

Principal: Christine Sharpe  
Superintendent of Student Achievement: Sheila Powell

Secretary: Joanne Crawford.  
Trustee: Dave Cripps.

Custodian: Mike Brown  
Trustee: Leanne Hopkins

# A.J. BAKER

## 2024-25 OPENING DAY

SEPTEMBER 2024

### Dates to Remember

Monday, Sept. 2:  
Labour Day

Tuesday, Sept 3:  
PD Day



Wednesday, Sept 4:  
SK-Gr 8 First Day

Thursday, Sept 5:  
JK First Day

Monday, Sept 9:  
Staff Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 24:  
Picture Day



Meet the Family  
Night: TBD (After  
October 1)

### WELCOME BACK, FAMILIES!



It is hard to believe that September is finally here, and we are about to start a new school year together. I hope your summer has been filled with fun and rest, making memories and reconnecting with the people and places that matter most to you.

I am so happy to be joining the AJ Baker community this year as Principal. This is a wonderful and welcoming school. Our staff have been working hard to prepare to welcome your children, and we are looking forward to another great year of learning and leading together.

We are so grateful to our custodial team for their dedication and hard work over the summer. The classrooms, the portables, the gym, the library, the hallways and all of our common spaces look amazing and so welcoming to the students and families who will enter this space.

In my short time at AJ Baker, I can see that this is a school with staff, students and families who care deeply for one another and who are working diligently to create a learning community where we are all engaged and working together. Let's make it a great year!

Christine Sharpe - Principal

## **YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER**

As per board procedure, your child will find out the name of their teacher the first day of school as they arrive.

## **CLASSROOM SWITCHES**

Please note that due to the complexity of placing students in classes and the many factors that go into the process of student placement in April/May/June, consideration will not be given at this time to "switching" classes. Thanks in advance for respecting this involved process. Please be aware that sometimes re organizations are required early in the year based on unexpected increase or decline in enrolment. If your child's placement is impacted, we will reach out to you about required changes.

<b>9:00</b>	<b>School Day Begins</b>
<b>9:00-9:50</b>	<b>Period 1</b>
<b>9:50-10:40</b>	<b>Period 2</b>
<b>10:40-10:55</b>	<b>Morning Recess</b>
<b>10:55-11:45</b>	<b>Period 3</b>
<b>11:45-12:45</b>	<b>Lunch and Lunch Recess</b>
<b>12:45-1:35</b>	<b>Period 4</b>
<b>1:35-2:25</b>	<b>Period 5</b>
<b>2:25-2:40</b>	<b>Afternoon Recess</b>
<b>2:40-3:30</b>	<b>Period 6</b>
<b>3:30</b>	<b>Dismissal and Bus Boarding</b>

## Access to School

- All TVDSB external doors to the school will be locked unless for essential operational needs.
- A doorbell and phone number are outside the main doors to reach the office staff. We will happily greet your child or bring them to you.
- Parents may sign out/pick up their children for lunch if desired. Otherwise, students remain at school during the lunch break. The doors to schools are locked at all times. There is a doorbell and camera to alert office staff. Please call ahead to let Mrs. Crawford know if you plan to pick up your child.

In August, you should have received emails from the Thames Valley District School Board inviting you to complete information and authorization forms in your Parent Portal. In the past, paper copies of these forms were sent home during the first week of school. Annual verification forms for the 2024-2025 school year are now available through the TVDSB Parent Portal ([www.tvdsb.ca/parentportal](http://www.tvdsb.ca/parentportal)).

Please take a few minutes to complete these forms online. The use of the Parent Portal will expedite the process in ensuring that accurate information is on file at the school with respect to your child/children.

Electronic forms are helpful to simplify and streamline the task. If you have not yet created a Parent Portal account or accessed your existing account to complete this paperwork, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. This year you are requested to make use of the TVDSB Parent Portal to authorize certain items as soon as possible.

This method of data collection familiarizes parents with the contents of the Parent Portal for future use, streamlines the collection process, and is environmentally friendly.

