

frequently asked questions

June 2016

Ron Southern School

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are frequently asked questions received at the June 6 Open House held at Ethel M. Johnson School. We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you about these projects. Please continue to submit your feedback and questions, and check back frequently for updates.

1. Will the school open in September 2017?

Currently the CBE is expecting the school to be open for September 2017. Please visit cbe.ab.ca/newschools for information on the status of the school's construction. Information will be updated monthly or as needed based on project updates.

2. How do I register my child for the Ron Southern School?

Kindergarten registration will begin in January of 2017.

Registration will take place at the current designated school for your community. Students from your community, who are currently attending their designated regular program school, will be automatically transferred to the new school.

Registration at CBE schools is not determined on a first come, first served basis, so it is not necessary to register on the first day registration opens. However, registering your child as soon as possible helps our principals plan and prepare accordingly for the new school year.

3. How was the school's attendance area determined?

Typically, the boundary for any new school is the community in which the school is located. In some cases communities are combined for a school based on their potential student population. Please refer to Page 17 and Page 25 of the [Three-Year School Capital Plan 2016-2019](#) for information on how new school sites are determined.

4. Will the attendance area of the school ever expand to include other areas in Calgary?

We do not anticipate that the attendance area for the Ron Southern School will change in the near future.

5. How was the walk zone for the new school determined?

The Manager of Transportation, on the advice of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) designs new walk zones by taking into consideration, where necessary, community boundaries, natural hazards or barriers, roadways or

infrastructure, marked crosswalks, traffic control signals, and grade levels in the school.

6. How was the grade configuration determined for the school?

The grade configurations for schools have been determined based on current demographics to maximize the number of students in the community that can attend the school.

7. What is the opening grade configuration of the Ron Southern School?

The Ron Southern School will offer Kindergarten to grade three in the first year and will then expand to include grade four in the following year. In order to minimize transition points for students we typically do not open a new school to the full grade configuration. Whenever possible we try to avoid moving students two years in a row. This permits students to finish the final grade in their current school with their peer group.

8. How was the school site selected for the school?

The Municipal Government Act requires 10% of new development area to be designated for amenities: parks; public space; community association sites; and school sites. At the initial stage of community development, the developer offers land parcels for schools. CBE and Calgary Catholic School Board, together with City planning, select from the offered sites in general locations for future schools.

9. How does the opening of the Ron Southern school affect students who are currently at Ethel M. Johnson school?

The opening of new schools in Calgary in the 2017-18 school year will create additional learning space in some existing schools. In the 2016-17 school year the CBE will be holding meetings with impacted schools to provide information on what factors the CBE considers when planning for space utilization in schools and on what types of changes may result from having fewer students in a school. We will also be seeking feedback on how the CBE can use additional space in schools to best meet the learning needs of students, families and the community.

10. What are the expected class sizes at the new school?

Decisions around class sizes and school programming will be determined by the new school principal.

11. Will the school offer extra-curricular activities in the first year?

Our co-curricular/extracurricular offerings will be dependent upon the expertise of staff. We know that it is important to offer a rich, rewarding school experience; these certainly include a variety of clubs, teams, and other activities for students. As part of our early staff discussions to build culture in the school, these types of activities will be raised.

12. How are bell times and days off determined?

The CBE sets non-instructional days for all schools in our system. Additional days off are determined by the school principal in discussion with the school council.

School start and end times are established by the school in discussion with the Area office and the transportation department.

13. Will students be allowed to stay at their currently designated school?

All students within the attendance area will be designated to the new school. Consideration of keeping students as out of boundary will need to be made in the best learning interests of individual students and will be made by the school principal in consultation with the Area Director based on space availability and resources.

The CBE does not provide transportation for out-of-attendance area students, so parents would be responsible for getting their child to and from school.

14. How will the CBE address traffic, speeding, road crossings, and concerns about areas with no sidewalks?

The CBE works with the City of Calgary when identifying new school sites. New school sites are located with collector streets which on two sides of the school site to ensure there is enough space for bus and parent drop-off/pick-up zones and for through traffic. Collector streets have a width of 22.5 m and are used to connect local streets within a community.

Traffic is an issue at every school. Concerns are addressed by the school principal working with the parents, community and students.

Specific traffic concerns can be reported to the school principal and/or the City of Calgary at 311.

15. Will there be before and after school care at the Ron Southern school?

Like our existing schools, before and after school care programs may be offered by a third-party operator in new schools where space permits. The CBE will be working with the school community and third-party operators regarding interest in child care programs in all of the new elementary schools.

Parents should continue to check the construction project page for the school in their community for updates and information on this topic and more.

Interested operators must submit an application to the Real Estate and Leasing office. Please contact Sherri Lambourne (SLlambourne@cbe.ab.ca) or Maj Osman (MAOsman@cbe.ab.ca) for the application form.

16. Will the school be over-capacity in the future?

There will be space in the new schools for all designated students when the school opens. In the event that schools are at capacity in the future the CBE will develop an accommodation plan.

17. Is the school big enough to accommodate 600 students?

The province of Alberta provides specifications for the size of school buildings based on the number and age of students within the building. The CBE meets these requirements with all of their schools. This school was designed to comply with Provincial guidelines for a 600 student elementary school.