Riverside Public School | September 2026 Newsletter

P. Atack - Principal, B. Tamasi – Vice Principal
K. Kramer – Administrative Assistant, L. McLean - Secretary
J. Beynon - Superintendent

Principal's Message

Welcome back to school, Riverside Rams!

The Riverside Public School team is very much looking forward to welcoming both returning and new students back to school for the 2026-27 school year! The team has been working diligently to prepare the school and classrooms for the return to learning and the joy that is school life at Riverside PS. A huge thank you to the custodial team to include Mr. Govier, Mr. Rollings, Mr. Moser and the casual support staff members for their tireless efforts all summer. The school looks wonderful, and we are all very much looking forward to a fantastic year ahead. We hope students (and their parents / guardians) are as excited as we are for the start of a new school year!

We will be welcoming new community members to Riverside PS, students and staff alike. As such, our first days of school will be dedicated to establishing relationships and re-establishing school routines and classroom norms. A highlight for our first week of school will be our 'Welcome Back' assembly for all students and staff, scheduled for Friday, September 11th.

A reminder to all community members that our **school start and end times** have been modified for the 2026-27 school year with the instructional day to begin at **9:05am** and end at **3:25pm**. Please see below for additional details regarding the updated daily schedule.

On behalf of our staff, we wish all families a restful and memorable end to the summer break, a wonderful long weekend, and a successful start to the school year ahead. We look forward to learning and growing together in the months to come.

Sincerely,

Peter Atack

Principal, Riverside Public School

Riverside Public School | September 2026 Newsletter

First Day Procedures

Tuesday, September 8th is the first day of the 2026-27 school year for all Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 students. Please be reminded that Wednesday, September 2nd and Thursday, September 3rd are PA Days at all TVDSB Schools – to allow for staff to engage in mandated annual training and professional learning.

Beginning at 8:50am on the first day (Sept. 8th), staff will be positioned on the schoolyard holding their respective grade sign (e.g. SK, Gr. 3/4, Gr. 6) and students are asked to gather at the appropriate location. When the bell rings at 9:05am, the staff will have their class lineup before saying farewell to family members and entering the school.

In the event of heavy rain, students will be welcomed into the building at 8:50am with SK students directed to their classrooms, grades 1-3 to the Activity Room, and grades 4-8 to the Gymnasium.

Parents/guardians are welcome on the schoolyard for student pick up and drop off. A reminder to all that dogs need to be leashed and remain off school property during these times. Thank you!

Kindergarten Gradual Entry

A reminder for all Kindergarten families of the following gradual entry plan for 2026-27:

• Tuesday, September 8, 2026 – All **SK students** begin school and continue to attend daily

• Wednesday, September 9, 2026 – **JK students** with last names that begin with **A through L** begin school and continue to attend daily

• Thursday, September 10, 2026 – **JK students** with last names that begin with **M through Z** begin school and continue to attend daily

The 'Best First Day' Backpacks and Haircut Vouchers Available

The #bestfirstday backpack program provides essential school supplies for students in need within Thames Valley District School Board, to ensure every student has their Best First Day! Thames Valley Education Foundation collects thousands of donations and school supplies, packs the bags and gets them ready for you to pick up for your students.

Riverside has been gifted a number of backpacks (with supplies) and SportsClips haircut vouchers available for families with financial need. Our team will have **backpacks and haircut vouchers available for families to pick up from the school's main office on Thursday and Friday of this week (Sept. 3rd and 4th) between 9:00am and 3:00pm.**

Riverside Public School | September 2026 Newsletter

Class Placements and School Organization

Please know that class placement is a complex process that occurs during the spring term of the previous school year. The process involves members of your child's learning team who thoughtfully determine class placement to optimize student success in the context of a school organization that is influenced by student registrations at the time. Schools are required to adhere to class size guidelines and as such, **class placement change requests cannot be accommodated after the new school year begins on Tuesday, September 8th.**

Should you have any specific concerns regarding class placement and didn't share them with the school team when offered opportunity last spring, please reach out to the school administration before September 8th.

Cell Phones

Please be reminded of the following rules as per the TVDSB Code of Conduct.

Students in **Kindergarten to Grade 6** must keep mobile devices silent and out of sight during the school day, unless explicitly allowed by a teacher.

Students in **Grades 7-12** are not allowed to use mobile devices during class time, unless explicitly allowed by a teacher.

Absences and Lates from school & protocols

If your student is going to be absent from school, please ensure you report the absence by calling call 1-844-305-3756, using School Messenger online at https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/, or the School Messenger App.

Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical / Health Conditions in Schools

To ensure children with **potentially life-threatening medical conditions** remain safe while attending school, TVDSB requests parents/guardians update the necessary medical information on the Parent Portal so that an Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) for the student can be reviewed by the school's administration. Medical conditions considered potentially life-threatening may include: anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy.

Parents/Guardians can provide important information about their child's life-threatening or prevalent medical condition by logging into the TVDSB Parent Portal and clicking on the following tab: **Student Medical Information**. Once an Individual Plan of Care is submitted, the school administrator will then review the information. Parents/Guardians may be contacted for further information, if required.

