



Bernie Wolfe School

95 Bournais Dr. | Winnipeg, MB R2C 3Z2 | Tel: 204.958.6532 | Fax: 204.667.9871

Principal: Christopher Chartier | Vice-principal: Shauna Côté | Vice-principal: Scott Hjartarson

Email: bw@retsd.mb.ca | Web: www.retsd.mb.ca/bw

WELCOME TO BERNIE WOLFE SCHOOL

2026-27

First Day of Classes -Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Welcome families to the 2026/2027 school year! We hope that you have enjoyed the summer and that our students are coming to us refreshed and ready for an exciting year of learning and growing. Our staff at Bernie Wolfe School look forward to meeting and working with you to ensure a positive and productive experience for our children and community.

For parents and students new to Bernie Wolfe School, we extend a very warm welcome and hope that your experience here is productive and enjoyable. To those who are returning this fall - welcome back and very best wishes for a great year ahead!

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

We have new teachers and administration at Bernie Wolfe this year. We welcome the following individuals to the staff and wish them every success.

Welcome Back:

J. Sangalang– EY Phys Ed

A. Beckwith – Grade 1&2

M. Mekuria – Grade 1&2

H. Fast – Grade 6

Welcome to BWS:

S. Cote – Vice Principal

C. Dianquinay – Grade 4B

P. Bannister – Grade 7&8 Art

We are excited for everyone to get to know our new teachers and administrators as we move forward together!

Meet the Teacher

We are hoping to meet with our families and to conduct a Meet the Teacher evening.

Tuesday Sept. 8, 2026, 4:00-6:00 PM

Please bring:

- lunch program payment (for Kindergarten – Grade 5 students) that can be paid in the front foyer at the lunch program table, and
- the student school supply fee to be paid to the teacher.

Fees amounts are indicated on the following pages.

** Please ensure you bring in exact cash or cheque for each separate payment amount. We cannot provide change. **

FIRST DAY PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION

1. **Middle Years Students.** On the first day of school, September 9, we will be having a **staggered entry for our middle years' students.**

Grade 6 students will arrive to school at their assigned entry doors for the morning entry bell. They are to arrive at their designated entry door for 8:45 am and will remain for the day.

Grade 7 & 8 students will arrive to school at their assigned entry doors for the afternoon session at 1:00 pm and will attend for the afternoon only on the first day.

2. **Early Years Students**

All Grade 1-5 students are to attend school for the full day on September 9. They will arrive for the morning entry bell at 8:40 am.

3. **Kindergarten**

Staggered Entry- Information was sent home in June to Kindergarten parents indicating their start date and child's day of the cycle. If you need information on your child's start date, please contact the office.

4. **Morning Arrival and Entry:** Upon arrival to school, your child(ren) will line up outside at their designated door. Each exterior door will have a teacher name posted on it and that will be your child's entry and exit door for the year. If your child is arriving by bus, we will have helpers outside with class lists to help escort the children to their appropriate door. There will be staff outside with clipboards to assist you if necessary.

5. **Arrival Times:**

We have the same arrival times from last year.

- i. Early Years students (Kindergarten to Grade 5) will enter the building at 8:40 through their designated doors.
- ii. Middle Years students will enter the building at 8:45 am. Middle Years students should NOT be on site until 8:30 am. The play structure is off-limits.

- iii. Middle Years Students who go home for lunch should be back by 12:25 at their designated entry doors.
- iv. Grade 6 students who stay for lunch are expected to remain on school grounds for the entire lunch period.

6. Dismissal:

- a. If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, we ask that you please wait at your child's designated cohort door. All students are dismissed at 3:25
Remember to park on the adjacent streets and arrange for a pick up spot with your child.
Absolutely NO PARKING IN THE BUS LOOP AT ANY TIME.

7. Student Fees:

Student Fees are due on the first day of school. Payment can be made through School Cash online (instructions will be sent in a divisional email prior to the first day of school), or by cash or cheque. (which can be submitted during Meet the Teacher evening to the classroom teacher or sent on the first day of school with the student)

- a. The breakdown is as follows:
 - i. Kindergarten - \$30 per student
 - ii. Grades 1-8 - \$55 per student
- b. Please refer to the supply lists included below (also available on the website).