**Note that once access is granted to the Parent Portal, documentation can be translated to other languages, if desired.**

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH PREVALENT MEDICAL / HEALTH CONDITIONS IN SCHOOLS

To ensure children with potentially life threatening medical conditions remain safe while attending school, TVDSB requests that Parents/Guardians update the necessary medical information on the Parent Portal so the school's administration can review an Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) for the student. Medical conditions considered potentially life threatening may include:

1. Asthma
2. Anaphylaxis
3. Epilepsy
4. Type 1 Diabetes
5. Any other potentially life threatening condition that could result in a medical incident\* (discuss with your school administrator)



Parents/guardians can provide important information about their child's life threatening or prevalent medical condition by logging into the TVDSB parent portal and clicking on the following tab: student medical information. Once an Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) is submitted, the school administrator will review the information.

Parents/guardians may be contacted for further information if required.

Parents/guardians have the opportunity to complete IPOC online and submit them electronically to the student's school.

Parents/guardians who cannot access the parent portal on the internet should contact the school office.

Please note that parents/guardians are expected to be active participants in supporting the management of the student's prevalent medical condition(s) while the student is in school. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to inform the school of such conditions to ensure the student's safety at school.

**\*A medical incident is a circumstance that requires an immediate response and monitoring since the incident may progress to an emergency requiring contact with emergency medical services 911.**

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

**As you prepare for back to school, here are some items that you may want to consider:**

- Please send your child(ren) a filled water bottle that will go home daily for cleaning. Please remind them to bring them home daily.
- A pair of indoor shoes for gym class and wearing in school (socks are not safe in the gym or in case of evacuation)
- Please label your child's items with their name, water bottles especially
- Basics (pencils, eraser, pencil crayons/pencil case. **Please know this is not required!**)
- Younger students can practice opening containers and building independence. Ideally, families should consider providing reusable containers to minimize waste and recycling at school. This makes our environment happier and allows custodians to spend more time surface cleaning.

**We have some spare backpacks containing some basic supplies. We are happy to provide you with one next week or the first day of school if you are in need.**



## PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND PERSONAL DEVICES

- Students' personal belongings should be limited as much as possible.
- Indoor shoes will remain at school.
- Kindergarten students need to have a change of clothing. All items must be labelled. These items can stay in their backpack.
- Students are permitted to bring their own devices (e.g. Chromebook, iPad). There will be a consent form similar to past years that will go home through homeroom teachers for parents and students to sign and return if they decide for their child to bring student owned devices to school. It will be the responsibility of the students at all times to take care of their devices, and they stay in their backpacks and follow the teacher's instructions. The devices will only be used for education purposes and under teacher guidance and supervision and are not for recess purposes. Please know that any electronic devices are not allowed on the yard/class at recess times. Teachers will go through the expectations in the room.
- Privileges of access to wifi at school will be taken away if misuse happens, and it will be reported to the board for follow up.

**A friendly and important reminder:**

**THE USE OF CELL PHONES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AT SCHOOL**



- It is natural for students to want to share their belongings with their peers. We strongly encourage parents to reinforce that sharing personal belongings will not be permitted.

## NUT SAFE SCHOOL

**A reminder that A.J. Baker Public School is a Nut Safe School.**

**Please be aware that we have students who are allergic to peanut and nut products, and a reaction could be fatal if they come in contact with these products. We ask for your help and cooperation to avoid sending any food to school containing peanuts or nut products.**

Also, we ask that peanut butter substitute products not be used in place of Peanut Butter for student lunches. This can be problematic as it is very hard to identify it as such. The Thames Valley District School Board supports not using any peanut butter substitute as it is too hard to delineate from peanut butter.

Thank you for your attention to this as we attempt to make the learning environment as safe as possible for all our students. Your support is greatly appreciated.



## FIRST DAY PROCEDURE



### MORNING:

\*Please arrive close to 9 a.m. to decrease congestion on the yard. Buses begin to roll in at 8:50. Students are not supervised prior to 8:50 a.m. each day and must not arrive before no matter their age.

\*Please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. In the event of inclement weather, the lining up will still take place outside.

\*As much as teachers would like to meet families and chat, safety precautions are important. The focus is gathering the students, getting them inside and ready for learning and building great relationships. Safe arrival/attendance is the focus of the entry.

