



Junior School Information Session Questions and Answers

What happens if the pandemic continues? What does the remote work look like?

- If the pandemic continues, we would continue to deliver academics, arts, sports and clubs, using Edsby and MS Teams, while maintaining a high level of student-teacher interaction.

When will we receive details for signing up for transportation?

- Transportation information will be available on our **New Family Info Webpage** in early May.

Are there any extracurricular activities that need signing up for before the start of the school year?

- No, all registration for cocurricular activities begins when school starts.
- There are announcements regarding the beginning of clubs at the start of each term. Most clubs have no charge, but there are some clubs offered (Little Medical School) with a cost involved.

When/where can we purchase uniforms?

- The School Store is located on the Ashbury College campus. Dates and times of operations will be posted on the New Family Webpage in early May. In the past, the store has been open all summer – details to come.

Do we need to arrange for the student record to be transferred?

- Our Admin Team will request the student record from your child's previous school.

My son will be entering grade 7 this Fall. Given the current circumstances (COVID19), would it be possible for him to access academic content remotely in the coming weeks to ensure continuous learning and a smooth entry in Sept. at Ashbury College?

- Unfortunately, our Learning Management System (Edsby) only has the capacity to register current students. However, we will continue to post curriculum requirements and links to resources on our New Family Webpage.

Are there full year courses or is there a change of some courses mid-year?

- Courses run for the entire year in the Junior School, with Social Studies (Gr. 7 and 8) divided into half a year of History and half Geography. In our MAD (music, art, drama) courses, students specialize in 2 of the 3 arts in Grade 7 and 8.

Are there any electives, ie. languages as an example? If yes, when and how are these choices made?

- Language opportunities, such as French, Spanish and Mandarin, are available as school clubs. They run daily from 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students do not need to sign up ahead of time; they simply visit the clubs they are interested in each term.

For French in Grade 7, when/how is the decision made as to which class/stream the student is placed in? If we want our child to progress faster in French throughout a year, can that be done and how is that managed?

- School administration meets with all candidates and does an oral and written placement test. Levels are determined based on the student's oral and written fluency. Further diagnostics will take place in September to confirm the level. In May, parents will receive an email indicating the recommended French placement decision for their child. If parents would like their child to progress faster throughout the year, we encourage students to seek French extra help from the French teacher. If there are significant gaps, we may suggest hiring a tutor. Between May and September, we also encourage students to watch French television, films, listen to the radio in French, use Duolingo and, if possible, attend bilingual or French summer camps.

I understand there is also a Math stream in Grade 7. How and when is the decision made as to which class/stream the student is placed in?

- In Grade 7 and 8, Math classes follow an academic or enriched stream. Placement in these classes is based on diagnostic test results, conducted in September, and previous report cards. Placement can change throughout the year based on a student's performance.

Can you outline what is involved in the orientation day on Sept 8th? Is there a buddy system or something else to support new students past this day?

- New students will meet some of our current students on orientation day, also known as Chill Day. They will engage in games, do a tour of the school, be given their locks and agenda, attend a presentation on our co-curricular offerings as well as meet all teachers, including their form teachers.

Is there some orientation for parents of new families to the school at the beginning of the school year?

- There is a New Family Welcome in late August, and the Junior School Curriculum Evening in September. With the latter, you will meet our team of teachers as well as attend each of your child's classes.

I believe we have to order textbooks prior to school beginning. Where do we get information on required books? Is there anything else we should be aware of?

- The New Family Info Webpage will contain links to the online textbook ordering portal. Textbook ordering is usually up and running by late June. You may have textbooks delivered to your home address.

Can you outline how parents are aware of their child's progress through the school year in their different subject areas?

- You will have access to Edsby, our learning management system, where teachers post regularly formative and summative feedback. All course work, assignments, important dates, activities and report cards and learning skills reports for each term are also found on Edsby. Moreover, student/parent/teacher interviews take place in November and February.

From the handbook, am I to understand that we are responsible for providing sport equipment for Physical Education Classes?

- Sport equipment used for Physical Education and Games is provided by the school. Parents are, however, responsible for purchasing their child's gym clothing and personal equipment, such as cleats, and if participating in Friday skiing in Term 2, their child's ski equipment. It is also possible to rent ski/snowboard equipment at Camp Fortune.

In the Junior handbook, I see details about supplies and uniforms required for the start of school. Can you advise how we can get the uniform requirements if we are currently not in Canada and likely won't move until mid-July?

- Uniform and school supply information will be posted on our New Family Info Webpage.

As we have yet to visit the school, is there any opportunity to do so during the summer?

- We welcome all families to the campus over the course of the summer. Normally, the campus is closed for the first week of August, and this year much will depend on the Ottawa community health restrictions. All information about our open hours will be posted on our website.

I was wondering with the virus situation, have there been any discussions regarding the situation for families moving to Canada prior to school start this September. What happens in the unlikely event, due to the virus, we are not able to move until October, for example?

- Every year, Ashbury welcomes students to school late into the fall. In the past we have allowed students to begin their time at Ashbury as late as Canadian Thanksgiving, which this year is October 12, 2020. With the strength and continued growth of our distance learning platform, we believe we will be able to continue to teach children who are not living in Ottawa until their arrival to school campus.