



# sēnsisyustən House of Learning

## STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

### 2023-2024

1920 QUAIL LANE, WESTBANK, BC, V4T 2H3

PHONE (250) 768-2802

EMAIL – [school@sensisyusten.ca](mailto:school@sensisyusten.ca)

### VISION STATEMENT

Rooted in syilx language, culture, and a relationship to tmix<sup>w</sup> (all creation), sēnsisyustən House of Learning lays the foundation for xaʔtúsm (leadership) by empowering learners to build a strong, healthy, and sustainable ḥcwixtn (community).

### MISSION STATEMENT

sēnsisyustən House of Learning promotes excellence in achievements, strongly rooted in syilx culture, language, and values.

### VALUES

**Belief** that every scmaʔmáyaʔ (student) has the sysyus (ability) to shine

**Academics** tailored to individual learners

**Delivers** cultural practice and nčǰ<sup>w</sup>iltən (education) equally

**Greatest asset** is ḥcwixtn (community) and connection to each other

**Elders** play an important role

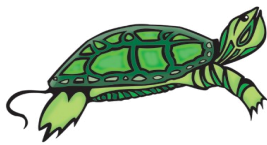
**Revitalization** of our language will revitalize our people



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### **Welcome message**

way' p yfayfat (Hello everyone)!

k'u limt p\_cyaƝp. Ɔast wikntsn. Welcome back to another exciting school year! Every year at s̄nsisyust̄n starts off with many land based and cultural activities. Events are being scheduled and we are continually adding more. We hope this handbook provides answers to some of the common questions that you may have about s̄nsisyust̄n.

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!

In turn, we invite you to be your child's greatest advocate, most devoted investor, most important role model, and biggest supporter in education every day.

**way' ninw̄is twikntsn**

**s̄nsisyust̄n - the place where you can become anything you choose to be!**

### **ATTENDANCE**

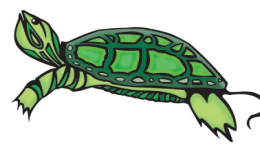
Regular attendance is essential if your child is to receive the full potential from their educational program. Children greatly benefit from the important instructional time when class discussions and pupil -teacher interactions take place.

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.



### **i? sc̄x̄w̄əx̄w̄iplaʔs**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

At s̄nsisyust̄n 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 community school

#### **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.
- 
- ◇ 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.

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## 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!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The staff at s̓nsisyust̓n 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 office.

## SCHOOL BOARD OPPORTUNITIES

The s̓nsisyust̓n 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 email, or 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 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 are encouraged 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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# 2023 – 2024 School Calendar

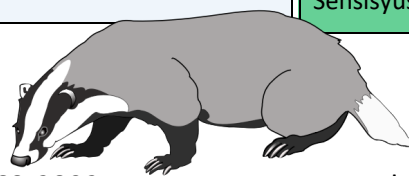


Please take note of the following list and add these dates to your calendar. Reminders will be sent as days and activities arise.

DATE	ACTIVITY	DISMISSAL
Sept 5	School Opens	11:00 am
Sept 11	Kindergarten Starts full day	
Sept 21/22	Parent-Teacher Meetings	11:40 am
Oct 2 in lieu of Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	No School
Oct 6	Administrative Day	No School
Oct 9	Thanksgiving day	No School
Oct 20	Pro-D Day	No School
Nov 13	Remembrance Day	No School
Dec 23 – Jan 5, 2024	Winter Break	
Jan 8	School Reopens After Winter Break	
Feb 1/2	Parent-Teacher Meetings	11:40 am
Feb 16	Pro-D Day	No School
Feb 19	Family Day	No School
Mar 16 - Mar 28, 2024	Spring Break	
Mar 29	Good Friday	No School
Apr 1	Easter Monday	No School
Apr 2	School Reopens After Spring Break	School Reopens After Spring Break
May 20	Victoria Day	No School
Jun 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day	No School
Jun 27	Last Day of School For Students	
Jun 28	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	Joanne DeGuevara
Administrative Assistant	Sherry Hamilton
Grade K	Holly Tronson
Grade 1/2	Koreen Roshinsky
Grade 2/3	Alicia Manuel
Grade 4/5	Fern Thomson
Grade 5/6	Carson McKay
Syilx Language Teacher	Maynard McRae
Syilx Language Teacher	Dustin Schmauder
Syilx Language Assistant	Mario Richard
Learning Support Teacher/Supervisor	To be filled
CEA	Michelle Hartridge
CEA	Cindy Ramirez
Sensiyusten Counsellor	Candice Rothfusz/ Cook
Sensiyusten Wellness Worker	Stephanie Mason



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