



sənsisyustən House of Learning

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026

1920 QUAIL LANE, WESTBANK, BC, V4T 2H3

PHONE (250) 768-2802

EMAIL – school@sensisyusten.ca

VISION STATEMENT

Rooted in syilx language, culture, and our relationship to tmix^w (all creation), təmx^wúlaʔx^w (land) and siwłk^w (water), sənsisyustən House of Learning nurtures the spark in each learner to walk their own path, guided by ńcwixtn (community), supported by connection, and grounded in syilx ways of being and knowing.

MISSION STATEMENT

sənsisyustən House of Learning empowers our scmaʔmáyaʔ (children) to honour their gifts to do their best, through a strong foundation and preservation of Okanagan syilx language, culture and connection.

VALUES

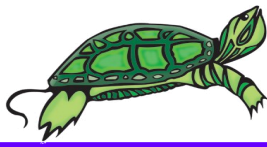
- IGNITING THE SPARK
- LEARNING ROOTED IN CULTURE
- CELEBRATING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT
- ńcwixtn AND BELONGING
- GUIDED BY ELDERS
- nsyilxcn IS LIFE



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WELCOME MESSAGE

waḡ p ḡḡayḡát (Hello everyone)!

kʷu limt p_cyaḡp. ḡast wikntsn. Welcome back to another exciting school year! We hope this handbook provides answers to some of the common questions that you may have about Sensisyusten.

Every year at Sensisyusten starts off with many On the Land and cultural activities. You are welcome to join us on our bus or via your own transportation. Events are being scheduled and we are continually adding more.

The school calendar has all the specific dates of school events, closures, etc. Additional activities will be added over the course of the school year on the live calendar on the website: <https://www.wfn.ca/our-community/schools/sensisyusten-house-of-learning.htm>

Our school is fortunate to have excellent programs, talented professionals, and a wonderful physical environment, all of which contribute to the quality education offered to each child. We are truly unique!

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is essential if your child is to receive the full potential from their educational program.

Children greatly benefit from the important instructional time when class discussions and pupil -teacher interactions take place.

Please call the school if your child is sick or has an appointment and will not be at school.

*****SAFETY CHECK PROGRAM*****

Please call or email the school by 8:45a.m., if your child is to be absent or late.

We have an answering machine for your convenience.



iḡ scḡʷəḡʷíplaḡs

CODE OF CONDUCT

At Sensisyusten we will educate students to take responsibility for their actions and to provide the needed supports to do so. We encourage all members of our school family—students, staff, parents and visitors—to follow the Code of Conduct outlined below in our Students Rights and Responsibilities during the school day and at after-hours

AS A STUDENT:

- ◇ I have the RIGHT to learn in this school.
 - ◇ It is my RESPONSIBILITY to actively participate and be a responsible learner
-
- ◇ I have a RIGHT to be respected, to hear, and to be heard.
 - ◇ It is my RESPONSIBILITY to respect others and be sensitive to others needs, to be polite, to have good listening skills, and to be honest.
-
- ◇ I have a RIGHT to be safe.
 - ◇ It is my RESPONSIBILITY to behave in a safe manner and to protect the safety of others.
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- ◇ I have a RIGHT to privacy and to my own personal space.
 - ◇ It is my RESPONSIBILITY to respect the personal property of others and to respect their right to privacy.
-
- ◇ I have a RIGHT to use student equipment and property
 - ◇ It is my RESPONSIBILITY to use the equipment and property according to all applicable rules and with care and respect.
-
- ### **DRESS CODE**
- ◇ We request that students come to school wearing clothing that is suitable for school.
 - ◇ Clothing or accessories featuring violent or offensive pictures or words, or promoting alcohol/drug use are inappropriate for a positive elementary school learning environment.
 - ◇ Indoor sneakers are expected to be worn to help keep our school clean and students safe during gym activities.

HEAD LICE

From time to time, head lice are found in the hair of students attending our school. Proper treatment is required to get rid of the insects and nits (eggs).

Please check your child's hair regularly so that we may minimize and prevent spreading!!!

If you discover head lice in your child's hair, you may contact the Health Nurse regarding the recommended treatment. Please contact the school as well. The school office has informative leaflets about head lice if you would like more information.

