



Ottewell School Grade 7 Spring Package for 2017-2018 School Year

Spring 2017

Dear Grade 7 Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Ottewell Junior High School! This letter confirms your registration for the 2017-2018 school year and will provide you with the information you need for starting grade 7!

First Day of School

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Homeroom lists will be posted in the front foyer. The first bell will ring at 8:20 a.m. At this time, students should be moving to their homerooms. At 8:25 a.m., we officially begin the day in period 1 with announcements. The next hour or so will be dealing with the information and administration of starting the new school year. The rest of the day will be a modified schedule helping students to connect with the new building, new routines, new teachers and classmates. It promises to be an exciting day! Please find included a copy of next year's Daily Bell Schedule.

Grade 7 'Sneak-A-Peek'

On Friday, September 1, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., we will be hosting our annual Grade 7 "Sneak-A-Peek" event and we hope that you will be able to join us. This has been a huge success in the past with as many as 90% of our new Grade 7's attending. At the "Sneak-A-Peek", the Grade 7 students will have a chance to find their homerooms, navigate through their timetables by moving from classroom to classroom and meet with their teachers without the hustle and bustle of the busy hallways. It is an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the school before the first day begins.

Transportation

Most Ottewell students travel to school by city buses called 'School Specials' provided by Edmonton Transit. Bus passes are sold at the school before school and at lunch prior to the end of each month. Current monthly rates are \$55.00. Rates for the 2017-2018 school year will be announced at a later date. Edmonton Public Schools' Department of Student Transportation works closely with E.T.S. to provide them with information about neighborhoods in which our students reside. E.T.S. watches the number of student riders closely and reacts as needed to institute school specials required to meet the need of students.

SchoolZone

Parents are strongly encouraged to be checking SchoolZone regularly for updated School News and Announcements, the School Calendar of events and activities, updated Individual Student Reports posted at regular intervals, and Class News with homework and test dates.

School Supplies

Information regarding student supplies will be passed on in every class during the first few days of school. However, if you wish to purchase some of the basic supplies required of most classes, here are some of the necessities:

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (10) HB pencils | (10) ink pens (blue or black) |
| (1) package of pencil crayons | (3-4) 3-ring binders |
| (2) 3-holed paper packages (lines) | (1) 3-holed paper package (no lines) |
| (10) dividers for binders | (1-2) highlighters |

Students are encouraged to provide a combination lock for their locker (this can be purchased at the school for \$7). Items such as calculators and geometry sets will be a topic for discussion the first few days of school. Teachers will provide further details.



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Communication

At Ottewell School, we know that communication is key between students, parents, and school staff. Always feel welcome to contact teachers or administrators by emailing or calling the school office. Staff emails are available in Resources > School Resources in SchoolZone.

Technology

We have made it a priority at Ottewell School to provide our students with access to technology to support their learning. There are Smart Boards in every classroom and we are continuing to upgrade SmartBoard models as needed. We currently have 2 ChromeBase Labs, 1 PC Lab and 4 ChromeBook carts available for classroom use. Ottewell Teachers are continuing to explore ways to effectively integrate technology into the classrooms; this has been an area of professional learning for our staff over the past few school years.

Dress Code

Students and parents are encouraged to review our dress code under For Students > Student Services on our website - <http://ottewell.epsb.ca/> prior to back-to-school shopping.

Assessments For and Of Learning

Our school's more detailed Assessment Plan can be found at <http://ottewell.epsb.ca/aboutourschool/schoolassessmentplan/> Students and parents should know that there are two types of "marks" recorded in the gradebook. The first, Assessments For Learning, are assessments for practice and feedback; they give both the student and teacher feedback as to how the learning is going so adjustments can be made. The second, Assessments Of Learning, are assessments for evaluation that are done at the end of units; they are used to determine students' overall achievement in relation to curricular outcomes. We have a school-wide process for ensuring both Assessments For and Of Learning are completed by all students; students have catch-up days and times during the lunch hour if they need to catch up on their AFLs or AOLs.

Attendance

Under the School Act, regular attendance is compulsory for junior high school students; being in class every day and on time is crucial to students being academically successful. Parents, please call in to report your son's/daughter's absences. Our school administration employ a variety of interventions to support students when attendance is an issue, including Term attendance letters, phone calls home, meetings with parents, referrals to our school social worker, and referrals to the Attendance Board.

Option and Language Selection

- All students will be placed in Option courses prior to school opening.
- For Full-Year Option courses, select your #1 (First Choice), #2 (Second Choice), #3 (Third Choice).
- For Trimestered option courses, select your #1 (First Choice), #2 (Second Choice), #3 (Third Choice), #4 (Fourth Choice or Alternate)
- This information will tell us which courses you prefer.
- For students who are taking the Bilingual Mandarin language course, they must take Chinese Culture which will take up one Option block. For the other Option blocks, they can request 1 Full-Year Option or 3 Trimestered Options. Students must have taken Bilingual Mandarin in grade 6 and/or meet our requirements as determined by our Mandarin teacher.
- Other students can choose between French or Chinese Language & Culture (no previous Mandarin language required.) We may not be able to accommodate all requests for Chinese L & C.
- Not all Option courses are offered at all times on our timetable. Sometimes, two of your selections may be offered at the same time. Every effort will be made to place students in preferred courses within the restrictions of the timetable. Please discuss these choices with your son/daughter and indicate your approval by signing in the space provided. Students are asked to give much thought to their selections as course changes cannot be guaranteed in September.

