



JOHN MARTIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

7 Brule Street
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B3A 4G2
(902)-464-2408

Joseph MacDonald – Principal
Kyle Sarka – Vice Principal
Mary Mageau – Administrative Assistant

2021-2022 School Year

John Martin Junior High is excited to welcome the grade 6's this upcoming school year. How we go back to school next year will reflect Public Health directives and may change what school looks like. We are confident that our new grade configuration of 6-9 will allow staff to get to know students better and be able to support them through their education journey.

As we plan for the transition, our partner school (John MacNeil Elementary) held meetings, either in person or on-line. Each transition team was comprised of their SAC Chair, parent, teacher, principal and student. Questions were gathered from the elementary school transition meetings and answers are based on our planning to date.

After reviewing the FAQ if you have any further questions please, forward them to your school principal.

FAQ

Questions from students

1. What will grade six look like at John Martin Junior High?

Grade six students will still have a single homeroom teacher and access to the same curriculum and specialist classes: Core French, Physical Education, and Music. The requirements of the Public School Program will still be in place.

2. Where will the grade six classes be?

At this point, we are planning to utilize the classrooms on the second floor.

3. Will the grade six students still have recess?

Grade six students will continue to follow the Provincial Time to Learn strategy, which does include a 15-minute recess break.

4. Will grade six students still have field trips?

Field trips at all grade levels are meant to enhance the curriculum. Grade six teachers in consultation with their school administrators will still be able to plan field trips.

5. Will we get a tour of the school?

We will do our best to plan a tour/orientation experience once schools reopen. Public health guidelines will determine if this is allowable – it may be virtual.

6. Who will our teachers be?

This is not known at this time – it will be determined by the staffing process.

7. Will I be in the same class as children who are not at my school now?

The grade sixes that we are welcoming to our school community are only coming from John MacNeil Elementary.

8. Will we change classes?

Grade six students will change classes for physical education and Music. Grade six students will have one classroom teacher for math, literacy, health, art, social studies and science.

9. Will we have lockers? How do they work?

Yes students will have access to lockers. Those students who have lockers will receive a lock and their teacher will help them practice opening and closing their lock.

10. Where are we allowed to go in the school?

You will have access to everything that the other students have access to at the school.

11. Will I be on the same bus as students from other schools?

I do not have bussing information at this time. HRCE Transportation team will be in contact with all eligible bus students this summer.

12. When is recess? Lunch? How long will they be?

A 15-minute recess will be sometime mid-morning and 60 minutes for lunch.

13. Do we get to choose if we want to go outside or stay inside for recess and/or lunch?

Weather permitting, at recess and lunchtime, students will be able to go outside and play with some of the sporting equipment (basketballs, soccer balls, skipping ropes, etc.).

14. Where do I eat my lunch? How long is the lunch period? Can we order from the cafeteria?

At John Martin we do have a lunch room available where students may eat their lunch for the first half hour of noon. Our lunch period is 60 minutes and weather permitting students spend time outside under supervision. We do not have a cafeteria at John Martin Junior High.

15. What do students do if there is an indoor lunch?

Alternative arrangements are made when students are not able to be outside for lunch.

16. Will there be sports teams/clubs/intramurals for grade 6? What kind of events/activities are there at JMJD?

Grade 6 students will be able to try out for all of our sports teams. Grade 6 students will also be permitted to attend all clubs and social groups that our school offers. Sport and extra-curricular are dependent on student interest and staff availability.

17. Will students intermingle with the junior high students?

Yes, they are all students at JMJH. They will see each other before school, at lunch and after school, as well as in the hallways when travelling to their Phys.Ed. and music/band class.

18. What time does school start and end?

First class starts at 8:45 am and last class ends at 2:50 pm. Supervision will start at 8:25 am. Students should not be on school property prior to this time as there is no supervision.

19. Will there an end of the year trip for five and sixes who miss it this year?

No, we will not be planning a year-end trip

20. Will there be field day?

JMJH has, in the past, held a field day.

21. Will we have access to Chromebooks?

Yes, JMJH has multiple Chromebook carts (full class sets) that teachers can sign out and many classrooms will have Chromebooks within each class.

22. How many kids will be in each class?

Class sizes will meet the provincial standards.

23. JMJH SAC - Will the JMJH SAC have representation from the grade 6 students.

Yes, we will have a student representative from grade 6 on the SAC

Questions from the Committee

1. Will grade 6's start at the same time as seven and eights?

Yes, start and end time will be the same 8:45 am – 2:50 pm.

2. What technology moves with students?

School Technology will be coordinating this. Any technology specifically for grade 6 will be moved to JMJH.

3. Will phys. Ed. classes be multiple classes at a time? Will grade levels be combined?

At this time we are unsure of whether or not physical education classes will be combined.

4. Is there a cell phone policy? Is it the same as the seven and eights?

Cell phone rules are the same for all students. Cell phones may only be used during lunch, outside, and only upon teacher direction.

5. Is there a PTO? Could there be?

There is no Parent Teacher Organization currently at JMJH. The purpose of a PTO is to bring the teachers and parents together working to better the school and community by promoting school spirit. At John Martin we do have many student leaders who contribute to our school

community and the grade 6 students will have an opportunity to be a part of any councils or groups we offer.

6. Will the Grade 6 students have access to excel at JMJH?

John Martin Junior High does not have excel.

7. What will the bussing look like? Does distance criteria change for gr 6 now too?

Transportation team will be in touch with all eligible bus students this summer.

This information is subject to change based on Provincial Public Health Protocol (ex. currently no trips, locker use, or mixing of class cohorts, etc. as per the Back to School Plan)