

## **Welcome to the 2026/2027 School Year!**

Rosedale Heights School of the Arts welcomes you all back to a brand new school year! A very special welcome to all of our new students and families. We are so happy to have you join us. Rosedale is an amazing community. We are accepting and inclusive of all. Staff and students here care deeply for one another and for our facilities. We have phenomenal staff who go above and beyond. Our academics are excellent. Our Physical Education Department is outstanding. And our Arts Programming is the best in the TDSB.



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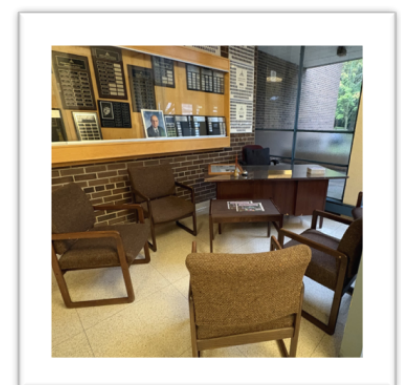
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### Honouring Mr. Sketchley

I am honoured to serve the school and our community. This is my second year. I was very fortunate to have been able to support the school last year and work with Mr. Barrie Sketchley. I am committed to continue his 34 year legacy of love, support and care for all. To honour Barrie, we have “Barrie’s Corner” set up in the main foyer, and our library is being renamed to the Barrie Sketchley Library.



## School Start Up Information

Start Up Forms are now available. This covers medical information, walking permission forms, etc. An email was sent to you last Thursday as a reminder to please complete these forms.

Timetables will be available via the tdsbConnects App on September 2nd, 2026. The App can be downloaded from Apple or Google Play. To access the App, students will need to log in. If the student password is not working, please sign in with:

(last 4 digits of student number)(day of birth)(month of birth)@Tdsb

For example, the password for student with student number 555777888 born on August 16th will be 78881608@Tdsb

Grade 9 students who attend Head Start To Highschool (Grade 9 Orientation Day) on September 1st, will also receive a physical copy of their timetable.

Lockers will be distributed to all students in Grades 9, 10, and 11. You will receive your locker number from your Period 1, Week A teacher (your home form teacher). Grade 12s/5th year students - if you would like a locker, please visit the Main Office to request one. We will be requesting lock combinations and keeping lock combinations on file in case students forget their locker combination. Students are to not share lockers and students are not to take a locker on their own without having informed the Main Office. The Main Office will be able to inform students which lockers are available.

Remember that Rosedale operates on a Week A and B schedule. Mornings and afternoon classes flip every other week. The calendar in the tdsbConnects app will let students know which week it is, and also has your timetable (class and room number) visible every day. Maps and other information have also been loaded into the app. Students, if you are ever lost or have a question, please come to either Guidance or the Main Office to ask. We love visitors - not during class time :-)

If you would like to make changes to your timetable once you receive it, please fill out the [Google Form for timetable changes](#). Students: Changes are for pathway options and graduation requirements only. We will not be changing timetables to a preferred teacher or to be with friends. Read the instructions on the form please.

## **Schedule for First Day of School - Tuesday, September 8th, 2026, Week A Schedule**

8:30am-9:00am - The administration team and the Guidance Department will be assisting students in finding their classes. We will be stationed in the main foyer.

9:00am-10:20am - Block A

10:25am-11:40am - Block B

11:40am-12:40pm - Lunch

12:40pm-1:55pm - Block C

2:00pm-3:15pm - Block D

### **Student Support Network**

Our Student Support Network is here to support and advocate for our students academically and also in regards to their mental health and well-being. The Student Support Network consists of the four main support departments in our school (Guidance, Special Education, Student Success and Wellness) as well as support staff including our School Social Worker and our Child and Youth Worker.

