question, who do I call?

You will quickly realize that everyone at CDS is willing to help and answer questions. In the Junior School front office, you will always be greeted by the friendly voices of Mrs. Leesa Witten and Mrs. Paige Moore. No question is too small, please reach out and either will answer your question or direct your call to the right person.

School number (905) 833-1220

Leesa Witten ext. 222 or leesa.witten@cds.on.ca

Paige Moore ext. 247 or paige.moore@cds.on.ca

What do I need to know about extracurricular activities for students in grades 4-6?

Junior School extracurricular activities for students in Grades 4-6 are an exciting part of life in the Junior School. Extracurricular forms will be available on the first day of school. Families are asked to return the completed form by **Friday, September 8th**. Activities will begin on **Tuesday, September 12th, 2023**.

How do Koalas, Before and After Care work?

Before Care begins at 7:30 am on Monday through Friday and is now located in the new Junior School addition. Students may be dropped off at the doors located in the YELLOW LOOP, by the crosswalk.

Koalas is an after-school program that is primarily available to students in Grades JK - 3 with siblings involved in extracurricular activities, or those who travel regularly on the bus. Koalas runs from 3:30 to 4:30 pm Monday to Thursday. Students must be picked up by 4:30 pm in the YELLOW LOOP, at the gate by the crosswalk. If you are going to be delayed, your child will be taken to After Care (see details below).

The After Care Program will run Monday to Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm and Friday from 3:30 to 6:00 pm. All Junior School students are eligible for After Care, should families require it. Students will be picked up from the Before & After Care area. These doors are located in the YELLOW LOOP, by the crosswalk.

What is the dress code?

Dress 1 uniform is worn on the first day of every week (usually Mondays, but note it could be a Tuesday if Monday is a holiday), on certain school trips and occasional other days as announced by the School.

Dress 2 is worn for the remainder of the week during the regular school term.

Warm Weather Dress is usually worn from mid-September until Thanksgiving, and again in May. These dates are available on the online calendar through MyCDS.

Further details about uniform requirements can be found in the Parent Handbook.

Junior School Assemblies

The Junior School comes together every Tuesday morning at 8:45 am, in the Paul C. Duckett Theatre. Homerooms will all take turns presenting in these assemblies and it is a time for us to celebrate the goings on in our school. Parents are always welcome to attend and can check our online calendar through MyCDS to see when their child's class is presenting.

When will we find out which homeroom our child will be in?

Welcome letters from the homeroom teachers will be emailed to our students three weeks prior to the start of school.

What happens if my child or I want to change a homeroom placement?

We put the utmost care in placing our students and are confident in our processes. There are many factors to consider in class placements and we urge you to trust and know your child has been placed where they most need to be.

What will Junior School recess look like?

Students in Grades 1-6 will have two daily recesses: one from 10:45-11:10 am and the other from 1:05-1:20 pm. Students in JK and SK will go outside for extended outdoor play time daily.

Students should arrive at school prepared for outdoor recess with appropriate footwear, coats and hats/gloves, according to the weather.

Students will be in either the Junior Yard located behind the Junior School gymnasium or the new Primary Playground that runs alongside the Performing Arts Center.

Will Junior School students be visiting the iLab?

Our Junior School Technology Academic Head will be teaching all students in JK-6. Chromebooks and iPads will be assigned to individual Junior School students.

Will my child still go to the Library and be able to take books home?

Yes, our students can borrow books to take home for recreational reading. Every Junior School student visits the Library once in a 4-day cycle, but may also exchange books before or after school.

What specialist teachers will work with my child?

In addition to the homeroom teacher, students will receive instruction from Music, Physical Education, Outdoor Education, French, Technology, and Library specialist teachers.

In addition, students in grades 4, 5 and 6 will also visit the Art Studio every cycle with a Visual Art specialist teacher.

Please note: French instruction begins in grade 1 at The Country Day School.

What leadership opportunities will be available for my grade six student?

