



Tatamagouche Regional Academy

Student Handbook 2024-2025

Vision

In our vision, we see school, home, and community working together to pursue the common task of learning. Teachers will utilize time, expertise, and resources to provide for individual differences, while maintaining high expectations and standards for all students. Students will be motivated to take risks in their learning, becoming life-long learners in an environment of appropriate challenge and leadership.

Mission

We, at Tatamagouche Regional Academy, are committed to establishing an inclusive, safe, positive learning climate and school environment where students can reach their full potential. We work to engage our learners in a pedagogy that embraces curiosity and provides academic challenge, engaging and motivating our students to want to become independent lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and problem solvers. We strive to empower our students to become confident, knowledgeable and respectful citizens who are socially conscious and globally aware, and who will contribute successfully to our world by recognizing the value of positive role models and inspiring leadership.

Beliefs

- The education of the students encompasses the school, the home, and the community.
- Everyone is capable, valued, and responsible.
- All students can learn; students learn in different ways.
- Everyone should recognize that respect for oneself, for others and the community they are in, creates a tolerant and safe environment, where we can celebrate diversity and individuality.
- Students should be provided with opportunities to develop critical thinking, reasoning, problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- All students require opportunities to develop and mature socially.
- All students deserve to receive attention for both strengths and challenges, through consistent, frequent feedback.
- Teachers will provide the opportunity for students to develop to their full academic potential.
- The teacher is the facilitator who provides a caring and inviting place where the students will be safe, comfortable, and free to take risks in learning

School Hours/Bell Schedule

Tatamagouche Regional Academy Bell Schedule					
P-3		4-6		7-12	
8:10am-8:30am	Duty in hallways & classrooms	8:10am-8:30am	Duty in hallways & classrooms	8:10am-8:30am	Duty in hallways & classrooms
8:30am-10:30am	Instructional time	8:30am-10:45am	Instructional time	8:30am-9:30am	1 st period
10:30am-10:45am	Recess	10:45am-11:00am	Recess	9:35am-10:30am	2 nd period
				10:30am-10:40am	Recess
10:45am-12:00pm	Instructional time	11:00am-12:00pm	Instructional time	10:40am-11:40am	3 rd period
12:00pm-12:50pm	Lunch 12:00-12:25 (Inside – 25 mins) 12:25-12:50 (Outside – 25mins)	12:00pm-12:50pm	Lunch 12:00-12:25 (Outside – 25 mins) 12:25-12:50 (Inside – 25 mins)	11:40am-12:20pm	Lunch
12:50pm-2:20pm	Instructional time	12:50pm-2:20pm	Instructional time	12:20pm-1:20pm	4 th period
				1:20pm-2:20pm	5 th period
TOTAL = 300 mins		TOTAL = 300 mins		TOTAL = 300 mins	

Basic Expectations for Students

1. Be on time.
2. Be prepared.
3. Show respect for yourself, others, and school property.

Personal Electronic Devices (PED)

It is very important to maintain a learning environment that is free from unnecessary distractions so that students can focus, feel safe and be successful in school. We know from experience that cell phones and other related devices are often a source of distraction. They are also known to

contribute to feelings of anxiety, can be used to bully and negatively impact students' overall feelings of well-being.

Cell phones add considerable convenience to our day-to-day lives. However, we have seen that pervasive use can lead to distractions and concerning mental health outcomes. When appropriate, our school will continue to educate and model appropriate, responsible use. Our **staff will also model these expectations by only using personal cell phones when absolutely necessary for work purposes.**

At TRA this means:

- Students may still carry a cell phone to and from school if necessary.
- During class, the cell phones must be turned off and stored out of sight, in students' lockers provided to all students.
- Students in Grades PP-12 may not use their cell phone at any time during the day.
- At no time are cell phones permitted in washrooms and change rooms.
- Parents and Guardians will need to call the office, 902-657-6235, to pass along important messages
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What happens if a student does not follow these expectations?

- The first time a student is found using their device when not permitted, they'll be reminded and asked to turn it off and put it away.
- The second time, they'll be referred to the office and the device will be left in our office for the day. Their parents or guardians will be notified.
- The third time, they'll be referred to the office and the device will be held until a parent or guardian meets with the Principal or Vice Principal to retrieve the device. Their parents or guardians will be notified.

If students continue to not follow expectations the Principal or Vice Principal will work with the School Code of Conduct, the student and family to address the concerns.

If a device is being used in such a way that it causes offence or harm to another person or persons or for obscene purposes, the device will be confiscated until a parent/guardian meets with administration. Depending on the severity of the incident, the RCMP may be called in.

All staff members have the right to confiscate cell phones when used in violation of policy. If a student refuses to relinquish a cell phone to a school staff member, the student should be referred to the administration.

Any communication from parents/guardians should be made directly through the office.

Punctuality

Any student arriving after 8:30am (for 1st period) or after the bell rings to indicate the beginning of class will be regarded as late.

- Any 7-12 students arriving after 8:20am must report to the office and ***sign in***
- Students arriving late after lunch must report to the office and ***sign in***.
- Grade 12 students who have a free period first class in the morning will not be classified as late but must sign in at the office upon arrival.

