



# **Admissions Handbook**

For the 2026-2027 School Year

Grades K-9

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# Kindergarten: Application Procedures

## Considerations for Kindergarten Applications

- We have 36 kindergarten spaces available.
- Our kindergarten program runs full days every second day (Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday) and alternating Wednesdays.
- **Applicants must be 5 years old on or before December 31 of their kindergarten year.**
- **We recommend that you read each of the following steps before making your application.**

## Step 1: Complete On-Line Application Form

- **Application deadline is Wednesday, February 17, 2026.** (Late applications may not be processed.)
- We have 55 seats available for the in-house assessment (see Step 4 below). These seats will be filled by the first 55 *fully completed applications* (consisting of the application form, parent inventory form and the parent perspective form).
  - Once we have received your complete application we will email confirming your spot for the in-house assessment.
  - Confirmation Emails will be sent out once per week beginning January 5, 2026.
- [Link to Application Form](#)

## Step 2: Complete On-Line *Parent Inventory for Finding Potential*

- This is a 51 question inventory. Parents respond using a five point scale.
- Questions on this form ask you to rate your child against several different characteristics of the gifted child.
- This form must be completed by **February 17, 2026.**
- [Link to Parent Inventory for Finding Potential](#)

### Step 3: Complete the On-Line Parent Perspective Form

- This inventory contains 16 questions which require short answer responses.
- The on-line form is limited to 500 characters per question
- This form must be completed by **February 17, 2026**.
- [Link to Parent Perspectives](#)
- See Appendix A for a copy of the questions.

### Step 4: Cognitive Assessment

*Because New Horizons is a school for gifted learners, students need to demonstrate superior cognitive ability on a standardized cognitive assessment. Parents have two options.*

#### **Assessment Option 1: No-Fee In-House Assessment**

- Our no-fee in-house assessments will be administered at the school by qualified school personnel on **Friday, March 6**. Times will be communicated by email prior to March 6.
- The assessments will be conducted in groups of approximately 4-5 students.
- Limited Space Only: 55 seats available
- Two tests will be administered:
  - Nonverbal: *Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT)*
  - Verbal: *Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)*.
- A child or student who is disruptive to the environment of other students, or who is unable to independently complete the test will be removed from the assessment room and will be unable to complete the assessment.

#### **Assessment Option 2 : Individual IQ Test With a Registered Psychologist**

- As an alternative to the above, parents may choose to make arrangements privately, at their cost, for their child to be assessed with an individually-administered test of intellectual ability (IQ test), the results of which will be submitted to the school as part of the application for admission process.
- Individual assessments are more sensitive than group assessments, and parents will receive a greater amount of information from this assessment than from our in-school assessments.

- If an individual IQ test is used, students must score in the *very high* range on the General Ability Index (GAI). The General Ability Index uses only certain parts of the IQ test. The psychologist you choose should be able to determine a GIA. If not, we will accept a report with a full-scale IQ. It is expected that students score in the *very high range* on the full-scale IQ.
- Parents who choose this route must use a registered psychologist. If you are looking for a psychologist to complete this assessment, please go to: <https://findhelp.paa-ab.ca/> and use the search feature.
- The IQ test results must be received on or before **March 6, 2026**. Please contact **admissions@newhorizons.ca** before March 6, 2026, if IQ test results cannot be received by that date.

### IMPORTANT:

We have noticed that some parents who have chosen Option 1 (in school assessment), also get an assessment completed by a registered psychologist.

If you find yourself taking that course of action, and the test results are 120 or above, please inform the school immediately, preferably not later than February 17, 2026 to cancel your in-house assessment.

## Step 5: Observation Activity

- **ALL** prospective kindergarten students must attend the observation activity, including those who are providing an individual IQ test instead of using the school assessments.
- The observation activity will include having the children listen to a story and become involved in group activities related to the story.
- *Students Using the In-School Assessment*
  - Students using the in-school assessment will have an observation activity on the same day as assessment day. The observation activity will occur between the two assessments
- *Students With an IQ Assessment*
  - Students who have already been assessed using an IQ test will also participate in an observation activity. These students will meet in the afternoon on **March 6, 2026**, with other students who have used the IQ assessment option.

