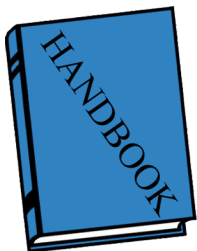


****Welcome Back to School!****

We hope you had a refreshing and enjoyable summer break. As we step into this new academic year, we're excited to reunite with returning students and extend a warm welcome to those joining our school community for the first time.

We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!



Please consult the Handbook and School Code of Conduct.

[Handbook](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

Our School Day and Supervision Schedule

The building and grounds are supervised for students starting at 8:20 am until 15 minutes after dismissal (3:05 pm). Supervision is also provided for school activities which may occur outside these times. **For safety reasons, students should not arrive at the school before 8:20 am since there isn't any supervision on the yard before this time.**

8:20-8:35	School Yard Supervision
8:35	Entry Bell - Students line up with their class and teachers meet them
8:35-9:25	Period 1
9:25-10:15	Period 2
10:15 -10:40	Primary Classes Nutrition Break Junior/Intermediate Classes Outside Recess
10:40 -11:00	Primary Classes Outside Recess Junior/Intermediate Classes Nutrition Break
11:00-11:50	Period 3
11:50-12:40	Period 4
12:40 - 1:05	Primary Classes Outside Recess Junior/Intermediate Classes Nutrition Break
1:05 - 1:25	Primary Classes Nutrition Break Junior/Intermediate Classes Outside Recess
1:25-2:15	Period 5
2:15-3:05	Period 6
3:05	Dismissal Bell - Students report to their bus line or walk home
3:05 -3:20	Busses pull out



[Staff List](#)

Parent/Guardian Signature Package - [Click here](#)



For **COMPLETION and RETURN** to the school:

- ☐ Verification Form (white) - review/confirm/correct, sign → pay particular attention to Contact Information and Emergency Medical Notes that may need updating
- ☐ Consent to Share Personal Information (yellow) - indicate choice & sign
- ☐ School year Neighbourhood Walking Trip Form (blue) - complete & sign

For **REVIEW** only (by email link or school website - <https://www.ugdsb.ca/o/jmps>):

- ☐ [Student Personal Information Routine Uses and/or Disclosures](#) (white)
- ☐ [Digital Tools Notice Statement](#) (pink)
- ☐ [School Cash Online](#)

*****PLEASE REVIEW AND RETURN ALL COMPLETED FORMS BY**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12!***



We invite you to join us this evening for our Open House event where you can visit your child's classroom. The event will take place on **Thursday, September 25th from 5:30 to 6:30 pm**. We look forward to welcoming you!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Please [complete this form](#) if you are able to help run this year's Book Fair. The Book Fair will be held in the gym during Open House on Thursday September 25 from 5:30 to 6:30. Volunteers are needed to help set up the fair and run the sales.

Throughout the school year, School Council runs ongoing school-based programs, hosts events, and raises funds to enhance learning for all JMC students. This is a great opportunity to get involved and be a part of our amazing community. It is also your chance to provide input on where you would like to allocate money raised during the school year. **The first School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16th between 6:30-7:30 p.m in the Learning Commons.**



We welcome all members of the school community, new and old, to come and see what Parent Council is about. The night will consist of a Meet and Greet, elections, and planning for the upcoming year.

If you are unable to make the meeting but are still interested in volunteering, please email us at johnmccraeschoolcouncil@gmail.com as there are many ways to support our school. At this meeting, we will vote in the following roles: Chair/co-chair, Treasurer, Secretary.

Information about CYC in School

[Welcome to 2025-2026 school year](#)

Dogs on School Property

Please note that there are children who have allergies to animal hair, and who have a fear of dogs. There is also a possibility of a child being scratched or bit by a dog (perhaps excited by all the children who enter and leave the school at the beginning and end of the day). In order to prevent a potential concern for our students, please do not bring your dog onto school property during school hours.



Please note that this does not apply to Service Dogs.

UGDSB Threat/Risk Assessment and Suicide Protocol Notification

The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When safety is threatened by the potentially violent or dangerous behaviour of a student, which places either the student or others at risk, school staff follow specific protocols for the protection of all. It is important that you and your child(ren) are aware of these protocols as, in times of imminent risk, they will be

followed and might include, a) the immediate involvement of emergency services or supports and, b) sharing of private information. Click [here](#) for more information.

