



Portland Estates Elementary

45 Portland Hills Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2W 6L5

Tel: 902-433-7100 Fax 902-433-7103

Email – portland@hrce.ca

Elementary School Plan for Communicating Student Learning **2026-2027**

At Portland Estates Elementary School, we believe that students are more successful when there is ongoing and effective communication between school and home. Throughout the year, there will be many ways that we will communicate with you about your child's progress (e.g. phone calls, progress conferences, report cards, etc.).

Assessments are an important part of the teaching and learning process. A great deal of student assessment happens in classrooms throughout the year. Assessments are designed to help the teacher monitor progress and make decisions about next steps for instruction. Regular attendance greatly supports student success and achievement. It is key that parents/guardians/caregivers and teachers work together to maintain regular communication regarding students' learning, progress and well-being. Students will be provided with a variety of opportunities and ways to show that they understand what they are learning. Teachers will provide timely feedback to students during and after learning opportunities.

Note: In the event that a student must miss school, teachers will provide students with the materials that were distributed in class during the student's absence.

Student learning will be assessed using:

- Conversations with students
- Observations of learning
- Work that shows their learning

At the end of each term, teachers will review the evidence of learning they have gathered. They will use this information to report to parents/guardians/caregivers about the student's progress in relation to the learning outcomes.

Report Cards and Progress Conferences

In elementary, report cards are sent home three times a year. The learner profile will have information about your student's work habits, social skills and attendance. The remaining sections will provide a grade and comment from the teacher on the student's learning in their classroom subjects. The comments will explain the ways the student is succeeding, any areas for improvement and suggestions for continued learning at home and/or at school. Parents/guardians/caregivers will have an opportunity to discuss their child's progress with the classroom teacher(s) during scheduled progress conferences.

For important dates throughout the year, please see the Portland Estates Elementary School Calendar at the end of this document.

Our Nova Scotia Student Assessment Policy outlines inclusive and equitable assessment, evaluation and reporting practices. It includes reporting on cumulative evidence that reflects the ongoing nature of student learning.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Report Cards go home December 3 2026	Report Cards go home April 1 2027	Report Cards go home June 30 2027
Progress Conference will be December 3 2026 5pm-7pm December 4 2026 1pm-3pm	Progress Conference will be April 1 2027 5pm-7pm April 2 2027 1pm-3pm	

When you receive your child's report card, you may see a different grading scale used depending on the subject, the term or the grade level. The following codes are used to describe student achievement.

Reporting Code	Letter Grades
WD: Well developed understanding and application of concepts and skills.	A: Thorough understanding and application of concepts and skills.
DE: Developing as expected with understanding and application of concepts and skills.	B: Good understanding and application of concepts and skills.
ND: Needs development with understanding and application of concepts and skills.	C: Basic understanding and application of concepts and skills.
	D: Limited understanding and application of concepts and skills. The student has not met expectations.

Homework

Homework can provide an opportunity for students to practice and consolidate skills learned in class and/or to prepare students for future instruction. Homework activities *may* include practicing foundational skills in reading, writing and mathematics, practicing physical skills to promote healthy growth and development, completing educational games to reinforce learned concepts, and watching videos or reading short texts to prepare for classroom discussion.

If your child is having difficulty with assigned homework, please reach out to the teacher so support can be provided. For students in grades 4-12, The Homework Hub offers free online math tutoring that can be accessed through your child's GNSPES account.

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Questions or Concerns

If you have a question or concern regarding your child's learning, please start by reaching out to your child's teacher. They are often in the best position to discuss the matter. If the concern remains unresolved, please contact the principal. If your concern

still remains unresolved, you can reach out to HRCE's Family Navigators, who can provide information about a wide range of supports and resources, or connect you with your school's supervisor. Our goal is always to work together to resolve the issue with the best interests of the child in mind. For more information on how to raise a concern, please visit: <https://www.hrce.ca/families/general-information/how-raise-concern>.

Teacher Communication

Parents/guardians/caregivers can expect to receive information directly from teachers about what their student will be learning this year, as well as their progress toward meeting the expected learning goals. Many teachers have a classroom website or a Google Classroom where information and updates are shared regularly. Teachers may also communicate with parents/guardians/caregivers directly through phone calls or emails. Teachers must also provide their own communication plan to students and parents/guardians/caregivers at the beginning of the school year. Please review the communication plan sent home from the teacher(s) and if you have any questions, reach out to the teacher(s) for more information.