This year's Student Support Network Members are:

Damir Maltaric, Assistant Curriculum Leader of Guidance

Guidance Counsellor for students with the last names beginning from M-Z

Email: [Damir.Maltaric@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Damir.Maltaric@tdsb.on.ca)

Joanna Romani, Guidance Counsellor

Guidance Counsellor for students with the last names beginning from A-L

Email: [Joanna.Romani@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Joanna.Romani@tdsb.on.ca)

Jennifer Kowbell, Assistant Curriculum Leader of Student Success

Email: [Jennifer.Kowbell@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Jennifer.Kowbell@tdsb.on.ca)

Lindsay Millar, Assistant Curriculum Leader of Special Education

Email: [Lindsaymarie.millar@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Lindsaymarie.millar@tdsb.on.ca)

Edward Wright, Assistant Curriculum Leader of Wellness

Email: [Edward.Wright@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Edward.Wright@tdsb.on.ca)

Anastasia Mitaras, Guidance Office Assistant

Email: [Anastasia.Mitaras@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Anastasia.Mitaras@tdsb.on.ca)



(L to R) Jennifer K., Joanna R., Anastasia M. and Damir M.(B)



(T) Edward W. and Lindsay M (B)

Guidance will be using Google Classroom to communicate important information for all grades.

**Please join the [Classroom](#) so you don't miss any updates: paph6mqt**

### Communication and Fees

Parents/caregivers: Teachers will be in touch at the beginning of the semester to introduce themselves and ensure you know how to reach them. Please follow the TDSB's PR505 - Parent Concern Protocol. All issues/concerns should be addressed to the subject/classroom teacher first, before connecting with Administration. This ensures our teachers feel valued and respected as professionals.

This year, we are introducing a \$40 Student Activity fee. This covers Assemblies and Guest Speakers, Student Council/Leadership, Wellness initiatives, and Technology/Science Lab enhancements. Additionally, for students enrolled in The Arts and Physical Education, you will be asked to provide

Arts and Athletics fees. An email will be forthcoming regarding payments for these fees, as well as for the Student Activity Fee and ordering a Yearbook. Instructions for new families re: using “SchoolCash Online” can be found here: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/School-Cash-Online>. If you would like to be exempt from the fees, please contact your alpha VP (contact information available at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Find-your/Schools/schno/5630> and [Natalie.Bacchus@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Natalie.Bacchus@tdsb.on.ca) (Last Names A-L) and [Amy.Scholl@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Amy.Scholl@tdsb.on.ca) (Last Names M-Z).

You can also pre-order your child’s/children’s Yearbook now! This year’s 2026-2027 Yearbook will be \$45. Please look out for a follow up email from SchoolCashOnline in order to pre-order and pay for your child’s/children’s 2026-2027 RHSA Yearbook. In order for your child’s/children’s photo(s) to be in the Yearbook, the Media Release Form must be completed. If the Media Release Form is not completed, your child’s/children’s photo(s) will not be in the Yearbook.

The Terry Fox Walk is scheduled for Friday, September 25th, 2026. The Walking Excursion Form must be completed beforehand in order for your child/children to participate in the The Terry Fox Walk. If the Walking Excursion Form is not completed in time for the The Terry Fox Walk, your child/children will not be able to participate in The Terry Fox Walk. Just a reminder - the Walking Excursion form is part of the Start-up documents (the email was sent last week, Thursday).

### Daily Attendance Reporting

Parents and Caregivers are reminded to please notify the school if your child/student will be absent using any of the following methods:

1. During school office hours (Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm), call the school at 416-393-1580 to speak with Ms. Bowman, our attendance secretary.
2. After hours, call the school at 416-393-1590, press 1 to report a student absence, and follow the prompts.
3. Use School Messenger (sign up on your computer at: <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/account/signup> or download the School Messenger app, available for iOS and Android devices) to report student lates and absences.

## Wellness

You will notice (if you are new to the school) that we have two beautiful courtyards in the middle of our school. We now have a wellness area in the north courtyard. Picnic tables are set up for all to use during breaks. We honour the land we are situated on and ensure that our Aanse work (transforming Indigenous Education and promoting Indigenous Sovereignty) is reflected in what we do and how we function. We have also revamped some of our Leadership Team and we now have a head teacher (ACL - Assistant Curriculum Leader) for Wellness. Mr. Wright is the new ACL and will be working with Guidance, Student Success, and Special Education to ensure the whole being of a student is supported.

