



SPARK Schools Need-to-Know Guide 2016

Read these notices carefully so that your family is prepared for the 2016 school year!



First Day of School

The first day of school is **Wednesday, 13 January 2016**. Sparks Fly, our daily morning assembly, will begin promptly at 7:45am, and Grades R and 1 parents are welcome to view Sparks Fly on Wednesday and remain at our school until scholars are dismissed to their classes at **8am**. At that time, we ask that you say your goodbyes and allow us to transition scholars into their new daily routines.

Grade 2 and 3 parents are invited to attend Sparks Fly on Thursday, and Grade 4 and 5 parents should plan to attend on Friday.

Placard Pickup

In order to ensure the safety of our scholars, please note that parents are required to pick up their child's placard, which is used during daily dismissal, before the school year begins. **Placards will be available for pick-up on Thursday, 7 January, Friday, 8 January, Monday, 11 January, and Tuesday 12 January from 7-9am and 2-6pm.** Earn your first volunteer hour of the 2016 school year and avoid the crowds by picking up your placard on 7 or 8 January!

When you pick up your child's placard, you will meet your school's office manager, learn about our arrival and dismissal procedures, update your contact information, and receive access to the 2016 Parent Handbook, which includes all our SPARK Schools policies. **Please note the dates and times for placard pick up, as this is mandatory.**



“Back to School” Open Evenings

We are thrilled to be able to invite all SPARK parents for a series of open evenings to meet our spectacular SPARK educators. **During our "Back to School" evenings, parents will be able to come at any point during the open house to tour their child's classrooms, Learning Lab, and general school facilities.** Please plan to join us for at least 15 minutes on the following dates and times:

- Grade R- Tuesday, 19 January 4:30-6:00pm
- Grade 1- Wednesday, 20 January 4:30-6:00pm
- Grades 2 and 4- Thursday, 21 January 4:30-6:00pm
- Grades 3 and 5- Friday, 22 January 4:30-6:00pm

Please note that you do not need to be in attendance for the entire open evening, but can come and go at your convenience. **There is no formal program, but an opportunity to meet school leaders, teachers, and tutors face-to-face.**

We will be directing families as they arrive to available parking. Please be courteous to our grounds staff as we seek to accommodate all families.

Meal Plan

iHealth Meals will supply our meal plans for 2016. Their meals are nutritionally optimised for scholars and South African dietician approved and recommended.

All orders and billing for the meal plans will occur directly through iHealth Meals. To contact iHealth Meals with questions about the meal plan or pricing, please e-mail schoolmeals@ihealthmeals.com.

Aftercare, Holiday Care, and Extracurricular Activities

Aftercare until 5:30pm will cost **R400 per month** and will be arranged and billed through our schools in January 2016. All families that wish to enrol in aftercare for 2016 will be able to do so **during placard pick-up before school begins**, including those existing SPARK families that would like to re-enrol in aftercare for 2016.

Please note that a full list of the extracurricular activities that will be available will be published on 1 November 2015 and will be available at each school.

Holiday care is provided each term break for SPARK scholars. We may choose to combine school sites during term break, according to the demand for the holiday program. Schools provide information about each holiday program about a month in advance of term break.





Stationery

The annual fee for stationery for 2016 will be **R400**, which will be invoiced through the e-mail address you have supplied in January 2016. **This fee covers all stationery required at school, and no additional stationery should be purchased or sent with scholars.**

Please ensure that your child has sufficient stationery at home to complete daily homework.

Uniform

SPARK Schools uniforms may be purchased through two vendors:

- **School and Leisure**
 - Phone: 021-705-0288
 - E-mail: online@schoolandleisure.co.za
 - Website: <http://www.schoolandleisure.co.za/schools/gauteng/spark-schools/>

- **Rufaro Garments**
 - Phone: 011-028-6691 or 073-927-0832
 - E-mail: rufarogarments@gmail.com
 - Website: www.rufarogarments.com

Rufaro Garments will host uniform shops at SPARK Bramley, SPARK Midrand, SPARK Rynfield, SPARK Centurion, and SPARK Lynedoch from 6 January 2016.

The summer uniform will include a navy blue golf shirt with school badge, a navy blue peak cap or floppy hat with school badge, khaki shorts or skort with school badge, white socks, and white takkies. Scholars should carry a backpack that does NOT have wheels, but has sufficient space for a homework folder, water bottle, and lunch box.

Social Media and Website

Keep up-to-date with SPARK news and spread the SPARK love to family and friends by liking us on Facebook and following us on Twitter (@SPARKSchools)!

All school locations and contact information are posted on www.sparkschools.co.za.