8. Student Data Verification: We will be updating our student records with the most recent information regarding addresses, telephone numbers, emergency contacts etc. This process will take place on a form made available on the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

- a. Please be sure to double-check the primary email addresses provided as we will be using it to update our distribution list. You will receive many important reminders, announcements and the school newsletter via email.
- b. IMPORTANT UPDATE – The division now requires **4 emergency contacts**.

9. Early Years Lunch Program and Lunch Routines:

- a. Lunch Program forms are on our website and will be emailed out to families. Registration forms and payment must be **submitted by Friday, September 25th**. Until that date, your child will continue to stay at school for lunch.
- b. Students in all grades who stay for lunch are to remain on school property for the entire lunch hour.

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL



Using a cell phone internet browser or a desktop, you can access the PowerSchool Parent Portal. The following link will take you to the login page:

[PowerSchool Parent Portal](#)

For information on how to use the portal, consult this guide:

[RETSD PowerSchool Guide—Parent Portal Access for Guardians](#)

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Web Site: [Bernie Wolfe School](#) We encourage you to visit the web sites on a regular basis. Our website is where you will access the parent portal, the calendar dates and events, news, and announcements. We work very hard to keep our website as up to date as possible. The parent conference manager booking site is also found on our website as well as copies of the parent letters that we email home.

BWS Outdoor Electronic Sign: Our digital sign on the East side of our school by the bus loop is updated regularly with our events and notices for parents. Please read the memos listed on there for current information on upcoming events.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Building Access: In order to keep our staff and students safe, we ask that parents report to the office when picking up their child. If dropping off your student late, please have them first check in at the office. **Parents are not to accompany the student to their class.** If picking up your student early, please call the school office for us to arrange with their teacher.

REGULAR ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY ARE IMPORTANT

The staff at Bernie Wolfe works very hard to develop good attendance habits on the part of the students. It is important that students attend school regularly and arrive on time for scheduled classes and other obligations. School policy is in place to support students and to make them accountable for learning these habits.

Call-Back System:

If your son/daughter is to be absent from school, please inform the school by leaving a message on the school call-back line **(204-958-6532)** before 8:00 a.m., or by sending a written note or email, prior to the absence, to the homeroom teacher **and** school email at bw@retsd.mb.ca. If students do not arrive at school and no information has been received, parents will be contacted. We hope that you will remember to notify us so that we do not have to disturb you.

PICTURE DAY

Pictures of all students and staff will take place on Thursday, October 1 and Friday, October 2.

Retake photos for all students will be on Wednesday, November 4.

TRANSPORTATION

Stopfinder is an all-in-one, easy-to-use app for viewing and sharing your child's busing schedule.

With Stopfinder, you can:

- View your child's daily busing assignments, including transfers and stops.
- Securely share your child's schedule.
- Receive instant notifications and updates related to busing.

The Stopfinder app can be downloaded from:

- The App Store
- Google Play

ACCESSING & SHARING A SCHEDULE

Access to a student's schedule is granted only to their designated contacts by the transportation department. Stopfinder contacts, such as parents and guardians, can share their child's schedule with caregivers at their own discretion. An invitation to activate your Stopfinder account will be sent by email.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding your child's schedule or you haven't received your email invitation to register for Stopfinder, please contact the transportation department by phone at 204.669.0202 or by email at transportation@retsd.mb.ca.

You can learn more on the [Stopfinder website](#) or by viewing the [Stopfinder video](#).



Start Using the App Today

1. Activate your subscription
 - An invitation email will be sent from the Transportation Department
2. Install the Stopfinder app
3. View your student's schedule & share your student's schedule with caregivers
4. Create GeoAlerts, configure ETA Alerts & receive attendance notifications
5. Easily and securely communicate with your Transportation Department



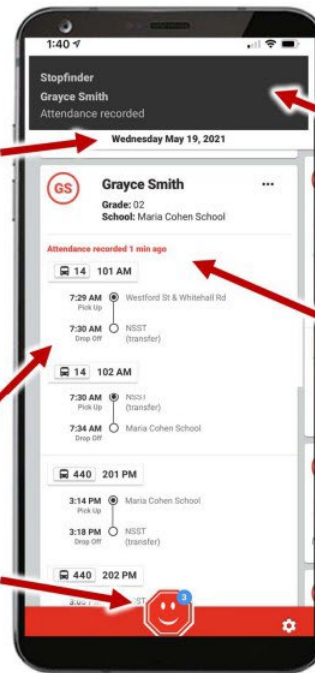
See each student's schedule for any day of the year