## School Improvement Plan

As a school, there is always work to be done. Last year we (staff and students, specifically through Student Council) began our School Improvement Plan (SIP) work with an important inquiry question → ***How do we ensure every student can identify a caring adult in our school community who supports their well-being and success?*** You can find out more about our work / view our SIP via [this link](#). We will be continuing with this inquiry question.

## The Community Handbook

Our work also encompasses high expectations, professionalism, and transparency, all within a culture of respect. Attached you will find a new Community Handbook. The Handbook has important information on our school's policies and procedures. I will send out an updated Community Handbook when we receive more information.

Part of our high expectations is, of course, academics. We are committed to the learning and well-being of all our students, and we expect students to show up and be prepared to learn every single day. Parents/Caregivers, please share [this contract](#) with your child/student. Our parents/caregivers are definitely our partners. We will work together to ensure students maximize their potential, and have access to opportunities. It would be helpful to check the class calendar in advance for any week a student has scheduled appointments to help them communicate with their teacher and create a plan

specifically for conflicting assessments that have already been scheduled. And students, remember to stay in class and not take advantage of washroom or mental health breaks. When you “disappear” for a lengthy period of time, your teachers worry about you and you are sending a message to your teachers that you do not respect them. I know this is not intentional. To provide support, this year we are introducing Hall Pass bracelets. One student will be excused at a time.

### Government Announcements, Calendar

Last year the Ministry of Education stated that exams will be returning. We agree - students need to be prepared for the future. Exams (as well as late starts and other important calendar events) can be found at <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/School-Year-Calendar> and via a [summary sheet](#) created for our school. Just a reminder not to book vacation during exams or other culminating activities. This will result in a grade of zero for your child/student. Teachers will share their evaluation dates with students and families.

The Ministry also announced that a new grading policy, financial literacy requirement for grade 9 students, and a new attendance policy will be coming into effect. We have not received any further information on all of these yet and we will share as soon as we receive the information. For the Financial Literacy Requirement, please visit →

[https://tvolearn.com/pages/financial\\_literacy\\_graduation\\_requirement#link\\_03](https://tvolearn.com/pages/financial_literacy_graduation_requirement#link_03)

### Facilities

We currently do not have parking available for staff. The back parking lot is undergoing construction / a renewal. Staff will be parking at the City Adult Learning Centre (CALC) at Bloor and Broadview and walking over. Students, please do not venture out to the back of the school as it is unsafe to do so. Parents/caregivers, please do not loiter at the front of the school during drop off and pick up times as our school buses (for our Intensive Support Program) need access. If you do park, please park as close to the curb on your right as possible. Chances are there will be no spots. Please make alternate arrangements where possible. Thanks so much for your understanding. Students - no parking at all for students is available.

Cameras for security will be installed very soon. They were supposed to be installed over the summer but the Board experienced some delays. Please note that these cameras are not monitored (it is not a surveillance system) and are only installed in public areas (not facing classrooms). The footage is referred to if we have any issues. The footage is kept for 30 days then destroyed.

Regarding nutrition services, I am still awaiting news on what our Cafeteria will look like. In addition to cafeteria service, we will also be continuing our daily Grab-and-Go snack program (in front of Guidance) which is open to all students, between periods 1 and 2. We anticipate this to begin the second week of school. Thank you to the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS) and the City of Toronto for their support in making this happen for our students.

### School Council

We have a fantastic School Council! Our School Council works diligently and tirelessly to support our many Arts events (fashion, dance, Musical Theatre, to name a few). The school council has even begun an Alumni page (Instagram - @rhsaalumni) and our parents lobby for what's best for our students as well as system TDSB needs. For example, have a look and see what our Chair, Tasha Kheiriddin has been up to → [votetasha.ca](http://votetasha.ca)

Finally, please reach out to me any time, with any questions you may have. And please say hi when you're in the building!

Take care,

Joe

[joseph.ghassibe@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:joseph.ghassibe@tdsb.on.ca)

Principal, Rosedale Heights School of the Arts