## Step 6: Kinder Practice Tests: Recommended

- We recommend that parents who are planning to use our in-house assessment provide

their children with opportunities to practice some sample on-line tests so that they become familiar with the test and the testing process.

- Practice/sample tests for the *OLSAT* (Level A) and *NNAT* are available through various online sites. We do not provide practice tests or links for them.
- Students who have not had practice opportunities may have a difficult time on assessment day.

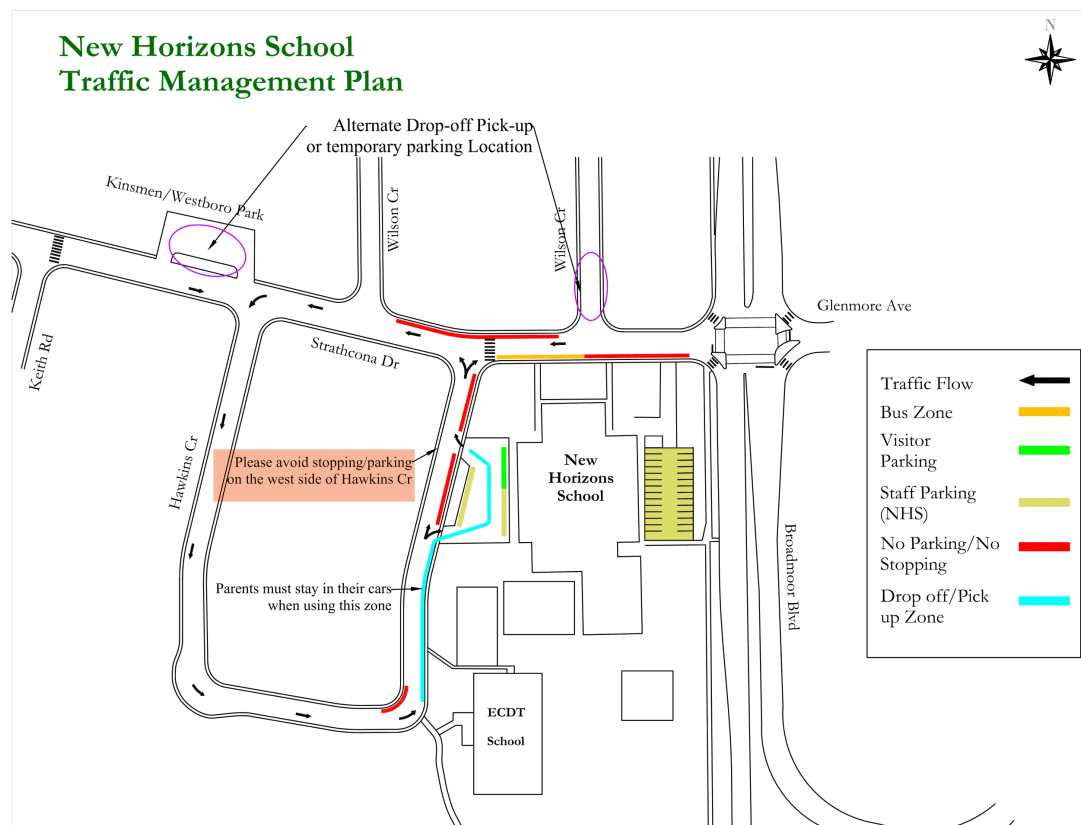
## Step 7: Submitting Other Supporting Documents

- If you have other supporting documents (eg. day-care letters of support, etc.), feel free to bring them in to the school office or forward them to **[admissions@newhorizons.ca](mailto:admissions@newhorizons.ca)**

## What to Expect On Intake Day: March 6, 2026

### Parking

- Parking is limited at NHS.
- Note that we share our parking lot with another school. Please park only in the areas identified in the map that follows.
- Parking will most likely be available along **Wilson Crescent** and at **Kinsmen Park** (areas identified in purple on the map).



### Arrival Time & Check-In

- An email will be sent with your check in time and information following the February 17th application deadline.

### During the Assessment

- Parents are not allowed to wait in the school.