School Year Calendar

[School Calendar](#)

[Board Calendar](#)



Medication at School - [CONSENT FORM](#):

Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies (i.e., called anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. Some of these allergies in our school include fish, shellfish and seafood, nut and tree nuts and soy. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher and the office right away and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes, Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders and any other Life Threatening Medical Condition. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit [the Policy 518 page on the board website](#) and contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

Early Student Pick-Up

If there is a change to your student's normal end of day routine, please notify the office no later than 2:30pm so we have time to get the message to the student/classroom teacher. If possible, early pick-ups should be arranged for before 2:45pm. Likewise, if your student will have a

regular early pick-up or late drop-off due to music/sport lesson, appointment, etc., please notify the office in writing and a standing note will be made in our files.

Message From Our Human Resources Department Regarding School Organizations

[Staffing Message Regarding School Organizations September 2025](#)

Smoke and Vape-Free Environment - [Board Policy 208](#)

This policy is primarily governed by the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* (SFOA), which prohibits smoking or the holding of lit tobacco products and smoking or the holding of lit cannabis products in enclosed workplaces, on school property, and public areas within 20 metres of school property.

School Emergency Response Training and Drills

The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. Although we hope that an incident that requires a response from emergency personnel will never occur in our school, we must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively in case it does.

Each year our school must conduct drills to ensure staff and students are prepared in the event of a real emergency.

The following number of drills are required each school year:

- Three (3) fire drills in the fall and three (3) fire drills in the spring
- Two (2) lockdown drills
- One (1) tornado drill
- One (1) bomb threat drill

For each of these drills, there is an education component to explain why they are necessary. All drills are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of our students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

Reminder for Parents/Guardians: Accidents Happen

Parents and guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial health care or employer group insurance plans.

The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under *The Education Act* to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

Please see the [Director's Letter from the Upper Grand District School Board here](#), which contains information with respect to two Programs available for the purchase of Student Accident Insurance. The Insure My Kids Program is offered through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada and the Study Insured Program is underwritten by Certain Lloyd's Underwriters through AON Insurance.

Each program offers a variety of options, including family rates at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by the parent or guardian. Purchase is done directly online or by contacting the Provider:

- [Insure My Kids](#) or call toll free 1-800-463-5437
- [Study Insured Student Accident](#) or call toll free 1-833-560-0527.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is recommended.

Bus Behaviour

Bus students are reminded:

1. To follow the directions of their driver.
2. To be at their stop 5 minutes before pick-up time.
3. To stay seated while the bus is in motion.
4. No smoking, eating, drinking, chewing gum or swearing.
5. To keep books, lunch boxes, and other bulky items on their lap.
6. Students are responsible for any deliberate damage done to the bus.
7. Whenever possible, leave the last row of seats vacant.
8. Personal radios and recorders may be used with headphones. Radios with speakers are not permitted.



Bus Reminder: Bus Transportation is provided to students based on the distance their home is from the school. Students who are placed on a regularly scheduled route must travel this route and no other. Bus students may not switch buses for any reason. In addition, students who walk to school may not travel on a regularly scheduled bus route.

[Opting out of Bussing](#)

If you are opting out of bussing for your student, please follow the link to let Student Transportation Services know. <https://stwdsts.ca/opt-out-of-busing/>

Access to the School Video Surveillance Cameras - [Policy 203](#)

The safety of our students, staff, and school community is always our top priority. In keeping with [Policy 322: Safe Operation of Schools and Board Sites](#), all visitors to the school, including family members who are dropping students off late, picking them up early, delivering items, volunteering, or visiting for any other reason, must enter through the school's main front doors located on Water Street. Family members picking up students during the school day will wait in the main office while their student is called down. All visitors are required to sign in at the office and wear a visitor badge or sticker while in the building. As staff are working with students throughout the day, they are not able to meet with families during school hours unless a prior appointment has been arranged. Families accessing the YMCA Before and After School Program should continue to use the exterior gymnasium doors, with further details provided directly by the YMCA team.



This is also a reminder that John McCrae, like all schools in the UGDSB, is outfitted with video surveillance cameras both inside and outside the building. The purpose of these cameras is to ensure student and staff safety and to help reduce vandalism at UGDSB schools. School administration follows the [UGDSB's Policy 322B - Security Camera Procedures](#), and signage is posted on the exterior of the school noting that video cameras are active.

Together, by following these procedures, we can ensure a safe and secure learning environment for all students.



Our school run date will be Friday, September 26th. Please stay tuned for more information regarding our Terry Fox Run.