Our student leaders in grade six will be involved in: daily morning announcements, recess monitor duty for the primary students, reading buddies, science buddies, Pathways to People, MC's in all Junior School assemblies and concerts, ambassadors for all Open House events and team leaders for our Sports Days.

Does the Junior School have a Resource Department?

The Junior School has three full-time teachers who work with students who may be working below expected grade levels or working well above grade expectancies. Any student in our midst who has an Educational Assessment will work directly with our Resource teachers.

Resource teachers work closely with classroom teachers to differentiate instruction for our learners.

Any further inquiries may be directed to:

Liz Lang	liz.lang@cds.on.ca
Deirdre Tait	deirdre.tait@cds.on.ca
Alexandra Lauria-Parnis	alexandra.lauria-parnis@cds.on.ca

What is the role of Associate faculty or Junior School Support teachers?

Associate faculty and JS Support teachers are an amazing extra resource to our Junior School. These fully qualified teachers serve as our in-house supply teachers, should classroom teachers be absent. They support classroom activities at all levels where an extra set of hands is helpful. They are also an active part of our extracurricular program.

Will my child need to wear a PE uniform for Physical Education classes?

All students in Grades 1-6 will change for PE.

Will all Junior School students have Physical Education classes in the Junior School gym?

Students in JK-4 will have all their Physical Education classes scheduled in the Junior School gym. Students in grades 5 and 6 will have their classes in the Middle School gym. Our grade 6 students will also be in the CDS Dome each cycle.

Will CDS provide a Voluntary Remote Learning Option for when my child is ill or the family has an extended holiday?

CDS does not offer a voluntary remote option. All classes will be held in-person.

How does lunch service and the Dining Hall work?

Students in Grades 4-6 will be eating in marché style in the Dining Hall. Students in the primary division (JK-3) will eat in their classrooms in family-style service. We have learned that our primary students enjoy a longer lunch, have closer supervision, consume more food and are less distracted in the comfort of their own classrooms. Grade 3 will be the transition year to the marché style in the Dining Hall. If your child has any allergies, please ensure you have filled out your Back-to-School forms noting all allergens. Please speak to your child's teacher about allergies as well. For Dining Hall inquiries, please connect with Julie Axford at julie.axford@cds.on.ca.

What is the *Chat-About-Child* meeting?

This tradition allows parents to share important information about their child(ren) with their homeroom teacher at the onset of the year. Homeroom teachers will be reaching out **August 24th or 25th** to set up these virtual meetings. It is our hope to get many of these done before the start of the school year.

What if my child is ill?

If a student is ill, they should be in touch with their teacher(s) and report the absence to the Junior School office with Mrs. Witten at extension 222.

What is the protocol if a student becomes sick while at school?

If a child becomes ill at school, the child will be taken to the Health & Wellness Centre. The school Nurse will assess the child and contact the parents or emergency contact.

What if a child arrives late to school or needs to be picked up early?

For those students who arrive late or leave early, they must sign in/out from the Junior School Office.

What is the protocol if a child needs to take medication while at school?

Medication can be sent to school with the student and given to the teacher or Junior School Office upon arrival. It must be clearly labeled in its original container with clear instructions, and will be kept in either the Junior School Office or the Wellness Centre, where it will then be administered as directed. If a student requires Advil/Tylenol, contact home will always be made prior to administering.

What is the protocol if a child has an accident at school?

If there is an accident at school, your child will be assessed by the School Nurse or someone from our Core First Aid team. Parents will be notified of any accidents and a child may need to be picked up from school. A copy of a school accident report will be emailed home.

Do Junior School students receive an afternoon snack?

Absolutely. In addition, fruit is also available all day to our students.

Are private music lessons available at CDS?

Families who have indicated that they wish to partake in private lessons will be contacted by Marney Curran marney.curran@cds.on.ca to confirm the details of these lessons.

What advice do I give my child on the first day of school?

Just be yourself, go as you are, be kind and have fun.