



Welcome to the DSNB family!

We are looking forward to working with you and your family to support all students.

The purpose of this handbook is to give you an understanding of how we support a safe, inclusive school culture focused on student learning. In the following pages, you'll see the commitments we make to you and your children. This handbook also outlines the principles of good citizenship for all members of our educational community.

One of our most important commitments is to open communication between our school and home. If you have any questions about this handbook, we encourage you to contact the principal who will be happy to discuss them with you.

SAFE ARRIVAL/ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Our school has a quick, and easy method for you to report your child's absences. With Safe Arrival, you can report daily absences and schedule absences, by using one of the following:

- Calling the toll-free phone line at 1-866-479-3261
- Logging on to the web portal at www.safearrival.com
- Using your smart phone or tablet. Simply download the School Messenger app

We ask that you report all absences before bell time for the current day.

To support the safety of our students, if your child is not at school and has not been reported absent, our staff will attempt to reach you and your associated contacts to confirm their whereabouts.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures. At times, when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision to have children attend school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available through the following channels:

- www.dsbni.org or www.nsts.ca
- DSNB Facebook or Twitter
- NSTS Message
- 905-346-0290 Voice
- Local radio and television stations.



COLLECTION OF FUNDS & PERMISSION FORMS

School Cash Online is a safe, reliable portal that will ensure the security of your information. It enables you to use your debit or credit card to make quick and easy payments. Our school also uses School Cash Online to obtain permission for school events.

To access the system, click on the “School Cash” button on our school website.

Parents that do not bank online are always welcome to come into the office to pay for items, and sign permission forms.

DRESS CODE

Everyone has their own unique style and aesthetic. We celebrate students’ individuality and respect their ability to express themselves. Our only expectation is that all students come to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment.

When deciding on what clothes your child will wear, we ask that all members of our school community are mindful of:

- Health and safety considerations
- The dignity and well-being of all students and staff (i.e. clothing that is free of inappropriate or discriminatory imagery or wording)

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

At our school, we believe everyone has a contribution to make towards student success. We appreciate the support of volunteers who offer their services improve the education and lives of our students.

To ensure the safety of our students and the school community, the DSBN has created a helpful handbook to support our school volunteers. If you are interested in becoming more involved with our school, please contact the office and our staff would be happy to work through the process with you.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council provides a vital link between the school, parents and community. The council is made up of dedicated parent volunteers interested in supporting student success. The council meets regularly throughout the school year and provides input, and supports programs to improve student achievement.

We encourage you to become involved. You may also find more information on our website.





VISITORS

We want all visitors to feel welcome at our school. The procedures we have in place help us provide you with timely access to the school and give our entire school community confidence that student safety is being maintained.

For safety purposes, all DSNB elementary school doors are locked during the day. We have a buzzer system that allows visitors to identify themselves to the office. Once you enter the school, please report directly to the office where our staff can assist you. There, you will sign in and receive a visitor badge that identifies you as a trusted member of our community.

PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy or others) we want to make sure we have a current Plan of Care to support your child.

All parents of children with prevalent medical conditions are asked to fill out the new Plan of Care and submit to the school.

You can download the forms here [dsbni.org/prevalent-medical-conditions](https://www.dsbni.org/prevalent-medical-conditions)

For more information, please contact the school.

CONCUSSIONS

The DSNB has a concussion policy and procedures to support proper prevention, identification, management, and return to learn strategies.

The DSNB engages in concussion education in a variety of ways, including recognizing Rowan's Law Day commemorated on the last Wednesday in September to raise awareness about concussions.

If your child has sustained a suspected or actual concussion while not at school, please contact the school.

ONTARIO CURRICULUM

Read the Ontario curriculum for your child's grade. <https://www.dsbni.org/elementary/curriculum>

REPORT CARDS

Students will receive their progress report in the fall and their report card twice a year. The first report card will be sent home in early February, and the second will be sent home at the end of June.

To support our partnership with parents, we will communicate with you about your child's progress throughout the school year. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher.



MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Mental health and well-being is an important factor in student success. Learning to form healthy relationships, maintain physical health, academic engagement, and educational achievement are all impacted by mental health and well-being.

Students mental health and well-being is supported in a variety of ways:

- Helping students feel safe and included
- Instilling a sense of belonging and connectedness
- Working with them to feel confident in their identity

There may be times where the challenges of school and life tip the balance, leading students to feel overwhelmed. Every student has access to a comprehensive support system to help them succeed. It starts with anyone in the DSBN that students identify as a caring adult.

To learn more visit:

<https://www.dsbn.org/well-being/home>

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education supports and programs are responsive to the strengths and needs of each student ensuring a successful learning environment for all. Working together and collaborating with parents as a team to support our students is essential to achieving success. For more information please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

FIELD TRIPS/EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Field trips and experiential learning provide your child the opportunity to learn outside of their classroom. When planning these experiences, we consider curriculum connections, safety of students and accessibility for all. We will work together to address any barriers to your child's participation.

FIRE DRILLS/EMERGENCY EVACUATION/LOCKDOWN

We're committed to maintaining our schools as safe places for your children. To create and maintain a culture of safety, we practice both fire and lockdown procedures at several times during the school year. School staff work with students to ensure they understand these procedures and feel comfortable acting should the circumstances ever warrant.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR LEARNING

To enhance the learning and empowerment of our students and maintain an effective and safe electronic learning environment, the DSBN requires that all students follow the rules and responsible use of technology as stated in the Digital Citizenship Agreement signed by both parents and students at the beginning of the school year.

Students who choose to bring a device to school do so at their own risk and must accept responsibility for its care. We will not be held responsible for damage, loss or theft.

