




August 29, 2025

Dear Latimer Road Families,

**Message from Mr. Helland and Ms. Gill**

The Latimer Road staff would like to send each of you a warm welcome back to school. We welcome our returning and new families to our learning community. This year, we have several new families joining our school community. This offers our students a wonderful opportunity to make new friendships and create new connections. We hope you have had a restful summer break with memories of family and friends.

We are all excited about the 2025 - 2026 school year at Latimer Road Elementary. The beginning of a new year is a good time to reaffirm the goals and expectations of the school. As a community of learners, we expect students to:

-  Take care of themselves
-  Take care of others
-  Take care of our school community

We will be reminding students that at Latimer Road Elementary we ask students to solve problems using kind words, and to seek help for themselves and others when needed. We expect students to strive to reach their fullest potential, both academically and socially. Our learning community continues to focus on our school wide goals of Literacy and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Latimer Road Elementary offers a well-rounded program to meet the academic, social, and behavioral needs of all children. The school maintains high expectations for students in terms of academic achievement and development of good citizenship skills. Our school will again renew our focus on Literacy skills throughout this year! Of course, we teach all other subjects and continue to focus on developing numeracy skills in our youth.



We also strive to maintain excellent communication with parents, and we look forward to working with you as partners in our learning community. *We are one of a small handful of elementary schools that has their own mobile phone app. Please take a moment to download the new Latimer Road app with our logo from the Apple App Store, or Google Play store. Search for “Latimer Road”.* All newsletters and nearly all communication are sent through this new school-specific app, including “Snow Closure Days”. This is our method of communication as we rarely send home paper notices.

We look forward to working closely with parents and staff to make our school the best place it can be for students. During the year, your child will see us in their classrooms, outside during breaks, before and after school introducing ourselves and supporting them as needed.

Students in Grades 4-7 will have an opportunity to get involved in our community through our student leadership opportunities that centre on building student voice through service to our school and possibly expanding to our neighborhood community later on. More information and applications will be coming out during the first few weeks of school for interested students.

A reminder to parents, we welcome open communication and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns, or feedback or to arrange an in-person meeting if necessary. We look forward to meeting with our families in the weeks to come.

Have a great start back!

Mr. Brad Helland & Ms. Elisha Gill

## **STUDENT DROP OFF**

Our parking lot is a staff parking lot and based upon the size of the school, we need all those parking spaces. Do **NOT** pull into the parking lot, please. Children must be able to enter and exit the vehicle independently in our drop-off zone. The drop zone can become backed up so it is critical that we need to keep it moving freely. Children should exit their vehicle and walk along the sidewalk, and onto our grounds. Drivers please “crawl at a snail’s pace” through our drop off lane at all times to ensure student safety and to prevent accidents. We are strongly encouraging families to prioritize walking to school this year. If you must drive, and stay with your child (eg. parents) please park in the neighborhood, and walk in rather than get caught in the traffic congestion that will be near the school. Your attention to this will be appreciated. Follow all laws or you may be ticketed. **PARENTS: DO NOT ENTER THE GREENSIDE ESTATES TOWNHOUSE COMPLEX. It is private property.**

## **WHAT DOES OUR FIRST DAY LOOK LIKE?**

**Students in Grades 1-7** attend on **Tuesday, Sept 2 from 10:00am-11:00am**. Normal school hours will commence Wednesday, September 3. There is a map posted on the school website. Any students NEW to Latimer Road are asked to check-in at the office if they are not registered. If they are registered, they may line-up with their grade group in accordance with the posted map.

Our **Grade 1-7 students** will be sorted by grade group and alphabetical groupings during the first week. This sorting will be for attendance purposes and to prevent confusion for drop-off and pick-up during our first week back. Students will continue to line up and be dismissed from the same place until classes are finalized (likely Monday or Tuesday morning of week 2). Once student attendance is completed each day, students will be rotating within their grade group as we work on class organizations and build the best possible learning groups.

**Students in Kindergarten** attend only for a check-in and verification of registration. They will then leave soon after. Kindergartens received their Gradual Entry Plan back in the Spring. Refer to this document for the two weeks following.

Kindergarten parents will be asked to be with their child at the front of the school where teachers will handle attendance and basic beginning information. We will have opportunities for parents to connect with staff. We will offer in-person meetings to visit or connect with teachers. **Visitors (including parents) are never allowed to freely wander/loiter/observe on the school grounds *during* the school day.**

## **WHAT DO CLASSES LOOK LIKE IN THE FIRST WEEK?**

**For the first few days of school, students DO NOT NEED school supplies.** Students will be working with a variety of teachers. The organization of our classes depends on the enrolment and the needs of all students. For us to make the best possible decisions for all our students, we need some time to find out which students are returning to Latimer Road and to balance these numbers with our new registrations. The office staff has been busy with new registrations this past week. Students will be placed in their classes when we have our final numbers and class organization approved. We want to have all students in their classes as soon as possible too. We appreciate your patience as we work to make balanced classes. As we set classes each year, we find that due to the way our enrolment numbers fall into place, we regularly create combined classes. Parents often have questions or concerns regarding their child being in a combined class.

Please read the information sheet on the back of this newsletter that highlights some important details regarding combined classes. You may also wish to check out a thoughtful blog post written by Chris Wejr

on combined classes (<http://chriswejr.com/2012/09/09/will-my-child-be-ok-in-a-split-class/>). If you have a compelling reason for a specific placement, we would expect to hear that request PRIOR to making our classes. Once classes have been finalized, parents will receive an email confirming class placement details. We ask that you support your child and allow time for them to adjust to their final placement. Please do not call the school requesting a change in classes as **no classroom changes will be made during this transition time**. The Principal will not meet with parents regarding classes during this transition time either. We want to allow students time to adjust and connect with their assigned class. Students will find their friend(s) on the school grounds at recess and lunch every day.




### **ILLNESS PROTOCOLS**

Thank you to all our families for your support over the last few years. Please continue to follow the rule that if your child is experiencing any symptoms of illness, that you keep them at home. As employees, this is the same message we have been given as we are sure the Health and Safety departments of your respective employments have told you.

### **K-12 Daily Health Check**

Just a reminder that every parent is responsible for monitoring the daily health of your child(ren) before sending them to school. If your child does not meet the daily health check, you are required to keep them home. The Ministry of Health has also provided families with an additional resource, the “online K-12 Health Check”.

**Public Schools are NOT public spaces.** For security, we never have, nor will we ever have individuals freely wandering the hallways. If you require a meeting, please schedule an appointment with either the teacher and/or the principal. If you are volunteering, thank you, welcome, and please check-in at the office and sign-in at the front desk!

-  Perform a personal health check prior to entering the building
-  Visitors are to only access areas required for the visit
-  Ensure you have signed in at the office (and sign out when you leave).

Sincerely,

Mr. Brad Helland and Ms. Elisha Gill