



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

23 Dundana Avenue
Dundas, Ontario L9H 4E5
Phone: 905.628.2622

EMAIL: dundana@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Cathy Calvano (Acting)
ccalvano@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana

August 29, 2024

Dear Dundana Families,

We are excited to welcome students back to class next week for an exciting New Year! Our first day of school for students in Grades 1 to 5 students will be **Tuesday, September 3, 2024**.

Ms. Pasian will soon be joining Dundana as the new administrator for the current school year. In the interim I (C Calvano) will fill in for her.

Please be reminded, our entry time is 8:55 a.m. and dismissal is at 3:15 p.m. Morning supervision begins at 8:40 am; students should not be arriving earlier than 8:40 am. End of day supervision concludes at 3:30 pm.

Our Kindergarten, JK and SK students will have a slightly different start to the school year. **All JK and SK will start their first full day of school on Wednesday, September 4, 2024.** Our new (JK) will be joining us for reduced visits on **Tuesday, September 3rd**. Kindergarten educators will be in contact with JK families this week to confirm orientation times.

On the first day of school, staff will be outdoors before school to assist with connecting students with their class line locations, peers and teacher. Please look for staff members who will be wearing their yellow/orange safety vests.

We invite families to subscribe to HWDSB and Dundana School to receive updates.

HWDSB is a mask-friendly environment. We continue to support the wearing of masks in schools, administrative buildings and buses. We will continue to offer free masks for students and visitors to our schools. Although masks are not required, our schools, offices and buses are respectful, welcoming and inclusive environments where individuals can choose to wear or not to wear a mask.

Jr. Kindergarten Access to Parent Portal:

For our new JK students, please note that until your child is assigned an (OEN) Ontario Education Number, you will not be able to access the parent portal. OEN numbers are usually allocated to students in late September.

Student Dress Code:

Starting in September 2024, HWDSB is sharing updated Student Dress Guidelines to help foster positive and inclusive learning environments. Developed with extensive student input and community consultation, these guidelines focus on equity, dignity, and well-being for every student. They can express themselves freely, without fear of bias or discrimination. Visit hwdsb.info/student-dress to learn more.

Mobile Devices in Schools:

At HWDSB schools, students in Grades 1-8 must have their devices stored out of view and powered off (or on silent mode) throughout the full instructional day, including nutrition breaks unless permitted by the educator. In the event families and/or caregivers need to reach your child you may call the school's main office.



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Transportation:

Transportation is provided through our local transportation consortium, HWSTS (Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services). [Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services \(hamiltonschoolbus.ca\)](http://hamiltonschoolbus.ca) Please be reminded that last-minute changes can and may occur. It is important to re-check the information prior to sending your child(ren) to their assigned pickup.

For bus information, please visit www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca and click on the "Parent's Portal" on the Home page, OR "Bus Stop Finder" on the landing page. Learn more. To inquire about your child's eligibility for bus transportation please go to <https://hwsts.mybusplanner.ca/TransportationEligibility>

In the coming weeks, we will share information on how to apply for Courtesy Transportation should spaces be available. In the meantime, if your child is not eligible for transportation, families will need to arrange drop off and pick up for their children.

Early Pick up:

From time to time, it may be necessary to pick your child up early from school. Please notify the office of all early pick-ups or changes for dismissal. When emailing messages regarding early pick-up, please cc the office at dundana@hwdsb.on.ca on emails as teachers may not see the message prior to pick up. Student safety is our priority.

What to Bring?

Water bottle: All students are encouraged to bring re-fillable water bottles to keep themselves hydrated throughout the day. Please label water bottles as well as other belongings so that if lost, they may be returned.

Indoor Shoes: rubber soles are recommended

Snacks/Lunch: Students are provided with two Nutrition Breaks daily. The first break is 10:35 to 11:15 and the second break is 12:55 to 1:35. During breaks, students engage in outdoor play for 20 minutes then have 20 minutes to eat in their classrooms. Kindergarten classes may follow a slightly different schedule and may be outdoors at other times throughout the day. Due to allergies, we are a nut-free school. Please read labels carefully to ensure items are nut free. Healthy lunches and snacks are encouraged.

Other: While you may choose to provide your child with their own set of pencil crayons, markers, notebooks etc. please note that these purchases remain a personal decision. Students will be provided with the necessary materials for learning. From time-to-time teachers may suggest items that may support learning but are not required. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions.

A friendly reminder that students will be outdoors in various weather. Please ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather.



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Concerns:

As partners in your child's education, we encourage and welcome Communication. For concerns, parents and students are encouraged to first contact their classroom teacher. School-wide concerns can be addressed by the principal. [Addressing-Concerns-HWDSB.pdf](#).

Agendas:

Students in Grades 1-5 will receive an Agenda. Agendas may be used for various purposes and facilitate communication between parents and teachers. Kindergarten students will use a different system for information sharing. A special thank you to School Council for generously paying for the student agendas.

Before/After Care:

Before and after school care is provided by Umbrella Before and After School Care. For further information please connect Umbrella directly at [Dundana - Umbrella Family and Child Centres of Hamilton](#). Their hours of operation are 7am – 6pm.

Medical/Contact Information:

If your child has any medical condition(s), please contact the office. Office staff will provide you with the necessary paperwork and/or review information with you to ensure our records are current. Student safety is our priority.

If there are any changes to family information including phone numbers, address or emergency contacts, please update through the Parent Portal.

We hope you enjoy the last few days of your summer break and look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday.

C Calvano