



Viola Desmond

50 Secord Drive
Hamilton ON, L8K 3W7

(P) 905-296-2549 (F) 905-661-8715

Email: violadesmond@hwdsb.on.ca

School Website: www.hwdsb.on.ca/violadesmond/

Bell Times

Supervision Begins:

8:30-8:45 a.m.

Entry: 8:45 a.m.

Nutrition Break 1:

10:25-11:05 a.m.

Nutrition Break 2:

12:45-1:25 p.m.

Dismissal: 3:05 p.m.

Supervision Ends:

3:20 p.m.



Viola Dates to Remember

September:

20th - PA DAY (No School)

27th - Terry Fox Run

27th - Pizza Day

30th - Orange Shirt Day

(Truth and Reconciliation Day)

October

2nd - Photo Day

14th - Thanksgiving Day

(No School)

31st - Halloween

November

1st - PA DAY (No School)

September 2024

On behalf of the staff at Viola Desmond we would like to welcome back returning Vipers and extend a warm welcome to new Vipers! We are very excited to spend the 2024-2025 school year with you. Please take a read through our newsletter for some safety items and information about upcoming events and other helpful tidbits.

As always if you require further information or have any inquiries please feel free to email or call the school.

Parking Lot Safety



Please remember that the parking lot is for staff parking only. Students should not be dropped off or walk through the parking lot, use the walkways for safety.

Please do not move or drive over the traffic cones to access the school parking lot or Emergency Vehicle Lane. Bylaw Officers have been and will continue to ticket vehicles blocking the fire lanes and bus routes.

Please do not park or stop in the Bus Loading Zone. Stopping is also off limits in the driveway in front of the school. This is an emergency route for emergency vehicles only.

See the last page for more information.

Entry/ Exit Doors

Students must enter and exit the school through their assigned door. Grade 1-8 students will enter and be dismissed through the back playground doors. Bus students will use the walkway when exiting and boarding their school bus. All Kindergarten students will continue to use the front Kindergarten area for drop off and pickup. Students should not be entering or exiting from the front doors. Students who enter through the front door after 8:45 a.m. will be marked late.

Access to Playground

Due to the large student population and for the safety of our students, parents/guardians are asked to remain behind the white lines of the playground during morning entry and dismissal.

Bus Information

If your child qualified for the bus but you have opted out, please inform the office so that they can be removed from the Transportation List. If your child did not qualify for bussing, they may be eligible for Courtesy Busing. To apply for courtesy busing please fill out the Courtesy Busing Form found online on: hamiltonschoolbus.ca or found in our main office. Please note that courtesy busing does not begin until mid-October and must be applied for each school year.

Bus Safety

For the safety of everyone on the bus, students must follow all of the safety rules. Students are required to stay seated and follow the directions of the bus driver. Failure to follow the rules while on the bus will result in Bus Incident Referrals, consequences may include being removed from the bus. For more information please visit the hwsts.hamiltonschoolbus.ca website or call 905-523-2318.





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(No School)
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Medical Conditions and Life-Threatening Allergies



Medication:

Students who require prescription medication to be administered at school **MUST** have a form filled out and signed by the prescribing doctor before any staff can administer the medication.

Medical Conditions:

If your child has any medical conditions that affect their safety, please complete the **Medical Plan of Care Information Sheet** and return them to school.

Allergies:

If your child has a life-threatening allergy that may result in anaphylaxis the **Anaphylaxis Plan of Care Form** must be completed and returned to the office as soon as possible. Please note your family Doctor must also complete the form.

Please make sure your contact information is current with updated emergency contacts. All forms can be found in the office.

Volunteer

Viola Desmond staff and students love and appreciate all our Volunteers and it would be our pleasure to add to our already amazing crew. If you would like to volunteer for class trips, sporting events or other school initiatives please read the following:

Part of HWDSBs Volunteer Policy is that any volunteers working with children must have obtained a Vulnerable Sector Screening Report. Vulnerable Screening is completed through the Hamilton Police Services Headquarters on King William St. Please note there is a fee for this screening. Vulnerable Sector Screening Report is valid for 3 years. Volunteers must also complete an annual declaration and volunteer forms for Viola Desmond



Emergency Drills and Procedures

Safety Procedures:

Here at Viola Desmond School, we will be practicing our Safe School Procedures throughout the school year. Schools can prepare for responding to emergencies through intentional, scheduled practice drills. The goal of the drills is to minimize the risk for staff and students during a time of crisis. In the event of a "real" evacuation, Hamilton Fire/ Police Services will be responding to the situation. All staff, students and volunteers who are regularly in the school building are required to know and follow the procedures. The students will have procedures explained to them by their classroom teacher. Along with this information at school, we encourage parents to talk to their children about the need to stay safe and well prepared for an emergency situation.

Safe Arrival and Attendance

Your child's safety is our priority. If you are dropping off or picking up your child outside of bell times, please buzz the office and the office staff will help you.

Dismissal For Appointments:

When picking up your child for appointments, they will only be called out of class once you arrive to minimize lost instructional time. If someone other than you is picking up your child, they must be on the school pick-up list and will need to present identification.

Consistent with the Safe Arrival Program, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school when a child is going to be late or absent. A child is considered late when they come through the front door after 8:45 a.m. the student must check in to the office to avoid being marked absent. Please use the safe arrival program supported by HWDSB by website, app or phone. Learn more about Safe Arrival at: www.schoolmessenger.com/safearrival



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Personal Belongings & Electronic Devices/Cell Phones

In accordance with the HWDSB Code of Conduct the following rules will apply regarding the use of cell phones and personal devices.