Phone Calls and Messages

Our school office is open each day between 8:20 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. If you call during this time, you will likely reach one of our Administrative Assistant, Chelsey Myers. If you call outside of these hours, or if the office is busy, we may not be able to take your call. Please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as we can. **School Phone Number:** 902-433-7100 option 0.

SchoolMessenger

We often use the SchoolMessenger system to notify parents/guardians/caregivers of important information and school events. This system is also used to provide notification of unexpected school closures and would be used in the event of an emergency. **Please ensure we have your correct contact information by contacting the office if your information changes/has changed.**

Newsletters

School newsletters are emailed to parents/guardians/caregivers and/ or posted to our website. Each newsletter will celebrate some of the activities from the previous month and highlights what is to come in the upcoming month.

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is an online portal that provides information about student attendance and learning. To get your login code for the Parent Portal, contact the school's Administrative Assistant Chelsey Myers at chelsey.myers@hrce.ca or portland@hrce.ca

School Website

Our school website, pes.hrce.ca, is updated regularly. On this site you can find the most up to date school calendar, and email contacts for all teachers. Each day, the announcements are posted and monthly newsletters are also added at the beginning of each month.

Student Planning Team

Sometimes it is necessary to have a meeting to develop a collaborative learning plan for a student. These meetings will include parents/guardians/caregivers and members of the student's school team.

School Advisory Council

Our school has an active School Advisory Council (SAC) that meets regularly. The SAC provides recommendations on a variety of issues within the school to support student learning. For more information, please contact: hrc-sac-pes@gnsps.ca

2026-2027 Portland Estates Elementary School Calendar

Thursday, September 3, 2026	First Day of Schools for Students
Monday, September 7, 2026	Labour Day- No school for students
Thursday, September 10, 2026	Stand Up Against Bullying Day – Wear Pink
Tuesday, September 15, 2026	Lockdown Drill
Thursday, September 17, 2026	PTO Ice Cream Social
Thursday, September 24, 2026	Curriculum Night 6:30-7:30 pm
Friday, September 25, 2026	Professional Development Day – No school for students
Wednesday, September 30, 2026	National Day of Truth & Reconciliation – No school for students
Thursday, October 1, 2026	Treaty Day – Culturally Significant Day
Friday, October 9, 2026	Milk Sport Fair
Monday, October 12, 2026	Thanksgiving Day – No School for Students
Tuesday, October 20, 2026	School Picture Day
Thursday, October 22, 2026	PTO Fall Family Dance/Grade Primary Noggins Farm Apple Picking Trip
Friday, October 23, 2026	NSTU Conference Day – No school for students
Wednesday, November 11, 2026	Remembrance Day- No school for students
Tuesday, November 17, 2026	School Picture Retakes
Thursday, November 19, 2026	Parent Information Night
Friday, November 20, 2026	Assessment & Evaluation Day – No school for students
Saturday, November 28, 2026	PTO Holiday Event
Monday, November 30, 2026	Progress Reports Sent home
Thursday, December 3, 2026 P	Parent-Teacher Progress Conferences 5-7 pm
Friday, December 4, 2026	Professional Development am/Student Progress Conferences 1-3 pm – No school for students
December 15 & 16, 2026	Holiday Concerts
Friday, December 18, 2026	Last Day of classes for Holiday Break
Monday, January 4, 2027	First Day of classes after Holiday Break
Monday, February 15, 2027	Heritage Day – No school for students
Friday, March 5, 2027	Assessment & Evaluation Day – No school for students
March 8-12, 2027	March Break – No school for students
Tuesday, March 23, 2027	Progress Reports sent home
Friday, March 26, 2027	Good Friday – No school for students
Monday, March 29, 2027	Easter Monday- No school for students
Thursday, April 1, 2027	Student Progress Conferences – 5-7 pm

Friday, April 2, 2027	Professional Development (am)/Student Progress Conference – 1-3pm – No school for students
Saturday, April 10, 2027	PTO Consignment Sale
Friday, April 30, 2027	Professional Development Day – No school for students
Monday, May 10, 2027	Mi'kmaw Language Day
Monday May 10-26, 2027	Grade Three Assessments
Friday, May 14, 2027	Black Excellence Day
Monday, May 24, 2027	Victoria Day – No school for students
Friday, June 4, 2027	PTO Spring Event
Monday, June 21, 2027	National Indigenous Peoples Day
Tuesday, June 29, 2027	Assessment & Evaluation Day – No school for students
Wednesday, June 30, 2027	Last Day of School