

2024 - 2025 School Year

Daily Schedule

8:05 am	Supervision begins on school grounds Students should not be at school before this time.
8:18 am	Warning Bell rings
8:20 am – 10:00 am	Learning Block One
10:00 am – 10:40 am	Fitness/Nutritional Break
10:40 am – 12:20 pm	Learning Block Two
12:20 pm – 1:00 pm	Fitness/Nutritional Break
1:00 pm to 2:40 pm	Learning Block Three
2:40 pm	Dismissal Students are expected to leave the premises promptly.

School Calendar

Labour Day	Monday, September 2, 2024
Thanksgiving	Monday, October 14, 2024
Winter Break	Monday, December 23 – Friday, January 3, 2025
Family Day	Monday, February 17, 2025
March Break	Monday, March 10 – Friday, March 14, 2025
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2025
Easter Monday	Monday, April 21, 2025
Victoria Day	Monday, May 19, 2025

Classes Begin: JK-8	September 3, 2024	Classes begin for ALL students
PA Day	September 20, 2024	No school for students
PA Day	October 11, 2024	No school for students
Parent - Teacher Interviews	November 14, 2024	Parent-Teacher Conferences
PA Day	November 15, 2024	No school for students
PA Day	January 17, 2025	No school for students
Parent - Teacher Interviews	February 1	

Student Agenda – A to Z

Allergy Alerts

All students have the right to a safe environment when attending school. We have several students and staff members who are allergic to **peanuts, tree nuts, peaches, bananas, pineapple, kiwi, shellfish, and scents**. The presence of these items may cause immediate and severe allergic reactions. We request that you do not send peanut butter sandwiches or other nut products, peaches, bananas, pineapple, kiwi, or shellfish to classrooms that have been designated as “Allergy Alert” areas. In addition to food allergies, scents such as cologne, perfume, body spray and other scented products may cause a severe allergic reaction. Please help us create a healthier environment by choosing to wear or use scent-free products. The use of stick deodorant is encouraged. Spray on deodorant, body spray, etc. is **prohibited** from being used at school.

When your child is not at school and we are not informed, the Safe Arrival Policy *requires us to contact the parents* to ensure that your child is safe. Attendance is taken every morning and afternoon. If a student is absent and we have not been contacted by the parent, we are required to make the following calls to verify the reason for the absence:

- Parents/guardians will be called at home.
- Parents/guardians will be called at work.
- Emergency contact phone numbers will be called.
- Siblings at school may be asked.
- A message will be left on the home answering machine.
- When all reasonable attempts have been exhausted, the Safe Arrival Policy has been fulfilled.

Please ensure that all phone numbers are current and up to date.

Note: Under the Child and Family Services Act, Section 79, the principal is required to report to the Children's Aid Society, any child under the age of 10 who is absent from school without reasonable supervision and care. For children 10 years of age but under the age of 16, reporting shall be at the discretion of the principal.

If your child is not feeling well, please keep him/her home. If students are at school, they should be well enough to do their work and play outside. Students cannot be left unsupervised in a classroom or at the office during recess, so they must be healthy enough to go outside.

- **Lates**

Students who arrive after the **8:20 AM entry bell** are **late** and **must**

Assemblies

In person assemblies will continue this school year. Dates/times will be communicated with families.

Bicycles and Other Modes of Transportation

Students are always welcome to ride their bikes to school. Bike racks are provided for students and students should **lock their bikes**. Students are required by law to wear helmets and other appropriate safety equipment. It is the parent(s)'s responsibility to ensure that their children have this safety equipment. The school accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen bikes. Students are not allowed to bring motorized scooters to school. When arriving at the school, bikes, rollerblades and skateboards are to be *walked onto school property*. Pedal scooters should be collapsed and carried, and inline skates should be removed before entering the school grounds.

Bullying

At Central Public School, we proactively try to prevent bullying and pledge to deal with incidences of bullying when they occur. **Bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent, aggressive behaviour** that is directed at an individual(s) that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear, distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation (Ministry of Education). Please encourage your child to tell an adult or please call the school personally.

Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. The actions are intentional or repetitive, exerting some form of power and control.

