

Dear Elementary School Families – Clarke High School,

With spring in the air, we wanted to share updated information with families and students about the transitions that will be happening for our Elementary school students, beginning in September 2024.

As was shared in January of this year, The Pines Senior Public School will be changing from its current Grade 6-8 structure to become a Grade 5-8 dual-track French Immersion School. Newcastle Public School will become a Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4 dual-track French Immersion School. To best use the available space on-site at The Pines and keep student cohorts together, incoming Grade 5 and 6 students from Newcastle PS will be housed at The Pines Senior PS and Grade 7 students from Orono Public School along with Grade 7 and 8 students from The Pines Senior PS will be housed on the second floor of the Clarke High School building.

With the transitions just around the corner, we would like to offer some information about events and support happening as we invite students into our changing community. Both The Pines Senior PS and Clarke HS have been busy making preparations for the physical buildings, as well as, staff organization in the past weeks. We will share information in an ongoing way, as these plans begin to take shape.

Two key supports that are happening right now that we would like to spotlight:

1. **Transition Committee** - An educator team has been formed to discuss planning for recess, cafeteria use, and shared spaces such as the gym, library, and music room in both The Pines locations.
2. **Transition Fun Day** - We are planning for students from Newcastle PS and Orono PS to visit our sites on June 5th from 10:30 am -1:30 pm. Newcastle PS students will have a chance to tour and experience The Pines Senior PS, while Orono PS and The Pines Senior PS students will have a chance to connect and see the Clarke HS spaces that will become The Pines Intermediate @ Clarke.

As we move forward with our planning, we will also continue to answer questions and seek to resolve family and student concerns through a “Frequently Asked Questions” section in our communications. Should you have questions or concerns that you think would be helpful to have answered for all families, please share these with your current school principal, moving forward!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Will students from The Pines Intermediate @ Clarke be moving across the parking lot and driveway for recess, classes, and other activities?
ANSWER: Students in The Pines Intermediate @ Clarke will remain in that building throughout their school day, including recess. They will not be moving across the parking lot unless there are highly exceptional meetings or shared activities. Any movement between buildings will be supervised and accompanied by staff.
2. I am worried about contact between secondary and intermediate students. What will that look like?
ANSWER: Intermediate students will be in their own hallway at The Pines Intermediate @ Clarke, this includes separate washrooms. Secondary students will not have access to this part of the building. While we will have supervised shared activities, like assemblies, the goal will be for students to move through their day with very limited interaction.

Please know that we are excited to work together as the Clarke Family of Schools to ensure that all students feel safe and welcome in their school next year.

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