- Please be sure to leave a contact number at the registration desk before you leave the school.
- If your child becomes disruptive to the testing environment, they will be removed from the testing room and will be unable to complete the assessment. We will contact you to pick your child up.

### **After the Assessment**

- At pick-up time, parents may come to their designated entrance to pick up their child.
- If testing ends earlier than the designated time, parents will be contacted to pick up their child early.

### **Communicating Results**

- All applications will be processed after the March 6 Intake Day by an Admissions Committee.
- Parents will be informed by email whether their child has been accepted into New Horizons School. Our goal is to contact all parents by mid-April, 2026. Please be patient as we have many applications to process.
- If we accept more applications than the number of available spaces, the Admissions Committee will determine which applicants will be placed on a wait list.
- We will be filling available spaces based on the strength of the application, and *not the date in which the application was filed*.
  - Students will need to demonstrate superior cognitive abilities to be considered for admission into NHS. If an individual IQ test is used, students must score in the very high range on the General Ability Index (a GAI or full scale IQ of 120 or above).
  - The observation activity and parent inventories will also be used in determining acceptance into the program.
  - Students who more clearly demonstrate characteristics of a gifted learner will be given stronger consideration for acceptance.
  - Students of siblings already registered in NHS will be given priority acceptance *only if all eligibility criteria are met*.
- Reporting Your Child's In-School Assessment Results
  - The in-house assessments done at New Horizons School for admissions are intended to provide us with a general indication of whether a child or student may be suitable for our program. As part of our admissions, a child or student



needs to demonstrate superior cognitive ability in the domains being assessed.

- The assessment instruments that we chose are not intended to provide a *detailed analysis of student cognitive abilities*, such as might be provided by way of an extensive psycho-educational assessment.
- As a result, we are able to ***confirm only whether or not your child has scored in the superior range on any of the domains tested***, but going beyond that would be speculative and create too great a possibility of error.

# Grades 1-9: Application Procedures

Please read each of the following steps before making your application.

## Step 1: Complete On-Line Application Form

- **Application deadline is February 17, 2026.** (Late applications may not be processed.)
  - Once we have received your complete application (consisting of all three forms plus a copy of a recent report card) we will email confirming your spot for the in-house assessment.
  - Confirmation emails will be sent out once per week after January 5, 2026.
- [Link to Application Form](#)
- **PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IF YOU ARE WITHDRAWING YOUR APPLICATION.**

## Step 2: Complete On-Line *Parent Inventory for Finding Potential*

- This is a 51 question inventory. Parents respond using a five point scale.
- Questions on this form ask you to rate your child against several different characteristics of the gifted child.
- This form must be completed by February 17, 2026.
- [Link to Parent Inventory for Finding Potential](#)

## Step 3: Complete the On-Line Parent Perspective Form

- This inventory contains 16 questions which require short answer responses.
- The on-line form is limited to 500 characters per question
- This form must be completed by February 17, 2026.
- [Link to Parent Perspectives](#)
- See Appendix A for a copy of the questions.

## Step 4: Cognitive Assessment

*Because New Horizons is a school for gifted learners, students need to demonstrate superior cognitive ability on a standardized cognitive assessment. Parents have two options.*

### Assessment Option 1: No-Fee In-House Assessment

- Our no-fee in-house assessments will be administered at the school by qualified school personnel on **Friday, March 6, 2026**. Times will be communicated by email prior to March 6.
- The assessments will be conducted in groups.
- The test that will be used is the *Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test* (CCAT).
- A child or student who is disruptive to the environment of other students or unable to independently complete the test will be removed from the assessment room and will be unable to complete the assessment.
- Applicants will need to have a standard score of 120 or higher (superior range) in the domains being tested to be considered for admission.