Examples of Verbal Bullying Behaviours

- Making fun of another student
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Examples of Physical Bullying Behaviours

- Hitting, pushing, kicking, shoving, poking, chasing, spitting
- Physical intimidation or assault with or without a weapon
- Defacing or destroying property
- Stealing, extortion
- Acts that demean another such as hazing and pantsing
- Unwanted touching

The Central staff works diligently to ensure that the school is free from bullying. We need your help in reinforcing the following strategies that will assist your child if confronted with bullying behaviour:

- Seek help from an adult or peer.
- Make assertive statements to the bully, addressing your feelings.
- Look the bully in the eye and tell them to stop.
- Walk away from the bully.
- Remember there is safety in numbers.
- Avoid certain places to avoid a bullying situation.

If you know that someone is being bullied, report the situation to the nearest teacher or adult. Incidents of bullying, regardless of place of origin, will be dealt with at the school level if it affects the moral tone of the school and/or welfare of the students.

Please note that all Human Rights violations will be treated seriously and will provide opportunities for further learning.

To eliminate bullying, students, staff, administration and parents all need to take a role. Therefore, at Central, we will adhere to the following responsibilities: We will not bully other; We will demonstrate kindness and respect towards others; We will help students who are bullied in a supportive manner by using our words and/or reporting what we see to an adult; We will include everyone in games and activities; We will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Students who do not follow these rules will be subject to consequences (see Interventions and Consequences section).

Bussing

Appropriate bus behaviour is expected whether students are travelling to/from school or on a field trip. Upon entering the bus, students must sit safely and remain seated for the entire bus ride. Loud noises, eating, drinking and chewing gum are not permitted (we do make exception for students who have blood sugar issues at the time of riding). Riding the bus is a privilege and the school works closely with the bus company to ensure a safe bus ride for all students. Bus drivers report inappropriate behaviour to the school on incident forms. The bus company does retain the right to remove the privilege of riding the bus due to inappropriate behaviour.

If your child travels on the bus daily they must: 1. Be at a bus stop on time (**ten minutes prior to the pick-up time via BusKids.ca**). 2. Remain seated in their

litter. 4. Not throw anything out of the window.

Members of the school community will:will

9. **Personal devices** (i.e., cell phones, tablets, lapto

- **Suspension/ Expulsion**

The provincial government completed a review of The Safe School's Act, 2000. For the most up to date, detailed information regarding suspensions and expulsions, you may wish to visit the Ministry of Education website (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/school-suspensions-and-expulsions>) or contact the school office directly.

- **Office Referrals**

Students who are asked to leave the area of instruction by a teacher are to leave promptly and report to the office directly to meet with the Principal or Vice-Principal. Teachers are responsible to complete an incident report sheet for the office. Students who are sent to the office for inappropriate choices are expected to complete a reflection and are not to return to class or leave the office without the permission of the Principal/Vice-

Dress Code

To ensure a positive and productive learning environment, an appropriate, yet inclusive dress code is needed in school.

- **Footwear**

All individuals on school grounds and in school buildings should wear shoes at all times. Should there be a need to evacuate, students will be able to do so safely by wearing appropriate footwear. Students are not to wear sponge soled “Flip-flops” as they are unsafe. Shoes with closed toes, heels and rubber soles must be worn if playing sports (i.e. soccer, basketball, etc) for student safety.

- **Clothing**

Student clothing should be protective against all kinds of weather (i.e. sun, rain, cold temperatures, etc.) and must be appropriate for the learning environment. Except during extreme weather situations, students will be going outside several times a day and need to ensure that they have the proper clothing for the weather.

Students will be asked to call home for a change of clothing when they are wearing inappropriate or culturally insensitive clothing, or alternate clothing will be provided (i.e. any clothing or jewelry that displays the following: obscenities, swearing, violence, nudity, alcohol or drug references, and racial or gender slurs).

Edsby

Edsby is the school's primary means of sharing i

For pick-up at the end of the day, we suggest that you arrange a spot where your child can safely walk to meet you. Please arrange to have older brothers and sisters meet their younger siblings outside at their dismissal door. The older students will exit the school by the front door at the front of the school. This procedure reduces congestion in the hallways and allows our bus students to easily proceed down the halls. Bus students will exit first to load the buses and then walkers will be dismissed. **Students are to report home after school.** If they wish to play at the Central Community Park, students **must** go home first or be with an adult. Students are not to go directly to the park or to remain on the school yard. There is no supervision provided after school hours.