Vehicle, Trip and Stop information, including transfer trips and alternate site stops

Access announcements, forms, and messages

Receive real-time notifications for attendance, ETA, and GeoAlerts

View previous notifications for attendance and GeoAlerts on each student's card



RETSO Transportation Dept. is excited to offer our families this new App designed for easy and immediate access to your student's transportation information. If you have not received an email invitation, please contact us to get set up today!



 RETSD Transportation Department
 204-669-0202
 transportation@retsd.mb.ca

RETSD DIVISIONAL POLICIES

We encourage all caregivers to familiarize themselves with the following divisional policies. Most recent updates to divisional policy are found on the RETSD website: [Policies](#)

IJND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY USE Access to the River East Transcona School Division instructional technology services plays a vital role in teaching and learning in today's world. Student access to computer information technology is an integral part of their learning. The division, in cooperation with students and parents, will work to build an understanding of the importance of digital citizenship and the role that computer information technology can play in education. River East Transcona School Division promotes the use of its instructional technology services to improve the digital literacy of its users. Every user is expected to adhere to this policy, as well as the accompanying regulation and exhibits, and by accessing instructional technology tools, consents to follow the expectations contained in the policy.

If you wish to opt out, please complete and return this form to the school office [IJND-E1](#)

KDDB MEDIA COVERAGE, COPYRIGHT PERMISSION The River East Transcona School Division recognizes the value of positive public relations and as such realizes that from time to time during the school year, school staff, the media and/or River East Transcona School Division may be reporting on school or divisional events. On occasion, while covering these events, students are interviewed and/or still or moving images of them are taken for use by school staff, divisional staff or, the media. Quotes or images may be used by the media, in divisional publications, videos, social media accounts, or websites. (division, school, staff websites). As well, on occasion, students' works are published by the media or River East Transcona School Division, for example in divisional publications or videos, social media accounts or on websites (division, school, staff websites). Work produced by a student is copyrighted to that student. Unless otherwise indicated on KDDB-E1 – Parent Permission Form Media Coverage, Copyright Permission, by a parent/guardian or student who has reached the age of 18, it will be permitted for students to be interviewed and/or to allow still or moving images of them to be taken for use by the media or the division. Parents who indicate "no" and opt out on any of the permission items identified in the exhibit need to discuss this decision with their child and indicate to the child what actions they must take in these situations. This information will be sent home on an annual basis.

If you wish to opt out, please complete and return this form to the school office: [KDDB-E1](#)

DIVISIONAL CELL PHONE POLICY In 2024, cellphone guidelines were established by the Government of Manitoba as we started the school year. These guidelines referred to any personal devices that can be used to connect to the internet (e.g., cellphones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops). We would like to remind students and families of these guidelines. During the 25-26 school year at Bernie Wolfe, we noticed that the student/caregiver community did an excellent job adhering to these new expectations and we anticipate the same support for the 26-27 school year.

As a reminder:

- Schools with kindergarten to Grade 8 students will be personal electronic device free zones during school hours and on school property.
 - When possible, we recommend that students leave all personal electronic devices at home.
 - Personal electronic devices are to always be kept in student backpacks or lockers during school hours and while on school property.
 - Staff will review expectations with students to ensure they are aware.
 - Violation of the expectations can lead to staff confiscating student supplied personal electronic devices from students if they are being used for unauthorized purposes or at unauthorized times. Confiscated devices will be kept in a central, secure location and parents/guardians will be notified. Repeated unauthorized use may lead to further action as determined by the school.
- Staff will model responsible personal electronic device use for students by thoughtfully limiting the use of such devices to school-related matters while in the learning environment.
- Teaching and learning about being a responsible digital citizen will continue in all grades and classes. We also ask that caregivers support us in teaching responsible device use. Our schools have access to a variety of technologies that support students in being creators, designers, and critical thinkers.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning has published the following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) regarding the cellphone guidelines: [Guidelines for Cell Phone Use—FAQ](#)

As partners in your children's education, the conversations that you have at home are crucial in that teaching and learning. Here are some additional resources you may find helpful:

[Resources for Parents \(mediasmarts.ca\)](#)

[Helping Kids Get a Healthy Start with Phones](#)

[Helping Young Kids Get a Healthy Start with Devices](#)

September 11, 2023

Concern Protocol

Your child's school will always try to make the learning experience a positive, safe, and happy one for its students. However, if you have a concern or an issue, please don't hesitate to let the school know. Open communication between home and school is very important to us.