Students must not use their personal electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, laptops, and tablets) during the instructional day.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 must have their devices stored out of view and powered off (or on silent mode) throughout the full instructional day (school day), including nutrition breaks unless permitted by the educator.

Students are responsible for their personal mobile devices and how they use them. If an educator sees a personal mobile device not stored out of view and powered off, the student must hand it in for the instructional day. It will be placed by the student in a storage area in a location designated by the educator.

For more information on the Code of Conduct please visit: www.hwdsb.on.ca

Custody of Students

During family separation or divorce we must remind parents to inform the school in writing of custody of arrangements. The school must have the most recent legal agreement between separated parents on file to respond appropriately when confronted by a parent who does not have custody. Unless a court order specifically prevents it, both parents have the right and responsibility to visit the school and have access to the child and any information about the child's current attendance and/or educational achievement. Please help us to avoid uncomfortable custody issues by providing us with all the necessary documentation. We want to support all our families and students during difficult times. Please remember to protect the privacy of all involved, custody and family disputes should not be brought into the school environment.

Scooters, Bicycles and Skateboards

Students are welcome to ride their bicycles to school as long as parents are confident that their children ride safely and are thoughtful of pedestrians. By law parents must ensure that their child wears a helmet. Helmets can be stored in the student's backpack. Once on school property students must walk their bicycles to the bike rack to ensure the safety of other students and pedestrians. During school hours the school bike racks are out of bounds for students. To prevent theft students should lock up their bicycles. Please note that the school cannot be responsible for damage, lost or stolen bicycles. Since there is no storage area for scooters and skateboards, they should not be brought to the school unless they can properly be locked up to the bike racks. Students will not be permitted to store these items in classrooms, hallways or the office.

School Council

School Council will have their first meeting on September 26th. 4:30-5:30. This meeting will include this years nominations and voting. A nomination form was sent out by School Messenger and must be returned by September 23rd. We welcome any new parents who would like to join and welcome back all returning members.

Pizza Day

Pizza Day will return on September 27th. Pizza will be \$2 a slice more details to follow.

Updates and Events

Please subscribe to our school website, and ensure you have a current email address on your students profile to not miss any school events or news. We look forward to a having a wonderful 2024-2025 school year.





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Parking Lot Safety



Staff Parking only. Do not park in the parking lot. By Law will come by and ticket or tow all vehicles without a parking pass.



Do Not Enter. In case of Emergency this is a Fire Access Route. Fines may be issued to vehicles who do not obey the sign.



No stopping. This is a lane designated by the City of Hamilton. Fines may be issued to vehicles stopped in the driveway.



Absolutely No Parking. This is a Fire Route Access, vehicles may be ticketed and or towed.



When dropping off your child/ children please do not cross this line. This line helps ensure the safety of our students.



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Staff List 2024-2025

M. Caldwell/ D. Forster	JSA
J. Goodman-Berger/D. Buote	JSB
D. Spiers/ F. Abdul Malik	JSC
N. Petruccelli/ S. Iavarone	JSD
S. Tebow (LTO for L.Tillitson) R. Dickinson	JSE
A. Dollar/ M. Stevenson	JSF
D. Kljuco(LTO for H. Wilkie-Smith) /S. Bautista (LTO for C. Quaini)	JSG
A. Whitehouse	1A
D. Gacic (LTO for X. Hatzis)	1B
N. Curtis	1C
M. Stewart	1D
K. Andric	1/2A
K. Constantini	1/2B
S. Continelli	2A
T. Shaule/ J.Frank (AM DAY 1,2,5)	2B
T. Williams	2C
J. Atkinson	2/3A
K. Martin	3A
A. Radonicich	3B
N. Agro	3/4A
C. Schinkel	3/4B
E. Leboeuf	4A
G. Tomic/ D. Gacic (LTO DAY 3)	4B
D. Stewart	4/5A
J. Frank/ J. Hall (AM DAY 1,2,5)	5A
M. Paravinja (LTO for L. Hagan)	5B
W. McArthur	5/6A
T. Wright	6A
A. Baron (LTO for S. Blanchard-Baglole)	6B
A. Henderson	6C
G. Kew	7A
S. D'Costa	7B
G. Grybas	7C
J. Morassutti	7D
B. Ozimkovic	8A
K. Balliram	8B
A. Cantwell	8C
S. Fernandez	J French/Prep
N. Zahabi	J/I French
L. Novakovich (LTO for A. MacDonald)	J/I French
J. Allum	Music
C. Wilson	Learning Commons
T. Novakovich	Phys. Ed/D
R. Steeves	Phys. Ed/D
S. Vanderstoep	P LRT
S. Brason	J LRT
N. Duckett	P/I LRT
S. Khan	Math Facilitator
L. Nazy	RST
N. Stojisavljevich	ESL
A. Connolly	ESST
M. Hyder	CYCP



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K. Anderson	EA
L. Best	EA
K. Bheemaul	EA
A. Blazek	EA (AM)
C. Derouchie	EA
S. Adedara (LTO for S. France)	EA
G. Guzman	EA
M. Jones	EA
D. Peirce	EA
N. Pereira	EA
C. Thomas	EA
A. Duvnjak	OFFICE ADMIN
C. Piper	OFFICE ASSIST
C. Varaljai	OFFICE ASSIST
V. Goodale	HEAD CARETAKER
J. Welsh	VICE-PRINCIPAL
Y. Tjanetis (M/W/ALT F)	VICE-PRINCIPAL
T. Morabito	PRINCIPAL

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