Fundraising

In addition to School Council fundraising, the school holds fundraisers throughout the year. The funds raised are used to purchase additional recess and/or sports equipment, supplement classroom materials, for field trips, technology, extra-curricular fees, uniforms, outdoor learning areas, special event materials such as shelter tents for sporting events, equipment for clubs and other related items not covered by the Ministry of Education.

Homework

- **Philosophy**

The Greater Essex County District School Board views homework as beneficial when appropriately conceived, explained, assigned and assessed.

- **Purpose of Homework**

Although we acknowledge that students, regardless of age, need personal time for such things as recreational play, religious and cultural activities, home duties, family responsibilities, and social activities, we believe that homework is a valuable component of education. Homework may include the: a) practice and reinforcement of skills which have been taught; b) preparation for upcoming classroom activities; and/or c) application of skills learned to new areas.

Homework completion has the potential to create conflict at home and at school. Research suggests that by having an established, consistent homework routine in place aids with homework completion.

- **Grades 1 and 2**

Daily homework assignments are not considered appropriate for the early primary grades. Parents can support their child's program by encouraging the use of books for pleasure and may wish to establish a routine of school-related activities for 10-20 minutes each school day. Reading and number fact games are an effective way for home to be involved. Occasionally, projects will be assigned that are designed to support the curriculum. Remember, "Reading is fundamental!"

- **Grades 3 to 6**

Students should spend 20 to 30 minutes each day on various types of homework. Additional time may also be required for test preparation or projects. Reading, math activities, and educational computer use should be encouraged.

- **Grades 7 & 8**

Students in the intermediate grades should spend 30 to 60 minutes per day on various types of homework. Additional time will also be required for test preparation or projects. Reading, math activities, and technology use should be encouraged.

There are consequences for incomplete homework or failure to do homework. Consequences for incomplete or a failure to do required homework shall reflect the age and the developmental level of the student involved.

- **Academic Honesty**

Assigned work is to be completed with integrity. Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students are plagiarizing when they use another person's words, images or ideas without giving that person credit. Work is considered to be plagiarized not only when it is copied word for word, but also if some of the words have been changed (paraphrasing) without citing the source of the original ideas. Consequences may include: completing the assignment over, loss of grade or credit for the assignment, team meeting.

Human Rights

The Greater Essex County District School Board is committed to building inclusive learning and working environments where all students and staff feel valued, accepted and know they belong. No student should be harmed by the words or actions of others at school. All members of our board community should feel safe, welcome, accepted and included at every GECDSB school and work site.

In keeping with these values, the following conduct will not be tolerated at GECDSB schools or in GECDSB environments:

- discrimination;
- harassment and bullying;
- the proliferation of hate;
- the use of the n-word;
- the use of any hateful slurs or epithets; and
- reprisal (retaliation) for trying to have an incident addressed.

Students are **not** allowed to say, write or read out any version of the n-word (including with the "a" ending) and are not allowed to ask for a "pass" from Black students to use the n-word. GECDSB staff have also received direction that they are not allowed to say or read out the n-word.

Please talk to your child(ren) and make them aware that the conduct listed above is not allowed – this includes on social media or in any other context that can negatively impact the school environment.

Our students have a right to safe, respectful, and non-discriminatory learning environments. Students or parents/guardians who hear or learn about hateful or discriminatory acts or language should report it to the school principal, vice-principal or another staff member right away. When these incidents happen, they are treated seriously and addressed by the school/board.

For more information about Human Rights please visit the GECDSB website at:

[Human Rights - Greater Essex County District School Board \(publicboard.ca\)](http://publicboard.ca)

Inclement Weather

As a part of the Inclement Weather Procedures, parents of elementary school children who walk to school are reminded that if they decide to keep their children home, for all or part of the day, that they are required to contact the school in the usual manner. We encourage students who

sign out and in at the office for each occurrence. We cannot accept orders from Skip the Dishes or other delivery services. As well, we do not promote students going to a fast food restaurant by themselves at lunch. They frequently do not have time to finish eating during the lunch break and they will not be allowed to eat afterwards in class.