\*Teachers will connect with parents at another time. Anything important can be directed to office staff via call or email during the day

### FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS



**SENIOR** Kindergarten students will arrive on Wednesday, September 4. They will have a chance to review school routines and be the “big kids” in the classroom. Hopefully it will be a good time for them to reconnect with their friends and teachers.

All **JUNIOR** Kindergarten students will arrive for the start of the school year on Thursday, Sept. 5th.

Our kindergarten team is very excited to see them. Parents, please know that your kids are in good hands. The educators will greet students at the entrance and bring them into the yard.

They will be encouraged to line up and learn/review their entry routines.

This is harder on the parents than the kids. They will be rockstars.

And it's okay for you to tear up as you bid farewell; we know the feeling and understand.

### Students Arriving/Leaving by Bus

Students need to follow all rules to be safe on the bus. Bussed students will be greeted by our staff on bus duty to and will guide them to the proper locations. If your bus is a bit late arriving to your stop at the start or end of the day in the first week, do not worry. We are ensuring all students are accounted for.

If there is a major delay at the end of the day, we will contact you via Messenger (email blast).

Ensure you have registered at [www.mybigyellowbus.ca](http://www.mybigyellowbus.ca) to get important updates.

## DISMISSAL/EARLY PICK UP

\*At 3:30 p.m., All students will be dismissed by their teachers, except those in the before/after school program. Students in grades 5-8, who are walkers, will be permitted to walk home if we know parents consent to this. Students will walk out of the building.

\*Teachers and parents will connect to dismiss students.

\*Student may not travel on other friends' buses at any time.

\*Students may not travel with other families unless we have written consent or a phone call from both families ahead of time.

\*Students will only be permitted to leave with adults on the approved contact list unless we receive consent from the parent/guardian. That person should be prepared to show photo I.D. If they are not a parent/guardian, regardless of consent. If you have a custody agreement or alternate schedules for families, please provide these to the school. We would rather delay a child's dismissal than send them home with someone not on the contact list.

\*If you are meeting your child after school, please wait for your child in the parent area (near the flagpole) and promptly leave the school yard to avoid congestion. Please ensure you have alerted a staff member that you have taken your child. Your efforts to keep everyone safe are truly appreciated.

If a situation comes up where your child is supposed to be picked at the end of the day, the staff at A.J. Baker would appreciate if you give Mrs. Crawford a call by 3:00 PM. This way we can beat the end of the day rush in the office and we are able to better assist our students who are getting picked up as well as the ones at school. We know at times a note is sent with the students, but they forget to share the notes with teachers; hence if your child is supposed to be picked up at the end of the day, please call the office before 3:00 PM and speak to Mrs. Crawford.

Please continue to communicate with your child's teachers if the student will be leaving early or arriving late.

We appreciate your cooperation to make the end of the day go smoothly. Thank you for your continued support and positivity as we strive to do what is best for ALL our students and staff.



**PARKING FOR STUDENT  
DROP-OFF AND  
PICKUP ONLY**

**8:50AM to 9:00AM**

**3:15PM to 3:30PM**

## **A.J. BAKER SCHOOL WEBSITE**

Please check out our A.J. Baker Public School website for copies of our newsletters and information about school events. The school website is updated and it will be updated throughout the year. Here is the link to our school website: <https://ajbaker.tvdsb.ca>

Link to our school newsletters <http://ajbaker.tvdsb.ca/en/ourschool/newsletters.aspx>

## **Social Media**

Did you know that AJ Baker has a Social Media presence?

We can be found on X (formerly Twitter) @AJBakerKintore

We can be found on Instagram @ajbakerps

We can be found in Facebook Groups (AJ Baker Public School)

All three platforms will have regular updates. Student photos will never be included without your permission (and theirs).

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

The first council meeting will be announced shortly. We will be sending an update in the next few weeks. Everyone is welcome. We value your input and ideas.

**Photo Day** is Tuesday, September 24.

The staff at A.J. Baker have been working very hard preparing to welcome your child. We are excited about the possibilities and opportunities that are ahead of us.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can contact the school office at 519 283 1098 or via email [baker@tvdsb.ca](mailto:baker@tvdsb.ca)

Together, we will do great things!

Christine Sharpe - Principal

On behalf of the A.J. Baker staff

**THANK YOU  
SO MUCH**