



Frequently Asked Questions About Starting Grade 1

Start of the School Day

Q. Where do I bring my child on the first day of school? What time should we arrive?

Every school day officially starts at 8:50 a.m. when the bell rings to start classes.

Your child's final report card for Senior Kindergarten will show their classroom placement for September. Please remember this room number for the first day of school.

When the 8:50 a.m. bell rings on the first day of school, all children in Grades 1-6 will assemble in the junior ("big kids") playground. The teachers will come out of the west doors of the school holding signs showing their classroom numbers.

- Students attending before-school care at **Unicorn Daycare** on the first day of school will be brought to their line-up in the yard.
- Students riding the **school bus** will be brought to their line-up in the yard upon their arrival at school. Note that busses typically run behind schedule on the first day of school. If this is the case, the children will be brought directly to their classrooms.
- **All other children:** Please help your child find their line-up and say goodbye. You may stay on the playground to watch your child's class go into the school, but please do not wait with your child in line. The playground is typically very crowded on the first few days of school and it can be overwhelming for children in the younger grades if adults stay with the lines.

Q. What about the days after that?

The line-up routine will be in place for the first week of school only. For the remainder of the school year:

The teachers will begin yard supervision at 8:35 a.m. Please do not leave your child in the schoolyard before this time because there is no supervision.

Children in Grade 1 may be dropped off in the primary ("little kids") playground, where they will be supervised by the teacher(s) on duty until the morning bell rings at 8:50 a.m. Please teach your child that when the bell rings, they should take their bag, head into the school and go straight to their classroom.

You may stay on the playground with your child until the 8:50 a.m. bell rings, but please say goodbye to them in the yard – parents should not accompany their children into the school or up to their classroom for safety reasons.

Recess

Q. Where will my child spend their recesses? Are they supervised?

Children in Grades 1 and 2 spend their recesses in the primary (“little kids”) playground, supervised by the teacher(s) on duty. The classroom teachers will show their students which doors they should use to exit and re-enter the school.

Q. What happens if it rains or if it’s too cold to go outside?

In inclement weather, students remain indoors. Grade 1 students typically spend the break in a classroom, where activities are available for the children to use.

Lunchtime

Q. Can I bring my child home at lunch?

While the majority of students stay at school for lunch, some students choose to go home. Students who go home at lunch must be signed out at the office. They are due back at school by the end of the lunch recess, 12:40pm.

Q. Where will my child eat lunch?

Students in Grade 1 eat lunch in a classroom supervised by one of the lunch supervisors.

Grade 1 students attending the hot lunch program at Unicorn Daycare will be picked up from their classroom for the first week of school. After the first week of school, these students should go directly to the lunch program when dismissed from their classroom.

Q. How much food should I send for the day?

Try to send the right-sized lunch for your child as well as 1-2 snacks that they can slip into their pocket at recess if they wish. We request that you encourage healthy choices for your child to support our school's healthy habits. We also request that children bring their lunch and snacks in reusable food containers. **Remember: All lunches and snacks MUST be nut-free.**

Brown has a “boomerang” policy in effect, which means that all uneaten food (and any wrappers) will come home with your child. This will allow you to monitor how much food your child eats during the day, and also to add any food waste to your green bin at home.

Q. Will my child have access to a fridge or a microwave?

No. Please use cold packs and/or thermoses to help keep your child’s lunch at the right temperature.

Q. Is milk available?

A daily milk program and a monthly pizza lunch are offered at Brown for those students in Grades 1-6 who wish to participate. Sign-up forms and fees for each program will be sent home in September – please watch your child's backpack in the fall.

Q. How much time do the children have for eating? How much time for play?

The lunch bell rings at 11:40 p.m. Children have 20 minutes to eat before they are dismissed to the playground at 12:00 noon. Lunch recess ends at 12:40 p.m., when the bell rings to start afternoon classes.

Q. What do they do at lunch after they eat?

After eating lunch, students are supervised in the school yard by the lunch supervisors and have access to outdoor play equipment and a variety of enrichment activities. Recreational swim (offered several days a week to Grades 1-6) and organized lunchtime sports (offered to different grades each term) are just two examples of activities.

Remind your child to stay tuned to the morning announcements to hear about activities that they may wish to join!

During the School Day

Q. How will Grade 1 be different than Kindergarten? Do they sit in desks all day?

At the beginning of the school year, your child's teacher will send home information about the routines specific to their classroom.

Each class runs a bit differently than others; however a typical day will include time as a group on the carpet, time at a desk for seatwork and perhaps some free time. Each week, the children will receive instruction in physical education, music, swim, and library.

Q. How do I prepare my child for a full day at school?

While most children are more than ready for a full day of school, all will go through a period of adjustment as they become accustomed to longer time away from home and a busier schedule. You may find your child to be a bit tired at the end of the day initially, but by the middle of the first term they will have adapted to life in Grade 1.

A note about washroom breaks: Children are allowed to use the washroom during class time (using the buddy system), but teachers discourage trips to the washroom during lessons. All students are encouraged to use the washrooms at recess and lunchtimes to minimize disruptions during class time.

Q. What should I send in my child's backpack on the first day of school? Do they need a pencil case?

Nothing special is needed for the first day, aside from a good lunch and 1-2 snacks. Your child's teacher will send home information about any supplies that the children may need to bring to class.

End of the School Day

Q. What happens at the end of the school day?

Children in Grades 1-6 are responsible for knowing where they need to go when they are dismissed at 3:30 p.m. However, Grade 1 teachers will remind their students where to go when needed. Please send a brief note to the teacher with your child on the first day of school explaining what the typical arrangements are for your child. (E.g. rides the bus, goes to Unicorn, picked up on playground by family, etc.)

- Students attending after-school care at **Unicorn Daycare** should go directly to the daycare at 3:30 p.m. Grade 1 students will be picked up in their classroom for the first week of school.
- Students riding the **school bus** should go directly to the north entrance of the school and join the line for their bus route. Brown School staff will take attendance and supervise the children until they board the buses. Grade 1 students will be picked up in their classroom for the first week of school.
- Students registered in afterschool programs at the **Avenue Road Art School** should meet in front of the Brown School office. ARAS staff will take attendance, walk the students over to the Art School and supervise them until their program starts.

- **All other students** should be picked up from the junior playground:
 - During the first few days of school, Grade 1 teachers will accompany their students to the yard and stay with them until they are picked up.
 - For the remainder of the school year, the children are dismissed from their classroom and should go directly to the yard. Teachers on duty supervise the yard until 3:45 p.m. Please teach your child that they should go to the school office to wait for you if they have not been picked up by the time the final bell rings at 3:45 p.m.
 - You and your child may wish to arrange a meeting spot on the playground, so that your child knows where to find the person who is picking them up.

It is important for all children to know that they should not leave the playground with anyone other than the designated person responsible for picking them up.

Q. Do they need a note if there is a change in their usual routine? (E.g. going on a play date with a friend)

Yes. Please advise the teacher by note if there is a change in routine.

Parents of bussed students must advise the office by calling or sending a note if their child will not be on the bus.

Q. Do I need to tell the teacher if they have been signed up for an after school program? (E.g. Brown After- Four, Brown Community Centre, Avenue Road Arts School)

It is a good idea to let your child's teacher know if they have signed up for after school programs through the Community Centre or the ARAS as some children may forget during the course of the day that they have a program to go to. In the case of Brown After-Four programs, teachers will receive a list of all students enrolled in the programs as well as the location.

Other Questions?

For more information about life at Brown School, please refer to the Brown Handbook. A new edition will be sent home in the fall.