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## Elmvale District High School Grade 7 to 12 Frequently Asked Questions

### **How will the transition be supported before, during and after the consolidation?**

Transition activities will be ongoing throughout the 2018-19 school year.

Schools will be holding transition events where students will be able to see their new school environments and meet EDHS staff and students. Some of the transition activities included:

- EDHS school visits
- Music class visits
- Explore EDHS
- Technology Class Visit/Activity
- Grade 8 Night
- Grade 6/7 sports tournament (basketball)
- We are hoping to have the 6/7 in to decorate/prepare their classrooms in June
- other mentoring activities

Parents will be included in the Explore EDHS event, and a joint School Council meeting will be held. School and board staff will continue to work with the community to ensure a smooth transition to the Grade 7 to 12 model.

A Transition Committee that includes a community representative and student, staff and parent representation from EDHS and HCES will meet throughout the school year to provide direction and feedback.

### **What time will school start and end?**

At this point we do not anticipate the start and end times for the schools will change.

Currently school starts at 8:50 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m.

The school start and end times will be finalized once the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) determines their final routes for student transportation.

### **Will there be a Safe Arrival program for Grade 7 and 8 students?**

Procedures regarding safe arrival and attendance and have not been finalized. Staff at EDHS are working to integrate elementary office procedures into their processes. However, an attendance program will be in place for Grade 7 and 8 students.

### **Will Grade 7 and 8 students follow the same school year calendar as Grade 9-12? Will they have the same PA Days?**

Grade 7 and 8 students will follow the elementary school year calendar. Some elementary PA Days are tied to the elementary teachers' collective agreement, so Grade 7 and 8 students will have the same PA Days as K-6 students at Huronia Centennial.

**Will Grade 7 and 8 students follow an elementary balanced day, with nutrition breaks and recess, or will they follow the Grade 9-12 schedule?**

Grade 7 and 8 students at EDHS will follow the same schedule (common bell times) as students in grades 9 through 12, meaning the day will be divided into four, 75 minute periods. All students at EDHS will have the same lunch period to ensure that Grade 7 and 8 students will be able to participate in clubs, sports and other activities that may be offered during that time.

**Will the Grade 7 and 8 students participate in secondary school sports?**

OFSAA regulations do not permit elementary aged students to participate in secondary school sports. The Grade 7 and 8 students will be able to participate in regular elementary sports competitions. They may benefit from coaching/mentorship of the secondary students.

**What will the Grade 7 and 8 program look like?**

The Grade 7 and 8 curricula will be consistent with all Grade 7 and 8 programs in the SCDSB. Opportunities for access to specialized classrooms (science labs, music and art rooms) will be available.

**Will there be Grade 8/9 split classes?**

No. Elementary and secondary teachers have different collective agreements.

**Will Grade 7 and 8 students have access to the cafeteria, gym and extracurricular activities?**

Grade 7 and 8 students will have access to the entire EDHS facility and resources. The new EDHS cafeteria will have space to accommodate all students.

Extracurricular programs are run by teachers who volunteer and community volunteers. The activities offered to students will be based on the availability and skill sets of staff and community volunteers.

**Will the Grade 7 and 8 students be supervised during lunch, and before and after school?**

Elementary teachers are required to provide 80 minutes to the school each week to supervise students outside of classroom instructional time. This means during lunch, and before and after school. The principal will develop a schedule for teacher supervision for school start up in September.

**Will the Grade 7 and 8 students be kept separate from the Grade 9-12 students? What are the impacts of having Grade 7-8 students integrated with Grade 9-12 students?**

EDHS will be a Grade 7 to 12 secondary school. Grade 7 and 8 students will not be segregated from their older peers. Every student who attends EDHS will be an Elmvale District High School Eagle and included in the house system. The SCDSB continues to explore opportunities for senior students to mentor and support Grade 7 and 8 students attending EDHS.

**Will there be a separate orientation for Grade 7 and 8 students before school starts in September?**

We will offer an orientation for Grade 7 and 8 students. This orientation will be discussed and planned with input from Grade 7 and 8 teachers, much in the same way that Kindergarten teachers are integral to planning the transition from Kindergarten to Grade 1. Orientation information will be shared with incoming Grade 7 and 8 students at the end of the school year through their current elementary school. This will include details about the first day of school, and what students can expect.

**Will Grade 7 and 8 students miss out on leadership opportunities (being the 'big fish')? What happens to Grade 8 graduation, field trips and other rites of passage?**

All students will be provided opportunities to develop their leadership skills.

Field trips are curriculum based and will be offered based on student interest, learning opportunities and availability of staff supervision.

Grade 8 graduation has always been a school responsibility. Details regarding this event and others of a similar nature will be shared as they become available.

**Will elementary teachers from Huronia Centennial transfer to EDHS with the students?**

Staffing at the JK-6 school will be based on the current collective agreements with the elementary teacher federation.

The staffing process at EDHS will occur in the spring. We anticipate it will be similar to the experience at SCI.