1

Talk to the person most directly involved—your child's teacher. If you must leave a message, provide a day and evening phone number where the teacher can reach you.



2

If talking to the teacher doesn't resolve the issue, talk to the principal.



3

If you've talked to the principal, but the issue has not been resolved over a period of time, call the superintendent's department at 204.667.7130 or email info@retsd.mb.ca.



4

If you disagree with the decision of the superintendent's department, you can make an appeal in writing to the Board of Trustees.



For more information:
Policy KE—Concern Protocol
Policy KE-R—Concerns and Complaints Process
retsd.mb.ca

 River East Transcona
creating student success



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School Supply List 2026-2027 School Year Kindergarten

Bernie Wolfe School will be collecting a student fee of \$30.00 per child.

The fee is broken down as follows:

\$20 — classroom supplies

\$5 — school wide special events

\$5 — arts supplies (music and art)

We accept cash or cheque (payable to BWS) at the open house or on the first day of school to the home room teacher.

In addition, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) need to provide the following items for their child:

- ❖ 1 regular size backpack
- ❖ 1 lunch bag with lunch and snack(s)
- ❖ 1 reusable water bottle
- ❖ 1 pair of runners with non-marking soles (indoor and gym use only; provide Velcro closure if child is unable to tie own shoes)
- ❖ 2 large boxes of Kleenex
- ❖ 1 package of baby wipes (any brand)
- ❖ 1 box of resealable bags (can be any brand, any size, must have zipper seal)

- ❖ An extra change of clothes in a large labelled Ziploc bag to be kept in their cubby (pants, shirt, underwear and socks)

**** Please clearly label all clothing, shoes, lunch kits and backpacks with your child's name ****



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School Supply List 2026-2027 School Year

Grade 1-5

Bernie Wolfe School will be collecting a student fee of \$55.00 per child.

The fee is broken down as follows:

\$35 — classroom supplies

\$10 — school wide special events

\$10 — arts supplies (music and art)

We accept cash or cheque (payable to BWS) at the open house or on the first day of school to the home room teacher.

In addition, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) need to provide the following items for their child:

- ❖ 1 regular size backpack
- ❖ 3 large boxes of Kleenex
- ❖ 1 reusable water bottle
- ❖ 1 pair of runners with non-marking soles (indoor and gym use only; provide Velcro closure if child is unable to tie own shoes)

Physical Education:

- ❖ Grade 4 & 5: Drawstring bag with t-shirt and shorts/sweats/tights

**** Please clearly label all clothing, shoes, lunch kits and backpacks with your child's name ****



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School Supply List 2026-2027 School Year Grade 6-8

Bernie Wolfe School will be collecting a student fee of \$55.00 per child.

The fee is broken down as follows:

\$30 — classroom supplies

\$10 — school wide special events

\$15 — arts programming (student specific support directed to band or art).

We accept cash or cheque (payable to BWS) at the open house or on the first day of school to the home room teacher.

In addition, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) need to provide the following items for their child:

- ❖ 1 reusable water bottle (for daily use)
- ❖ 1 backpack (large enough for binder and daily supplies)
- ❖ 1 binder for core subject areas (3")
- ❖ 1 package lined loose leaf paper
- ❖ 1 packages of dividers (5 or more in each)
- ❖ 1 pencil case
- ❖ 2 large boxes of Kleenex

➤ Physical Education:

- ❖ T-shirt & shorts/sweats/track pants/tights (A complete change of clothing is required!)
- ❖ Indoor pair of non-marking running shoes
- ❖ Unscented stick deodorant/anti-perspirant
- ❖ Bag for gym clothes

➤ Band:

- ❖ 0.5" Black 3 ring binder

**** Please clearly label all clothing, shoes, lunch kits and backpacks with your child's name ****