General Byng School
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Making the Move September 2024 FAQs

As we continue to plan for Grade 6 students from Oakenwald School and Ralph Maybank School to join General Byng School in September 2024, we wanted to share some of the answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs).

Registration

During the first week of March, General Byng Support Services teachers, and administration visit Oakenwald and Ralph Maybank, meet the students and give a brief presentation of what to expect in Middle Years.

Following the visit, your child's current homeroom teacher will send home a registration package which includes:

1. Reviewing and updating your child's annual **Student Information Update Sheets** and returning it to your current school's main office before Spring Break.

This is our yearly opportunity to make sure that we know how to communicate with you at home accurately by ensuring your mailing address, phone numbers, and email address are accurate so we can share important school information with you.

2. Reading Policies and/or Signing Off on:

    - Media Release form
    - Technology Acceptable Use Agreement for Student form

Each year, the Division requires the school to have parents acknowledge and sign off on mandatory documents, they are available to read on our website under the ABOUT US tab. They are:

- Standard of Behaviour
- Technology Acceptable Use Policy (IJNDU)
- Attendance Policy (JE)
- Media Relations and Media Release (KDD)
- Pembina Trails Fair Notice and Practice-Student Threat Assessment Brochure

If you currently attend Oakenwald School or Ralph Maybank School and reside in one of those two catchments you are automatically registered at General Byng School and you must only complete the information outlined above.

If you are currently a Schools of Choice (SOC) student at Oakenwald or Ralph Maybank who does not reside in Oakenwald School or Ralph Maybank School's catchment area, you must submit a new Schools of Choice form to General Byng School. If you are unsure, please contact General Byng School main office at 204-452-3040. In Pembina Trails, you must resubmit your SOC form and wait for acceptance in late May into June when you move to a new school. For example, if you are an accepted SOC for General Byng School, when you leave after grade 8, you must complete and new SOC form to attend Vincent Massey (the high school we feed into) if you do not reside in their catchment. You can check your students' catchment school for each grade level by visiting the Pembina Trails website at: School Locator

Tours

General Byng is planning on offering "A Day in the Life" Tour Evening for incoming students and their families in late May. We also work with all students and families who would benefit from individual tours in June. For students who would benefit from a tour in late August/early September prior to the start of September 2024 classes, we are happy to provide this as well.

All families are encouraged to come to our Middle Years Open House (see next item) where there will be student-led tours offered.

Middle Years Open House: **March 14 at 6:30 pm**

(Target audience current grade 5 & 6 families):

Every year, General Byng School opens its doors to families to learn more about middle years programming and what General Byng has to offer. This is a fun, information packed evening where families can tour the school, see first-hand the programming offered, and speak one-on-one with school staff.

Students entering Grade 6 and 7 are encouraged to attend with their families.

Middle Years Programming

General Byng is excited to offer Middle Years Programming to grade 6-8 students. MY Programming includes the core courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies), Phys Ed, French, Industrial Arts exposure, and a music and/or art component.

General Byng is currently looking at how we will offer music and/or art to the Grade 6-8 students. Currently, Band and Art are required courses in grade 7. In grade 8, students have the option to take Band or Art. A decision will be made on how these courses will be offered for the 24-25 school year by the beginning of March. Decisions will be based on a number of variables specific to General Byng and in discussion with other MY schools in Pembina Trails.

Industrial Arts exposure allows students to explore a variety of subjects on a rotation basis. Currently, grade 7 students rotate through 5 courses (Graphic Arts, Graphic Communications, Human Ecology: Foods and Nutrition, Human Ecology: Clothing and Textiles, and Electronics) staying in each discipline for 6 school cycles. Grade 8 students rotate through 4 courses (Graphic Arts, Graphic Communications, Human Ecology: Foods and Nutrition, and Human

Ecology: Clothing and Textiles) staying in each discipline for 8-9 school cycles. General Byng is currently planning which IA courses grade 6 students will rotate through.

Middle Years also allows for students to be taught by a team of teachers who all work together to provide a variety of opportunities for all students including project-based learning. We implement co-teaching so projects/activities can explore a variety of outcomes across multiple curricula.

Lunch Program

General Byng's Lunch Program is a paid for service. We offer a number of payment options including payment in full ($200), 2 equal payments, or by visit, which can be purchased for $20 which equals 10 visits. Lunch Program fess never exceed $20/month. General Byng School communicates reminders to families for collection of fees.

Lunch program registration forms and payment information will be emailed via School Messenger on September 1st. Collection of payment will take place via Permission Click.

Students not attending General Byng's Lunch Program must be off school grounds during the lunch hour.

Lunch Program will occur as follows:

- For the first 30 minutes of the lunch hour, Grade 1-8 students eat lunch in their classroom with supervision provided by hired lunch supervisors and General Byng staff.
    - In November, Grade 6-8 students will have the opportunity to move to a designated classroom of their choice to eat with peers. This does not occur until students are able to demonstrate appropriate behaviours in their homeroom settings.
- For the last 30 minutes of the lunch hour, Grade 1-8 students head outside to enjoy the fresh air. Our school yard is divided into grade appropriate sections to maximize grade appropriate play/interaction. Supervision is provided by hired lunch supervisors and General Byng staff.