Cell Phones

Students are not to use personal mobile devices during instructional time (stored out of view; powered off or set to silent), except for educational purposes as directed by an educator, for health/medical purposes, or to support special education needs. See our updated [CODE OF CONDUCT](#) for more information.

Grade 7 and 8 Introduction letter

[Click here to read more.](#)



Scent Sensitivities

Just a reminder that we do have staff and students that have scent sensitivities (including scented hand sanitizers, perfumes, colognes, etc.). Please avoid the use of scented products in our building. Thank you!

Report Identity-Based Harm and/or Bullying

We take all incidents of bullying seriously. If your student is the victim of bullying and/or identity-based harm, or has witnessed bullying or harm, please encourage them to speak with someone at school or use the board's online reporting tool. The Report Harm and/or Bullying tool gives students and parents 24/7 access for reporting. You do not have to identify yourself – just your school – and your message gets sent directly to the school Principal and Vice-Principal for follow-up. You will find the Report button on our [school's website](#) and on the UGCloud Student landing Page.



REPORT HARM/BULLYING

Report Bullying
ONLINE TOOL

Identity Based
Harm and/or
Bullying

Distinguishing Between Conflict & Bullying

Is conflict the same as bullying? People may sometimes confuse conflict with bullying, although they are different. Conflict occurs when two or more people have a disagreement, a difference of opinion, or different views. Conflict between students does not always mean it is bullying. Children learn at a young age to understand that others can have a different perspective than

their own, but developing the ability to gain perspective takes time and the process continues into early adulthood. In conflict, each person feels comfortable expressing his or her views, and there is no power imbalance. Each person feels able to state his or her view point. How people deal with conflict can make it positive or negative. Conflict becomes negative when an individual behaves aggressively by saying or doing hurtful things. Then the conflict is an aggressive interaction. Conflict only becomes bullying when it is repeated over and over again and there is a power imbalance. Over time, a pattern of behaviour may emerge where the person who behaves aggressively in the conflict may continue or even make it worse. The person who is the recipient of the aggressive conflict may feel less and less able to express his or her point of view and feel more and more powerless. That is when negative conflict may turn into bullying. A school will respond to bullying and conflict differently. For example, in the case of a conflict, a school staff member may try to have the students come together to tell their side of the story and help them resolve the situation together. In the case of bullying, a principal will consider progressive discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion.

Smoke and Vape-Free Environment

It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board to prohibit smoking and the use of tobacco products, emerging tobacco industry products, tobacco-related products including e-cigarettes and vapourizers, cannabis and cannabis-related products and any smoking paraphernalia on school board property (including in personal vehicles) and when at off property locations during school board and school-related events (e.g., field trips). The Upper Grand District School Board acknowledges the distinct and inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples and is committed to ensuring Indigenous staff and students are not deprived of their rights and are provided with a working and learning environment that is free from racism and discrimination of any kind. Please see UGDSB [Policy 208 for further information](#).

School Code of Conduct and Use of Personal Mobile Devices in Schools

It is important that everyone in our school community works together to ensure positive interactions and respectful relationships. All staff, students, families, volunteers, community partners, and visitors are expected to follow standards of behaviour so that we can maintain a safe, welcoming, and respectful learning environment for all. Our School Code of Conduct has been updated and [is available on our school website](#). The [UGDSB Policy 213 Code of Conduct](#) is available on the Board website. The Ministry of Education's [School Rules: Provincial Code of Conduct](#), regarding publicly funded schools in Ontario, including Cell Phone Usage, Vaping, Smoking Cannabis, etc. [can be viewed on the Government of Ontario website](#).

Use of Personal Mobile Devices at John McCrae Public School

Personal mobile devices may never be used in washrooms, change rooms, during nutrition breaks, in any location or at any time that may infringe upon the privacy of others.

Use of Personal Mobile Devices at John McCrae Public School for Students in Grades 6 and Below

Personal mobile devices, including smart watches and other devices, must be stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode throughout the full instructional day.

Use of Personal Mobile Devices at John McCrae Public School for Students in Grades 7-8

Personal mobile devices, including smart watches, must be stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode throughout the full instructional day, except when their use is explicitly permitted by the educator.

Snowball the Kindergarten Rabbit

Snowball is looking for families willing to care for her over weekends and holidays. She is very easy to care for.

Click [this link](#) to sign up to look after Snowball and email Mme Katsaounis (skatsaounis@ugcloud.ca) if you have any questions.

Pickup is generally Friday after school.

