



ROSE VALLEY ELEMENTARY

START UP INFORMATION - Parent FAQ

Principal's Message

Welcome back to our Rose Valley students, families, and staff! We are looking forward to the beginning of another school year and seeing you and your children again. As there are sometimes questions about the first few days of school, we wanted to send out a short information package that will answer some of the questions that you may have. As well, our RVE homepage is regularly updated so please visit the site for additional school information. This year we will be focusing a lot of our social and holistic learning into inquiring into ways **"To Live in a Good Way"**. We are excited to start this conversation with our students and you all. (More on this to come) We are looking forward to another great year at RVE and are excited to see everyone Tuesday morning.

Tips for First Days of School

- If your child is in Kindergarten please refer to the gradual entry that was emailed to you. Kindergarten starts Wednesday as per the schedule. If you didn't receive an email please contact the RVE office.
- On Friday, August 29th, to alleviate some of the congestion at the front of the school Tuesday morning, classroom placements will be emailed to you.
- On Sept. 2nd our Gr. 1-5 students are asked to line up at their new classroom's exterior door. Staff will be outside at the front of the school as well as in the hallways helping direct students to their new rooms as needed. School maps will be available. (Attached to email on August 29th)
- School will be in session between 8:30 am – 11:00 am on Tuesday, September 2nd for our Grade 1-5 students (K students are on a gradual entry and have been mailed their information during the summer).
- School buses will be running on Tuesday, but bus drivers will be picking up the students 3½ hours earlier than normal for the return home. For example, if your child's bus normally leaves after school at 2:35 p.m., their bus will leave at 11:05 am on Tuesday.
- If you have any questions about transportation, we recommend you visit their website at <http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/Pages/default.aspx> or contact them directly by phone.
- Wednesday, September 3rd will be a full day (8:30-2:30) for our Grades 1-5 students



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What Should I Bring on the First Day of School?

A positive outlook and a desire to make new friends! And, since students will be here until only 11:00 am the first day, they will need to bring a snack to get them through the morning. We also recommend students bring their own water bottle.

Parking Lot

We have 2 busy parking lots! Both the Upper and Lower lots are staff parking only. As a result, we ask that motorists abide by our parking lot rules:

- the quick drop lane in the Upper Lot is an efficient way to drop off and pick up your child. (Please no extended drops – this is meant to be a very quick stop of under a minute) This lot is staff parking only.
- the Lower Lot bus lane is reserved only for buses as well as our before- and after-school program vehicles
- please do not park or stop in the staff parking spots as we have limited parking spots for our staff, nor in the spots reserved for our parents or students who require an "accessible parking" spot with more space and closer access to our building.
- please keep idling to a minimum when waiting for your child
- parents who need to can park on the street around the school, or in the spots on the street outside the Lower Field.

Personal Technology

Personal technology (cell phones, other devices) is permitted at the school in backpacks for before and after school use. It is only to be used during class time under the supervision of a staff member. (Please see school code of conduct for district/school policy on this)

What if I Want to Ride my Bike/Scooter to School?

Fantastic! Students riding bikes or scooters are expected to wear helmets. We have a bike rack where these items can be stored for the day. And for everyone's safety, the property/school grounds rule is that when students, parents or community members are on school property (starting at the turn-off up to the school from Westlake Road), they are walking their bike/scooter. **On all RVE property it is a "No Wheels" Policy.**

School Fees

School fees are paid online. Go to the Rose Valley homepage (<https://rve.sd23.bc.ca>). Approximately half-way down the page, click on the School Cash Online box and follow the directions from there. Fees for the 2025-26 school year will be \$50 per student (\$40 for school supplies and \$10 for the three cultural performances)

Attendance & School Messenger

Report your student's absences, using your smartphone, a computer or telephone. Download the app for your phone, Apple or Android. For those new to our school, please follow this link to learn about School Messenger: <http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger>



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Attendance Part Two: Missed Days and Lates

It is very important that students arrive on time, and are in class as much as possible, barring serious medical concerns and illness. For children, walking in late to class means they have already missed the key introduction to what the other children are doing, the overview of the day, key core curricular teaching and the class connection time that starts and builds new friendships. For many, it has them starting the day behind, feeling disconnected and stressed. This is not what's best for the learner. It starts their day badly.

***Students late to school please always check in at the main office first.**

Similarly, too many absences can set a learner back significantly. Our curriculum is different now – it is focused on skills (called competencies) rather than content. Skill teaching, training and support needs to happen in the classroom, with the teacher. It cannot be replicated by catch-up worksheets sent home after an absence. All key teaching, learning and support happens in the classroom.

Health and Safety

A few key points from our experiences here:

1. School property is private property. We are a closed campus during the hours of 8:30 – 2:30. If you are entering the school during that time please report to the main office unless you have made plans to meet a teacher at an exterior door.
2. Animals/Pets:
 - A) We back onto a forest, and so often see or encounter some of the animals on our fields that live there. Please caution your children (as we will) to maintain distance from any animal they see on our grounds, and to get a staff member to help.
 - B) Pets: At RVE we always try to ensure our students, staff and community members feel safe. **No pets, unless designated service animals with current certification, are permitted on our grounds at any time, whether they are on leash or being held by their human.** We have some students with animal phobias and others with severe allergies. Much like any other professional building and property (the hospital, etc.) we cannot allow pets on our property.
3. Driving and drop-off:
 - A) Please arrive alive. School zones are 30 km an hour, and practices like U-turns, parking or stopping on crosswalks and speeding put our children and other community members at risk. Please help us keep everyone safe.
4. Allergy Awareness:

We are an allergy aware school. At RVE we also have an active restriction on nuts and nut-based products due to the severity of the allergies some of the people here have. Please avoid sending your child to school with nuts or nut-based products.



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Volunteering

We want you here! Your children need you as part of their school lives; it dramatically improves their success. (even if they try to tell you otherwise) In order to volunteer for any part of school life, you need to have completed a criminal record check first. This goes through the RCMP and then goes to the district. Sometimes this process takes weeks to months, depending on RCMP back-up. This applies to going on field trips, volunteering for hot lunch, working as a parent reader, etc. Please complete the criminal record check as soon as possible so you aren't turned away when you want to join us here. These can be picked up at the main office.

The Central Okanagan Public Schools' Financial Hardship Clause

Within Board Policy Regulation 425R – Student Fees (www.sd23.bc.ca), the Board of Education has indicated “that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship”. This clause in the Regulations provides for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families, while preserving the dignity of families which may be unable to pay. Please contact the school Principal if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program as a result of fees.

Accident Insurance

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students was discontinued in 2019. The IA Financial Group now offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan or to find out more, click [here](#).

The Central Okanagan Public Schools' Appeal Process

Policy 460 – Appeals states that “A student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in the Central Okanagan Public Schools may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health, or safety of the student”. For a complete description of the Appeals Policy along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 – Appeals that can be accessed from the Policies link under the Board of Education heading on the Central Okanagan Public Schools homepage at www.sd23.bc.ca.