Riverside Public School | September 2026 Newsletter

Parents/Guardians who cannot access the Parent Portal should contact the school office. Please note that parents/guardians are expected to be active participants in supporting the management of their student's prevalent medical condition(s) while the student is in school. **It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to inform the school of such conditions to ensure the student's safety at school.**

For IPOC related questions or concerns, please contact Vice Principal, Mrs. Tamasi – b.tamasi@tvdsb.ca

Updating Student Information in the Parent Portal

Please be reminded to log into the Parent Portal and update information and consents for the 2026-27 school year. If this can be completed by September 25th, it will be greatly appreciated.

Student Insurance Options

We'd like to share information about two optional insurance providers that offer coverage for certain medical expenses not included under OHIP. These services may be helpful for families seeking additional protection for their children.

Please note: **this insurance is entirely optional** and not required for school attendance. Sharing this information is simply intended to support families who may find it useful.

For details about the providers and coverage options, please refer to the following:
https://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/
https://insuremykids.com

Riverside Daily Schedule

8:50am – Staff supervision on the schoolyard

9:05am - Entry bell / school start

9:05-10:45am: INSTRUCTIONAL BLOCK 1

10:45-11:25am: First nutrition break (20 minutes to eat, 20 minutes to play outside)

11:25am-1:25pm: INSTRUCTIONAL BLOCK 2

1:25-2:05pm: Second nutrition break (20 minutes to eat, 20 minutes to play outside)

2:05-3:25pm: INSTRUCTIONAL BLOCK 3

3:25pm – Dismissal

Riverside Public School | September 2026 Newsletter

Students Leaving School During Nutrition Breaks (Gr. 4-8)

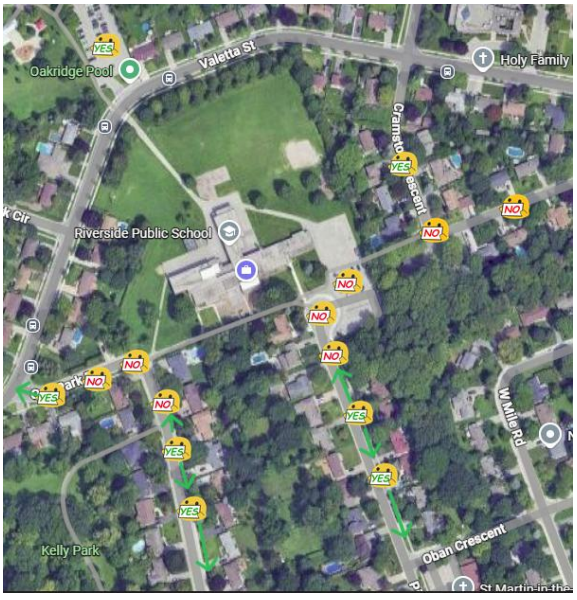
Students will only be permitted to leave school property during Nutrition Breaks after a parent/guardian has provided permission in the Parent Portal. Students permitted to leave property during Nutrition Breaks will do so **under the care and supervision of their parent/guardian for the duration.**

Parking Reminder

Riverside PS will continue to employ safety measures to help protect students and families during our busiest times of day. Community members will not be permitted to enter the school parking lot between 8:50–9:05am and 3:00–3:40pm. These times align with our highest volume of student arrivals and dismissals, when visibility and pedestrian traffic are at their peak.

To support this change:
• Pylons will be placed at the entrance to clearly indicate the temporary closure.
• Additional staff will be present whenever possible to help guide students and families.
• Vehicles displaying an Accessible Parking Permit will continue to always have access to the parking lot.

We also want to remind families that the portions of Pinetree Drive and Oak Park Drive nearest the school are designated as no parking / no stopping zones. These restrictions help keep sightlines clear for students crossing the road and ensure traffic can flow safely. The attached image outlines the approximate areas on surrounding streets where families may safely drop off their child. In addition, we strongly encourage families to consider using the Oakridge Arena parking lot off Valetta Street, where a crossing guard is stationed daily to assist students heading to and from the school.



Riverside Public School | September 2026 Newsletter

We understand that these changes may create some added inconvenience, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. By working together, we can help ensure a safer environment for all members of the Riverside community.

Music Notes from Ms. Rees

SAVE THE DATE RAMS!
Welcome back to Music at Riverside!
Our annual "Sing O Canada at the London Knights Competition" will be in full swing starting September 8th!

This is very early because our Riverside rams will be taking to the ice on Friday, October 9th! For those of you who are new to Riverside, our grade 3 to 8 classes compete for the opportunity to sing at the London Knights game! This is a great night to celebrate our school and share our musical talents with 5000 people! Please mark your calendars! More information to come!
Ms. Rees

Important Dates:

- Wednesday, September 2nd - PA Day - no school for students
- Thursday, September 3rd – PA Day- no school for students
- Tuesday, September 8th – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for SK to Grade 8
- Monday, September 14th - School Council and Home & School Meetings 6pm
- Wednesday, September 30th – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day
- Thursday, October 8th – 'Meet the Family' Community BBQ
  *(time and date to be confirmed)

2025-26 PA Days:

- Tuesday, September 2, 2026
- Wednesday, September 3, 2026
- Monday, October 26, 2026
- Friday, January 15, 2027
- Friday, April 16, 2027
- Friday, June 4, 2027
- Wednesday, June 30, 2027

2025-26 School Holidays:

Thanksgiving: October 12, 2026
Winter Break: December 21, 2026 - January 1, 2027
Family Day: February 15, 2027
March Break: March 15 - 19, 2027
Good Friday: March 26, 2027
Easter Monday: March 29, 2027
Victoria Day: May 24, 2027