Please return the 2017-2018 Grade 7 Student Option Selection Form by Thursday, May 4, 2017. They can be returned to your grade 6 school and then they will be forwarded via truck mail between schools ASAP.



TOP TEN FOR OTTEWELL STUDENTS AND PARENTS

**To ensure an amazing junior high experience,
we offer you the top 10 ways to totally love Ottewell School.**

- 10.** Remember, you have both Rights and Responsibilities as a student at Ottewell. Stand up for your Rights and live up to your Responsibilities. At Ottewell, we talk about 'Being Kind to One Another' and "Treating People How We Like to Be Treated".
- 9.** Bring a book to SQUIRT (Super Quiet Uninterrupted Reading Time) every day.
- 8.** Bring at least a binder with paper, a pen and pencil on the first day. Teachers will be handing out a supply list for their classes.
- 7.** Keep your locker clean and well organized. You should consider a small shelf units available at places such as Staples and Wal-Mart. We encourage parents to check the state of your locker on a monthly basis.
- 6.** Parents, take an active interest in your child's work. Talk to teachers early if your child has any special needs, worries or concerns. If your child is avoiding or struggling to keep up with homework, notify the teacher as soon as possible.
- 5.** In grade 7, students should spend up to one hour doing homework, studying for tests, or at least 20 minutes reading. This means no TV, phone or computer during this time.
- 4.** Use *SchoolZone*. Students and parents will each have their own accounts. This site will show students' marks, homework and test dates. It is full of valuable information about clubs, events and activities.
- 3.** Stay off the Assessment Catch Up List. If you are on the list, make sure you go to the assigned room at lunch and complete the assessment, putting in your best work. Parents will be notified if making up assessments becomes an ongoing concern.
- 2.** Get involved! There are many clubs, teams and activities. Try out for a team. You may not make the team on your first try, but you could get a coach's attention for the future. Intramurals at lunch hour have homerooms competing against each other. You receive the most points just for participating. There are clubs and extracurricular activities for a variety of student interests - listen to the Announcements everyday to stay informed! You might meet new friends and, by getting involved, enhance your junior high school experience.
- 1.** Attend school regularly. Attendance has a very big impact on academic success. You need to be in the classroom to learn by listening to the lesson, participating in class and getting involved in class discussions. Have a positive attitude and show your teachers respect as they are here to help you succeed. If you have any concerns about a mark or problem with another student, talk to your teacher immediately.

WELCOME TO OTTEWELL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL!



Ottewell School

Daily Bell Schedule 2017 – 2018

Morning Warning Bell	8:20 a.m.	
Period 1	Begin 8:25 a.m.	End 9:18 a.m. (53 mins)
Period 2	Begin 9:21 a.m.	End 10:11 a.m. (50 mins)
Snack Break	Begin 10:11 a.m.	End 10:21 a.m. (10 mins)
Period 3	Begin 10:21 a.m.	End 11:11 a.m. (50 mins)
Period 4	Begin 11:14 a.m.	End 12:04 p.m. (50 mins)

Lunch Break	Begin 12:04 p.m.	End 12:44 p.m. (40 mins)
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Afternoon Warning Bell	12:39 p.m.	
Silent Reading (SQUIRT)	Begin 12:44 p.m.	End 1:02 p.m. (18 mins)
Period 5	Begin 1:05 p.m.	End 1:55 p.m. (50 mins)
Period 6	Begin 1:58 p.m.	End 2:48 p.m. (50 mins)

***Thursday Early Dismissal at 2:00 p.m.**



Ottewell School

2017-2018 Grade 7 Student Language & Option Selection Form

STUDENT NAME: _____ M (male) or F (female)? _____

PARENT NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

COMPULSORY LANGUAGE COURSES (Choose ONE only.) (Students will be placed in classes with available spaces)

_____ French

_____ Chinese Language & Culture (Beginner)

_____ Bilingual Mandarin (need to have studied Bilingual Mandarin in grade 6)

OPTIONS

Full-Year Option - Please number 1 to 3 (#1 being your first choice):

_____ Band (Music)

_____ Art

_____ Drama

Please check here if you prefer to take 2 Full-Year Options as you have them numbered above, but please also still number trimestered options.

Complementary courses may change based on staff expertise

Trimestered Option - Please number 1 to 4 (#1 being your first choice, and #4 being your alternate):

_____ Construction

_____ Foods

_____ Media & Computer Technology

_____ Outdoor Education

If you are in Bilingual Mandarin please check here , and select one of the following:

If you would prefer 1 Full Year Option check here:

If you would prefer 3 Trimestered Options check here:

Please check this box if your child has been **accepted** into the Academic Challenge Program:

_____ Date

_____ Student Signature

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature

**Please return the
2017-2018 Grade 7 Student Option
Selection Form by Thursday, May 4, 2017.**

They can be returned to your grade 6 school and then they will be forwarded via truck mail between schools ASAP.

They can also be returned to the Ottewell School Office.