### Assessment Option 2 : Individual IQ Test With a Registered Psychologist

- As an alternative to the above, parents may choose to make arrangements privately, at their cost, for their child to be assessed with an individually-administered test of intellectual ability (IQ test), the results of which will be submitted to the school as part of the application for admission process.
- Individual assessments are more sensitive than group assessments, and parents will receive a greater amount of information from this assessment than from our in-school assessments.
- If an individual IQ test is used, students must score in the *very high* range on the General Ability Index (GAI of 120 or above). The General Ability Index uses only certain parts of the IQ test. The psychologist you choose should be able to determine a GAI. If not, we will accept a report with a full-scale IQ. It is expected that students score in the *very high range* on the full-scale IQ (120 or above).
- Parents who choose this route must use a registered psychologist. If you are looking for a psychologist to complete this assessment, please go to: <https://findhelp.paa-ab.ca/> and use the search feature.
- The IQ test results must be received on or before March 6, 2026. Please contact **admissions@newhorizons.ca** before March 6, 2026, if IQ test results cannot be received by that date.

### IMPORTANT:

We have noticed that some parents who have chosen Option 1 (in school assessment), also get an assessment completed by a registered psychologist.

If you find yourself taking that course of action, and the test results are 120 (Superior) or above, please inform the school immediately and not later than February 17 to cancel your in-house assessment.

### Step 5: Report Card

- Please submit your child's most recent report card.
- Email a copy to [admissions@newhorizons.ca](mailto:admissions@newhorizons.ca).

### Step 6: Practice Tests: Recommended

- We recommend that parents who are planning to use our in-house assessment provide their children with opportunities to practice some sample on-line tests so that they become familiar with the test and the testing process.
- Practice/sample tests for the *CCAT* are available through various online sites. We **do not** provide practice tests or links to practice tests.
- **Students who have not had practice opportunities may have a difficult time on assessment day.**

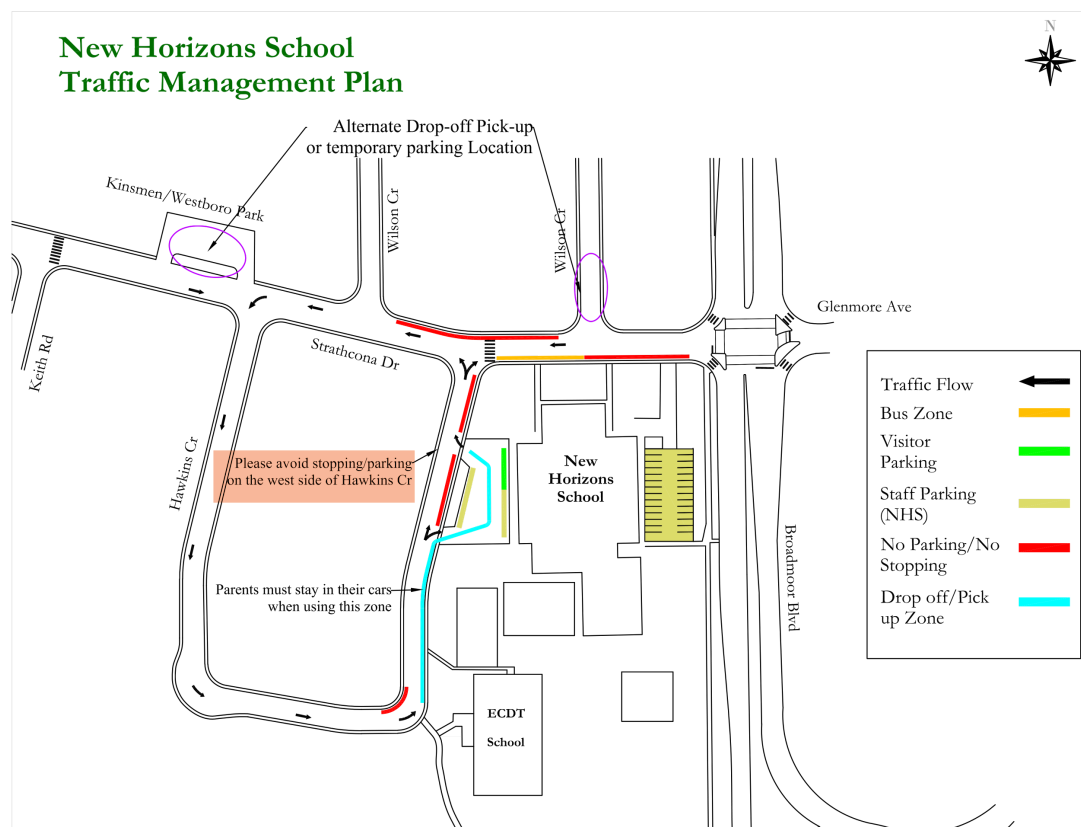
### Step 7: Submitting Other Supporting Documents

