

Kindergarten FAQ for Parents

At what time should my child arrive at school?

All students from K to 6 are expected to arrive at school between 7:55 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

Is there morning supervision in the yard?

A Kindergarten teacher is in the amphitheatre (the front, multi-level, bench area facing the Boulevard) each morning at 7:55 a.m. to greet your child. Once your child is in the care of the teacher and to ensure a seamless transition, we suggest parents say their goodbyes.

What if I arrive earlier and there is no teacher outside?

You may wait with your child in the schoolyard until the teacher arrives. The Kindergarten students normally gather at the top of the stairs near the benches. If you are waiting with your child, we do ask that you not park your car in front of the school, as this is a drop-off zone. Please take note of the parking areas permitted by the city.

Where do the children go if it is raining or below -20 celcius (including windchill)?

The children will be directed indoors, upon their arrival (between 7:50 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.) via the students' entrance, which is found at the side of the building on Aberdeen Street. The children will wait in the student entrance until directed by their teacher to their classroom.

Please note that if you are waiting outside in your car, the City of Westmount has a municipale by-law which bans cars from idling for more than three minutes within a one-hour period. Violators could face a minimum fine of \$57.00 per offence (http://westmount.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/TurnTheEngineOff_1374.pdf).

Where can I park my car when dropping off/picking up my child?

There is some parking on The Boulevard and on Aberdeen Street. We highly recommend you read the parking signs and observe the drop-off zone areas.

May I access the side door via the faculty parking lot?

Parents may not use the parking lot, and children may not be dropped off in the parking lot. It is a very small lot and there is a great deal of movement as teachers arrive and deliveries are made. For the safety of all, please use the entrance on The Boulevard at all times.

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Where do I pick up my child at dismissal?

Kindergarten students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m. via the amphitheatre (the front, multi-level, bench area facing The Boulevard). On rainy days, Kindergarten students are dismissed via the side door located off the Kindergarten room.

Why are we required to provide both indoor and outdoor shoes? Also, why do the students remove their boots upon entry into school?

This practice allows us to maintain a clean environment for our students, especially during wet and snowy months.

May I bring my dog to school?

Dogs are not permitted on school property. We love your pets, however some students are allergic to or afraid of dogs, and to accommodate everyone, we ask that dogs be kept out of the school yard.

Can my child play in the school yard after school?

There is no teacher supervision in the yard and playgrounds at dismissal. Some parents do use the facilities after school however, it is the parent's sole responsibility to supervise and remain by their child's side while they play. Priority will be given to our student athletes, After-School Program and Staff Fitness Program.

What is the best way to stay informed in regards to school information?

Each Thursday, the Parent Bulletin is sent to parents via e-mail with the intent to bring parents the information they need regarding upcoming Elementary School announcements and activities. The Parent Bulletin is also housed on the school's website for easy access (go to Quick links at the bottom right of the Home Page <http://www.stgeorges.qc.ca>).

Other ways to stay or be informed of events, activities, etc.

- School website – parent page
- School online calendar (school website)
- Class broadcasts (sent by teachers to your email) - the teachers are committed to sending a weekly broadcast with pertinent information and updates.
- Parent Activity class broadcast (sent to your email)
- Kindergarten Website - The Kindergarten teachers are dedicated to their K website where you will find information, pictures and much more.



Where do I find the list of important dates, school closures, Pedagogical Days, etc. ?

The list of important dates can be found on the school's website (Student Life/Parent Page/Calendars). You will also receive the list of important dates via the summer mailing. We suggest that you periodically review this list to stay abreast of upcoming Ped. Days, school events, closures, etc.

How will I be notified in the event of a school closure or school emergency?

All parents will receive a text message instructing them in the case of a school closure or emergency and will be asked to visit the school's website for further instructions. Additional details may also be sent via email.

My child is not well and will be absent from school. What should I do?

Please call the school's main number 514 937 9289 to report your child's absence.

My child requires an early dismissal. How do I proceed?

When you are aware of the need for an early dismissal in advance, we ask that you e-mail your child's teacher, as well as inform the Administrative Assistant via e-mail or phone. When picking up your child he/she must be signed out by signing the early dismissal form. If you have sent an e-mail, there is no need to sign the form, simply check out with the Administrative Assistant.

For emergency early dismissals, please present yourself to the front desk and the Administrative Assistant will call for your child.

It is important that we are made aware of who will be picking up your child on a regular basis (nanny, grandparent, sibling, family member etc.). Should there be a change in adult pick-up please inform the office and ensure that the person presenting himself or herself has a picture i.d. to identify themselves.

When will I meet with the Kindergarten teachers to know more about the academic curriculum?

The Kindergarten teachers will hold a Parent-Teacher curriculum information session in early September. This date will be communicated to you once it is finalized.

How do I communicate with the teachers?

You may communicate via email, leave a message with the Administrative Assistant or ask to be transferred to the teacher's personal voicemail.



I would like to meet with my child's teacher. May I just drop in?

The teachers are assigned a full schedule from 8:00 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Therefore, we ask that you schedule a meeting or phone call with the teacher.

I would like to meet with the Assistant Head of the Elementary School. How do I go about doing this?

Please direct your request to Angie Continisio (angie.continisio@stgeorges.qc.ca) , Mr. Aidan De Jean's Administrative Assistant. She will be more than happy to help schedule a meeting or a phone call.

Both parents in our family work during the day. When will the After School program begin?

The After School Program will be open as of Wednesday, August 31st (half-day of school) and from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. daily thereafter.

If you require the use of our After School Program, please access the After School Program Parent Handbook at <http://www.stgeorges.qc.ca/page.cfm?p=547> where the monthly calendar registration forms are also available. For further support please contact the program at afterschool@stgeorges.qc.ca or 514-402-6338.

How do I register my child for Extra Curricular Activities (ECAs)?

There are three ECA sessions per year and the catalog will be released via the Parent Bulletin along with details pertaining to the online registration. The Fall session will begin after Labour Day. ECAs fill up quickly, so it is important that you register early.

Does my child need to wear the St. George's physical education uniform on a daily basis?

No, your child will only be required to come to school dressed in their Phys. Ed uniform on their designated Phys. Ed. days.

Can I send in food for my child for snack or lunch?

Lunch and snacks are supplied by the school. Lunch and snacks (all nut-free) are supplied by the school and an included cost in tuition. If your child has a dietary medical condition and must follow a special diet, please contact Mr. Aidan De Jean, Assistant Head of the Elementary School. Birthday treats are welcome, but must be nut/peanut free otherwise they will not be served to the children. We recommend cupcakes as they are easily distributed to the children.



Birthday parties

If you are planning a birthday party for your child and would like to invite classmates, it is the school's policy that you proceed as follows:

1. If all students are invited, invitations may be distributed at school
2. If only boys are invited, invitations may be distributed at school
3. If only all girls are invited, invitations may be distributed at school
4. If only a certain number of children are invited for planning reasons, please contact parents directly. Invitations will not be distributed at school. We understand that restrictions are sometimes out of your control, but we would not want to make any of the other children feel left out. Therefore, we ask for your discretion.

Parent Activity Committee

St. George's has a very active and involved Parent Activity Committee. Meeting dates and times will be communicated to you via a class broadcast at the start of the year. Meetings are normally held at 8:30 a.m. in our staffroom. There are several events throughout the year that you may take part in.

Student and Family Support Services

Randy Brandman is the school's psychologist and is available at the school on Tuesdays should you require her services for any reason. Please contact the school's Administrative Assistant to schedule an appointment.