Medication

The GECSDB has a set policy for administering regularly scheduled medication (including inhalers and EpiPens) by school personnel. Medication may not be administered to students unless the “Request and Authorization for the Administration of Medication at School” form has been completed by a parent/guardian and the child's physician. This form is available at the school office. From there we create a “Plan of Care” with input from parent/guardians. It is then signed and kept on file in the office. Parents/guardians are required to deliver medication to the school. According to Board policy (AD-17), we are unable to dispense medication without a prescription bottle and a signed form. **For the safety of all children, students cannot have any type of medication in their lunch bags or backpacks to administer themselves. This includes over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol and cough syrup. Any over-the-counter medication cannot be dispensed by staff.**

Inhalers can be used in the office if the student has had proper training. EpiPens must be stored in the office. Parents/guardians are required to supply the school with a current Epi-Pen in its original container with date of issue and expiry date clearly visible. Students who ride the bus and require an Epi-Pen must carry one with them. We strongly recommend that students with severe allergies wear a Medic Alert necklace or bracelet.

Phone Use

The school phones shall be used by students only in special circumstances, such as in the case of an emergency, and in all such cases, permission must be granted by staff and/or office personnel. Students will not be permitted to make calls to ask to make after school arrangements that are not related to school. The plans need to be made in advance.

Physical Education

This is an extremely important program and every student is required to participate. Any temporary exemption will require a certificate from a family physician. All students must have appropriate running shoes. Students are not permitted to wear jewelry, watches, necklaces, etc. during physical education for safety reasons.

Playground

All areas of the playground are supervised by adults. During severe weather conditions, students will be supervised inside the building. Students needing a washroom while outside should seek permission from an adult before entering the school. They should enter through the centre back doors.

Our playgrounds are a place where our students enjoy themselves in a safe way. We encourage children to be friendly to others and to our environment. Our students are safe and have fun when they:

- Use the “Hands Off” policy and follow all Code of Conduct rules

- Stay within the school boundaries and play within their age group
- Use basketballs and Four Square balls on the hardtop and soccer balls and footballs on the field
- Wall ball is permitted with a tennis ball only (no hard baseballs or softballs are permitted on the playground)
- Play tag in the field only
- Do not use any equipment on days when it is hardtop recess – this is a safety concern as we are not able to spread out sufficiently
- Stay off the ice as it is a danger

Flip flops should **not** be worn if participating in outdoor games. These shoes have been identified by Health & Safety as inappropriate wear for school grounds due to the number of injuries. Shoes with closed toes, heels and rubber soles must be worn.

When students must be confined to the hardtop due to wet weather, no running games of football or soccer are allowed due to the density of people in that space.

School Council

Central has an active School Council, which supports student achievement in partnership with administration and staff. It provides a forum for parents/guardians within a school community to work collaboratively to develop common goals and create events or plans to support all the students. Fundraising is also a priority of the School Council.

The School Council is always looking for interested individuals to contribute their expertise since a wide cross section of the school community is preferred to increase effectiveness. All Central parents/guardians are welcome to attend monthly meetings, but only elected members of council can vote on issues that pertain to the school. If you wish to become a member of School Council, watch for information that will come home at the beginning of the school year. Elections will take place at our first council meeting.

School Teams

School teams, for some sports, may be established during the year. To represent Central on a school team is a privilege that is granted to those students who have earned it. Others with whom our students come in contact will form an opinion about Central by the way that they behave and act. To this end, only those students who conduct themselves appropriately, regardless of athletic ability, will be allowed to join school teams. The coaches have the ultimate decision and that decision will be supported by the office. Staff coaches give voluntarily of their free time and have the final decision on playing time. For students who do play on sports teams, parents will need to sign a team contract for each team on which they participate.

- **Team Uniforms**

We encourage students to care for their uniforms in an appropriate manner. The uniform is to be returned clean and in the same condition as when it was issued. Uniforms should not be worn during the school day. Team members will have time to change prior to their events. A \$25.00 uniform deposit will be collected at the beginning of a team's season and returned to the student once the season has ended, and the uniform is returned cleaned and in good condition.