Repetitive late arrivals:

Repetitive late arrivals could result in a conversation with a teacher or consequences such as time at break or lunch. Persistent lateness could lead to a referral to administration and consequences such as meetings with family, in school suspension, and attendance contracts.

Clothing

Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing for a school environment. If a student is in doubt, they should consult with school staff.

- No clothing that could lead to a group or particular individuals being offended should be worn. This could lead to a request for the offending article to be covered up.
- All students from P-6 will be expected to have indoor footwear for inside the building.

After school

If students are staying on-site for an after-school activity, whatever that might be, they need to have received approval and be supervised during that activity by an approved adult.

Outdoor Safety

Students are not permitted in the following locations unless supervised by an adult:

- Behind the school
- In the wooded areas
- On the sports field

Recess and Lunch

- All P-8 students are to remain on-site during recess and lunch.
- Only grade 9-12 students will be allowed off-site during lunchtime.
- All students must remain on school grounds during recess.
- 7-12 students are not permitted to use the playground structure or playground area however are free to use the outdoor space past the playground.

The Parking Area

Students who park, should park in the designated student parking lot above the bus loop. Any high school student(s) needing access to, or arriving at, the parking lot during the day must use the designated walkways as much as possible to and from their vehicle.

Day-to-Day

- Inappropriate public displays of affection (PDA) will not be tolerated at school or during school events.
- During class time, students must only be outside of class, in the cafeteria area, library, hallways, break-out spaces with permission from a teacher.
- Grade 12 students on a free period must be in the library or a pre-approved location.
- NSVS students must be working in the library, the breakout space outside of the guidance office or a pre-approved location.

Dismissal & Buses

We are indeed fortunate to have concerned and caring bus drivers. Driving requires all of their attention and concentration and students can help them by ensuring that their behaviour is responsible.

For the issue of safety on the bus, students should be:

- sitting in their seats at all times
- not standing up in the aisles
- not turning around in their seats
- not making so much noise that they are unable to hear instructions from the bus driver.

7-12 Students:

- Will be dismissed by the classroom teachers and the final bell at 2:20pm.
- All 7-12 students should exit through the front entrance door, the bus loop exit door or the exit door next to the Youth Health Centre.
- 7-12 students should not use the side or rear doors when arriving or leaving the school.

Buses have priority exiting the school grounds, over other vehicles, during this time.

Early Dismissal

- If a 7-12 student is leaving early, they must provide notification from a parent/guardian and sign out at the main office.

Movement Throughout the Building

When moving throughout the building, during transition times, at recess, lunch, etc., it should be quiet and with respect for the learning of others and respect for the environment.

Between Classes

- People should move quietly to avoid disruptions to other classes which are still working. Teachers are expected to supervise this movement, wherever possible, or reinforce the message, at the least.
- There should be no students lingering in hallways and arriving late to class.

Outside of Instructional Time

- High school students should use the stairs nearest to the library end and in the Innovation Wing to move around the building. They should only use the stairs at the Art room end when leaving at the end of the day.
- When arriving at school, all students should use the front doors only.

Use of Breakout Spaces

All breakout spaces should be used under the supervision of, or with permission by, a teacher or an adult. In order to limit the amount of potential incidents that could damage these areas, no food or drinks should be consumed in these areas, except for water.

Use of the Cafeteria

During school, students can use the cafeteria for Breakfast Program, for their respective lunchtimes and at other possible times under the supervision of a teacher or adult.

- There should not be anyone lingering in the cafeteria during lesson times, unless they are in Drama, have been given permission or are supervised by a teacher for some other organized reason.
- Food & drink should be consumed in the cafeteria, except under special circumstances.
- Students are responsible for disposing of all materials like packaging, juice boxes, bottles, garbage etc, in the correct waste receptacles.
- No food or beverage should be consumed in the library area, the collaborative areas or in the gym, except water that needs to be in a capped container.

Use of the Gym

- Students are encouraged to not wear outdoor footwear in the gymnasium.
- There should be no food or drink, (except water contained in a sealed bottle), consumed in the gym.

Breakfast Program

- The Breakfast Program runs every day, except under special circumstances.
- The Breakfast Program will operate from 8:00am-8:15am.
- All students will be entitled to enjoy the Breakfast Program if they choose.
- Any packaging should be disposed of by the students in the correct location.

School Communication

Efforts will be made to keep parents informed of school events through the medium of our school website, Facebook page, and through regular notices which will be sent home either with the students or electronically.

The 7-12 students' communication strategy should be a phone call or e-mail for the most effective responses.

Agendas are provided to all students in grades P-12. This is an important link in home and school communication and provides a way for students to remain organized. Organization is a skill, and like all skills, it needs to be taught and encouraged continually.

School Closures

When school is cancelled for any reason, it is announced on the Charlottetown and Truro radio stations. If school is in session and weather conditions threaten school cancellation, please listen for radio announcements

Mustang of the Month

There will also be a Mustang of the Month assembly every month. There will be two students recognized by teachers and peers for particular achievements, endeavors, efforts from the previous month with Tri-County sponsoring our awards. If you wish to nominate a student please see Ms. Demings-Pollard.