

Hello EOM Secondary Parents and Caregivers,

With the start of the school year fast approaching, we wanted to share more details about the start up to the new school year. For those of you who are returning to Earl of March SS, welcome back! For those of you who are new to the school, there are exciting times ahead. We are looking forward to meeting and working with the entire Earl of March community!

Our Administration Team for this school year is as follows:

Christine Siwy, Principal
Kim Bruton, Vice Principal (students last names A - L)
Toni Agraniotis-House, Vice Principal (student last names M - Z)
Cara Doxsee, Intermediate Vice Principal

Our [school website](#) has been updated to include the full list of staff starting the 2025-2026 school year.

As I mentioned in my update last week, my weekly messages will be for the whole school starting the first week of school. However, for this message, I am sending separate messages to Intermediate and Secondary parents and caregivers due to the volume of grade level specific information. Additionally, please excuse the length of this message as there is a lot of important information to share with you at this time. We ask that you review all of the information with your student(s) at home. We will also be sending out a student update with similar information.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the school at earlofmonthss@ocdsb.ca or visit the [school website](#) for more information.

Kind Regards,
Christine Siwy
Principal, Earl of March SS

School Year Calendar

The [Secondary School Year Calendar](#) lists important district dates including PA Days, Holidays, and Exam Days. We encourage you to use our [Google Calendar](#) to stay up to date with all school events.

Timetable Distribution

Students will be sent their timetable to their school email account before the end of the day on August 29th. We will have staff available in the main foyer to support students on the first day of school if they are having difficulty locating their schedule. We will follow a Day 2 schedule on September 2nd with the first class starting at 8:40am.

Attendance

Parents and Caregivers should report student absences in advance using the [safe arrival](#) mobile app, website, or toll-free phone line. These options are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More information about reporting student absences can be found on our school website under [Our School - Student Attendance](#). Parents will be informed of any unreported class absences via our School Messenger system at the end of the day. Please ensure we have the updated contact information for you in our system.

Pick up and Drop Off

With construction ongoing, access to the main parking lot entryway will be from The Parkway as a right turn only. If you are arriving at Earl of March via Teron Road, then you will need to follow the route highlighted in the attached document until The Parkway is open again. The building entrance closest to the parking lot and directly next to the construction fencing will be closed and used for emergency exiting only.

For parents and caregivers dropping off their students via car, please keep in mind that our parking lot will be very busy at the beginning and end of the day. We have OC Transpo and Yellow School Buses loading on property as well as specialized vans. We need to prioritize access to parking and loading close to the main entrance of the school for these vehicles. **Cars arriving at the end of the day for pick up will need to park in the parking lot and follow the traffic flow for cars indicated in the map below in [blue](#).**



Bicycles

Healthy and environmentally-responsible transportation is encouraged. We have bike racks located at the front of the school and on the side of the school next to the Intermediate yard facing the Mlacak Center. Students are encouraged to always secure their bikes with a sturdy lock affixed to the bike rack. Students should walk their bike when on school property and may not bring bicycles into the building. Bicycles must not be locked to fences, railings, signs or trees on school property.

Students with e-learning or spare periods

Students who have an e-learning period or a spare period in their schedule will need to set themselves up to work in either the library, at the tables in the foyer outside the library or in the cafeteria. Students will not be able to spend their e-learning period or spare period in the foyer or in the hallways. It will be important for students to use their block of time to work on their course work while at school.

Use of personal mobile devices (including cell phones) for students

Cellphones and other mobile devices can cause major distractions in the classroom and disrupt student learning. Last year, the Ontario government put in place new restrictions on personal mobile devices in schools. We wanted to share more information with you about these changes at our school. As a reminder that for Grades 9 to 12, personal mobile devices are not allowed to be used during class instructional time unless permitted by the teacher for educational use. Students may use personal mobile devices during breaks, spares or lunch.

Locker Selection

We will be using an online system this year to select a student's locker. Tomorrow, students in grades 10-12 will receive a detailed email from Vice Principal Kim Bruton asking them to login to our online program and select the locker of their choice. Grade 10 & 11 students can book any locker **except** those indicated as Grade 12 locker bay. Grade 12s are asked to book **within the areas** indicated for grade 12s. Students in grade 9 will have their locker preselected and sent to them with their timetable and do not need to action anything in regards to the locker selection process.

School Chromebooks

Chromebooks can be borrowed from the Earl of March Library for daytime and overnight loans, but since availability is limited, students are encouraged to bring a device from home if possible.

We have reserved a very limited number of devices for families that have **no access** to technology at home. If you do not have access to any technology or device for your child at home, you will be able to request a chromebook by completing a form that will be shared with you in the school update next week.

Safe School Reporting Tool

The Safe Schools Reporting Tool is anonymous and confidential. You can choose to give your name or stay anonymous. However, if someone's life is in danger or they are at risk of serious harm, we will do everything possible to help, which may include trying to find out who made the report.

Any student who needs help can use this tool. It's designed for OCDSB students in grade 4 and up, but any student can report a concern if they need help.

For more information or to make a report visit: ocdsb.ca/report-it.

Voluntary School Fee

The voluntary student fee of \$25 helps to subsidize Student Council activities, intramural sports, school-wide assemblies and class field trips. Information regarding the purchase of a 2025/26 yearbook will be distributed at a later time. Student fees can voluntarily be paid using School Cash Online. Please go to [School Cash Online](#) to sign in or register (if you have not already done so).

Important Forms to Complete - Please complete as soon as possible!

Each year parents need to complete the forms linked below to provide us with your preferred media and school website permissions as well as completing the use of technology agreement.

[Appropriate Use of Technology Agreement](#)

[Media/School Website Permission Form](#)

[Plan of Care for students with Life-Threatening-Medical-Conditions](#) (**you only need to complete this form if your child has a diagnosed medical condition).

Upcoming Dates:

September 11th: Music Parent Council meeting at 7pm

September 15th: Parent Council meeting at 7pm in the school library

September 18th/19th: School Photo Days

September 18th: Grade 7&8 Meet the Teacher

September 25th: Grades 9 - 12 Meet the Teacher

October 1st: Post Secondary Pathways Information Night 7pm in the auditorium

Helpful Links:

- [Earl of March Website](#)
- [OCDSB Safe Schools Reporting Tool](#)
- [Elementary Calendar](#)
- [Secondary Calendar](#)
- [Religious/Creed-Based Days Of Observance](#)
- [Multifaith Calendar](#)
- [Days And Months Of Significance](#)
- [Parents' Guide to Ontario's Education System](#)