General Lunch Hour Information:

- The sharing of food/snacks is prohibited.
- General Byng is a peanut and nut aware school. Please attempt to provide lunches and snacks that are nut free.
- Reminder: Students not registered and paying for General Byng's Lunch Program must be off school grounds for the entire duration of the lunch hour.
- Grade 8 students who are registered for the lunch program are free to leave at their discretion if their parent/guardian has sign off that they may do so. But, if they choose to leave for the day it must be for the entire hour.
- Grade 6 and 7 students must remain on school property during the lunch hour unless they provide a hand-written note from their parent/guardian on the given day. For example, sometimes a parent may allow their child to go to a friend's home for lunch, or later in year we have some parents who will on occasion allow their child to walk to a local lunch spot to grab food or a snack.

- Club and Athletic practices are also held over lunch. All students, those who are registered for Lunch Program and those who are not, are free to stay to participate.

Transportation

- Grade 5 families currently attending Oakenwald and Ralph Maybank schools have received information regarding bussing eligibility from the Pembina Trails School Division office. If you have not yet been contacted, please contact your principal so they can inquire on your behalf.

- Bussing in Pembina Trails is offered based on the criteria below:

  Students in kindergarten to Grade 6 are eligible for transportation to their catchment school if their home address is more than 1.6 km walking distance from their catchment school and they are being transported to and from a qualifying address.

  To learn more, please take a minute to read our complete policy on eligibility for transportation.

- For the 2024-2025 school year, Pembina Trails School Division has added one additional Walking School Bus (WSB) route and one to two additional sets of Crossing Guards to the Pembina Trails School Division 2024-2025 budget.

- *Proposed Walking School Bus Routes:
  1. Route 1 will begin on the east side of Pembina Hwy at a location close to McGillivary Blvd/Oakenwald Avenue and travel across Pembina Hwy, up McGillivary Blvd to Beaumont Street, and down Beaumont Street to General Byng School
  2. Route 2 will begin on the east side of Pembina Hwy at a location close to Point Road and travel across Pembina Hwy, up Windermere Ave to Beaumont Street, and down Beaumont Street to General Byng School

  *Exact WSB routes will be determined after the budget is passed and with consultation with families using the routes. General Byng Administration and Pembina Trails Senior Administration along with the Pembina Trails Health and Safety Officer will review addresses for those families not eligible for bussing to help determine possible WSB stops.

  Our walking school bus is lead by educational assistants at General Byng and makes multiple stops along the route to ensure students are able to walk to school safely with an adult and their peers.

- *Proposed Crossing Guards locations along the Walking School Bus routes.
  1. Pembina Hwy at McGillivary Blvd
  2. McGillivary Blvd at Beaumont Street
  3. Pembina Hwy at Point Road

These locations have been identified in communication with Pembina Trails School Division's Health and Safety Officer.

*Final Crossing Guard locations will be determined after the budget is passed and after it is determined WSB routes and number of students using the service.

Class Compositions

Class compositions are created using information gathered in transition meetings between your current school and General Byng support services and administration. We also take the following into consideration: parent feedback and student sociograms. Staff work hard to consider an abundance of variables to ensure optimal classroom environments and learning spaces for all students. It is extremely important that families understand that classrooms are built over a series of stages and consideration for every learner is given from multiple perspectives.

General Byng creates class compositions in late June and are communicated to families via email the last week of June. Prior to finalizing class configurations an informal survey is sent to families in early June so they have an opportunity to offer feedback and communicate with administration.

Cell Phone Policy

General Byng's cell phone/device policy was created to promote:

- Connection
- Communication
- Positive Mental Health and Wellness
- An Optimal Learning Environment
- Proper Use of Technology in the Classroom

General Byng Cell Phone/Device Policy

Grade K to 6:

From 9:10 a.m. to 3:55 p.m., device use is not permitted. This includes while on field trips and during special activities. Devices must be out of sight. Teachers will inform families and students if devices are required for specific learning purposes (or days).

Grade 7 and 8:

From 9:20 a.m. to 3:55 p.m., devices are not to be used, including locker break and in the washrooms, while on field trips and during special events other than:

- As directed by the teacher for educational purposes, such as research, school permitted apps.
- If approved by the teacher for listening to music during individual quiet work time. Headphones and ear buds should not be worn throughout the school day.
- At lunch hour.

Teachers may use device garages at their own discretion. Students are encouraged to keep their cell phone/devices in their lockers.

We would also like to remind students that the Pembina Trails Divisional policy states that photos and videos are not to be taken without permission of a teacher.

In case of emergency, the school can be contacted by families and the office will notify the student. Otherwise, families should note that students will not be able to respond to messages throughout the day.

Lockers

All students in Grade 6-8 receive lockers. In Grade 6, students may have to share lockers with a peer in their class depending on locker availability.