When head lice are discovered at the school, parents of the child are contacted confidentially. Appropriate treatment procedures are shared with the family at that time. Students must be properly treated before returning to school. Notice letters are sent home with all students in the class to help prevent spreading.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT SCHOOL'S PAC

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) parents and guardians have the right to form, and participate in the school PAC. We encourage your participation and ideas at PAC meetings to help make our school year a great success! PAC@sensisyusten.ca

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The staff at s̄ansisyust̄an School recognizes that connection to community is important and valuable.

We welcome those who wish to volunteer. All volunteers must be registered with the school and are subject to a criminal record check. If you are interested in volunteering, please inquire at the

SCHOOL BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

The s̄ansisyust̄an School Board consists of seven members which include opportunities for parents. If you are interested in being a parent representative on the board, please contact the school principal for more information.

BICYCLE SAFETY

If your child rides a bike, scooter, skateboard to school, we require the use of helmets while riding. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen property.

SCHOOL ZONES

Please be mindful of the speed limit in School Zones. Our parking lot is very busy during pickup times. Children will be crossing the road.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES

If school is to be canceled due to inclement weather conditions or for any other reason, including health reasons, notice will be sent by email and you will be contacted by telephone if possible.

PARENT COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's classroom teacher. If you find that the concern is not resolved after discussion with the teacher, then please contact the Xatus/Principal.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

The school cannot assume responsibility for loss of and/or damage to personal property which is brought to school. Items like cell phones, handheld games, toys, and stuffed animals need to be left at home or kept in the student's bag, and not to be taken out during the school day.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Parents and students must remember that it is a privilege and not a right, to ride on the bus. Students that are not able to follow the expectation outlined in the [SD23 Bus Safety for Students](#) may be asked to find alternate transportation. Each student that rides the bus will be required to fill out an application form at the beginning of each school year. This link can be found on our school website.

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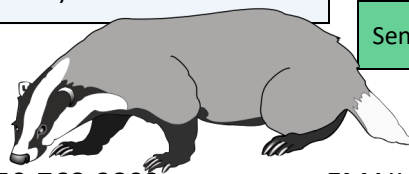
2025 – 2026 School Calendar

Please take note of the following list and add these dates to your calendar. Reminders will be sent as days and activities arise.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DISMISSAL</u>
Sept 2, 2025	School Opens	11:15 am
Sept 8	Kindergarten Starts full day	
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	No School
Oct 8/9	Parent-Teacher Meetings	11:40 am
Oct 10	Administrative Day	No School
Oct 13	Thanksgiving day	No School
Oct 24	Pro-D Day	No School
Nov 11	Remembrance Day	No School
Dec 22	Winter Break Begins	
Jan 5, 2026	School Reopens after Winter Break	
Feb 5/6	Parent-Teacher Meetings	11:40 am
Feb 13	Pro-D Day	No School
Feb 16	Family Day	No School
Mar 16	Spring Break Begins	
Mar 30	School Reopens after Spring Break	
Apr 3	Good Friday	No School
Apr 6	Easter Monday	No School
May 18	Victoria Day	No School
Jun 22	In lieu of National Indigenous Peoples Day	No School
Jun 25	Last Day of School For Students	
Jun 26	School Administrative Day (students do not attend)	

DAILY SCHEDULE	
Breakfast served	8:00am
Welcoming Bell	8:25am
Recess	10:05 – 10:20 am
Lunch	11:40 – 12:40 pm
Dismissal	2:35 pm

SCHOOL STAFF	
Principal/Xatus	Joanne DeGuevara
Administrative Assistant	Sherry Hamilton
Grade K	Holly Tronson
Grade K/1	Koreen Roshinsky
Grade 1	Alisha Manuel
Grade 2/3	Brent Szucs
Grade 3/4	Fern Thomson
Grade 4/5/6	Carson McKay
Syilx Language Teacher	Maynard McRae
Syilx Language Teacher	Dustin Schmauder
Syilx Language Assistant	Mario Richard
Learning Support Teacher	Kyla Shields
SLP/Early Literacy Coach	Sarah Dhooge
CEA	Jakayla Lindsay
CEA	Cindy Ramirez
CEA	Jackie Garbitt
CEA	Rita Bruce-Nanakeain
Sensiyusten Counsellor	Candice Cook
Sensiyusten Wellness Worker	Stephanie Mason



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