

ROSS ROAD SCHOOL

School Communication Plan & Assessment Guide

SCHOOL YEAR
2026–2027

PROUD • DETERMINED • STRONG

MAIN OFFICE & PHONE

902-462-8340

Hours: 7:30 am – 3:00 pm

Admin Asst: Ms. Natasha James

PARENT PORTAL ASSISTANCE

Login codes & attendance support:

Natasha James

natasha.james@hrce.ca

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Active parent & community body:

Amanda Frost

afrost@hrce.ca

OUR COMMITMENT TO HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION

OUR BELIEF & CULTURE OF BELONGING

"At Ross Road School we believe everyone can grow, learn, and be their best. We show kindness and respect because what we say and do matters to ourselves, to others, and to the diverse cultures and experiences that make up our community. At Ross Road, we celebrate and embrace the richness of our differences, ensuring that everyone feels safe, seen, heard, and valued. Together - students, staff, and families - we create a school where every individual's unique identity is respected, and where every person feels they truly belong."

At Ross Road School, we believe that students are more successful when there is ongoing and effective communication between school and home. Throughout the year, there will be many ways that we will communicate with you about your child's progress (e.g., phone calls, progress conferences, report cards, etc.).

HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH FAMILIES

Teacher Communication

Teachers share learning goals and progress updates via Google Classroom, class websites, emails, and phone calls. Teachers also provide their own communication plan at the beginning of the school year.

Weekly Newsletters

School newsletters are emailed to parents/guardians/caregivers and posted on our website weekly. Each newsletter celebrates student activities from the previous week and highlights upcoming events.

SchoolMessenger System

Notifies families of important information, school events, unexpected school closures, and emergency alerts. Please ensure the school office has your current contact details.

Parent Portal & Website

The Parent Portal gives online access to student attendance and learning data. Our school website is regularly updated with current school calendar info, announcements, and contact tools.

REPORT CARDS & PROGRESS CONFERENCES

Report cards are sent home three times a year. The **Learner Profile** provides information on work habits, social skills, and attendance. Subject sections provide grades and teacher comments detailing achievements, areas for growth, and home/school learning suggestions. Scheduled progress conferences allow families to discuss progress directly with teachers.

TERM	REPORT CARDS ISSUED	PROGRESS CONFERENCES
Term 1	Between Nov. 23 – Nov. 30th, 2026	Thursday, December 4, 2026
Term 2	Between March 15 – March 25th, 2027	Thursday, April 2, 2027
Term 3	Wednesday, June 30, 2027	<i>End of Year (No scheduled conference)</i>

* For important dates throughout the year, please see the HRCE School Calendar for the 2026-2027 School Year.

UNDERSTANDING ASSESSMENT & GRADING SCALES

Assessments help teachers monitor progress and guide instruction. Nova Scotia's Student Assessment Policy outlines inclusive and equitable practices, reporting on cumulative evidence that reflects ongoing student learning.

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING GATHERED VIA:

- **Conversations with students** to understand their thinking
- **Observations of learning** in daily classroom activities
- **Work that shows learning** demonstrating outcome mastery

Note on Attendance & Absences:

Regular attendance greatly supports student achievement. In the event a student misses school, teachers will provide materials distributed during the absence.

ELEMENTARY REPORTING SCALE

Code	Achievement Description
WD	Well developed understanding & application of concepts & skills.
DE	Developing as expected with understanding & application.
ND	Needs development with understanding & application.
A	Thorough understanding & application of concepts & skills.
B	Good understanding & application of concepts & skills.
C	Basic understanding & application of concepts & skills.
D	Limited understanding & application. Expectations not met.

JUNIOR HIGH REPORTING SCALE

% / Level	Achievement Description
90 – 100%	Excellent understanding & application of concepts & skills.
80 – 89%	Very good understanding & application of concepts & skills.
70 – 79%	Good understanding & application of concepts & skills.
60 – 69%	Satisfactory understanding & application of concepts & skills.
50 – 59%	Minimal understanding & application of concepts & skills.
Level 4	In-depth knowledge; able to extend application of skills.
Level 3	Competent knowledge; appropriate application of skills.
Level 2	Developing knowledge & application of related skills.
Level 1	Limited knowledge & application of related skills.

* Marks of 3+, 2+, 1+ may also indicate achievement between scale numbers.

HOMEWORK & ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Homework consolidates classroom learning and prepares students for upcoming instruction. Practice may include:

- Foundational reading, writing, and math practice
- Physical skills promoting healthy growth & development
- Educational games reinforcing learned concepts
- Reading short texts or watching videos for class discussion

If your child has difficulty with homework, please reach out to the teacher so support can be provided.

Homework Hub (Grades 4–12)

Offers **free online math tutoring** accessible directly through your child's **GNSPES account**.

RESOLVING QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Our goal is always to work together in the best interest of your child. If you have a question or concern:

1 Classroom Teacher

Start by contacting the teacher, who is in the best position to discuss classroom matters.

2 School Principal

If the matter remains unresolved, please reach out directly to the principal.

3 HRCE Family Navigators

If still unresolved, contact Family Navigators for support resources or school supervisor connection.

COLLABORATIVE SCHOOL TEAMS

STUDENT PLANNING TEAM

When necessary, collaborative learning plan meetings are held to support individual student success. These meetings bring together parents/guardians/caregivers and members of the student's school team.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

Our SAC meets regularly to provide recommendations on various school matters to support student learning. For more information, please contact **Amanda Frost** at afrost@hrce.ca.