- If you have other supporting documents feel free to forward them to [admissions@newhorizons.ca](mailto:admissions@newhorizons.ca)

## What to Expect On Intake Day: March 6, 2026

### Parking

- Parking is limited at NHS.
- Please note that we share our parking lot with another school. Please park only in the areas identified in the map below.
- Parking will most likely be available along **Wilson Crescent** and at **Kinsmen Park** (areas identified in purple on the map).



### Arrival Time & Check-In

- An email will be sent with your check in time and information following the February 17th application deadline.

### During the Assessment

- Parents are not allowed to wait in the school
- Please be sure to leave a contact number at the registration desk before you leave the school.
- If your child becomes a disruption to the testing environment, he or she will be removed from the testing room and will be unable to complete the assessment. We will contact you to pick your child up.

### **After the Assessment**

- At the designated pick-up time, parents may come to their designated entrance to pick up their child.
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### **Communicating Results**

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- We will be filling available spaces based on the strength of the application, and *not the date in which the application was filed*.
  - Students will need to demonstrate superior cognitive abilities to be considered for admission into NHS. If an individual IQ test is used, students must score in the very high range on the General Ability Index (120 or above for a GAI or full scale IQ).
  - Parent inventories will also be used in determining acceptance into the program.
  - Students who more clearly demonstrate characteristics of a gifted learner will be given stronger consideration for acceptance.
  - Students of siblings already registered at NHS will be given priority acceptance *only if all eligibility criteria are met*.
- Reporting Your Child's In-School Assessment Results

- The in-house assessments done at New Horizons School for admissions are intended to provide us with a general indication of whether a child or student may be suitable for our program. As part of our admissions, a child or student needs to demonstrate superior cognitive ability in the domains being assessed.
- The assessment instruments that we chose are not intended to provide a *detailed analysis of student cognitive abilities*, such as might be provided by way of an extensive psycho-educational assessment.
- As a result, we are able to ***confirm only whether or not your child has scored in the very high range on any of the domains tested***, but going beyond that would be speculative and create too great a possibility of error.

## Appendix A: Parent Perspectives (Grades K-9): Short Response Items

Use this document to assist with Step 3 in the admissions process.

Please do not submit this document. Please complete the on-line form. You may copy and paste your responses into the online form..

- Note that the online form has a 500 maximum character length for each response.
- Please complete the online form by February 17, 2026.
- Incomplete applications may not be accepted.

1. If your child is currently enrolled in another school, identify the needs your child has that are not being met in your child's current educational setting that you hope can be addressed at New Horizons School. If your child is not currently in school, please explain why you are considering New Horizons School for your child.

2. Does your child have an unusually large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for his or her age? If so, provide examples.

3. Does your child enjoy solving problems, especially with numbers and puzzles? If so, provide examples.

4. Does your child display an unusually wide range of interests (or extreme focus in one area)? If so, explain.

5. Is your child a self-taught reader and/or writer skills as a preschooler? If so, elaborate.

6. Compared with others of a similar age, does your child have a longer attention span and intense concentration? If so, provide examples.

7. Does your child have advanced comprehension of word nuances, metaphors and abstract ideas? If so, provide examples.

8. Does your child have a heightened sense of justice and fairness (e.g. aware of rules and equality of treatment)? In older children, is there a concern with social and political issues and injustices? If so, explain.



9. Is your child highly sensitive? If so, explain.
10. Is your child able to learn basic skills quickly and with little practice? Provide examples.
11. Does your child exhibit extraordinary curiosity and ask probing questions? If so, explain.
12. What examples can you share that demonstrates your child has a high level of task commitment?
13. What examples can you share that demonstrate your child has advanced cognitive abilities?
14. If your child reads, describe your child's reading habits.
15. Do you consider your child to be creative? If so, explain.
16. In the space below, please feel free to add any other information that you think might be important for the admissions team to consider while reviewing your child's application.

Please do not submit your responses on this sheet.