



Waterdown District High School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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www.hwdsb.on.ca/waterdown

Dear Waterdown students, parents, and guardians:

I hope that your summer has been a restful and relaxing one, and that you had a chance to engage in those activities that bring you joy and fulfillment. I am very excited to welcome all of our students new to Waterdown and extend a welcome back to our returning students.

We recently learned of a change to Administration at Waterdown. Mr. Schinkel will be going to Sherwood as Vice Principal. We will certainly miss his leadership and care, but I know that he will do great things at Sherwood in support of students, staff, and community. We welcome Ms. Alexandre to Waterdown as Vice Principal. Ms. Gokhale and I are very much looking forward to working with Ms. Alexandre as we continue to serve the Waterdown community.

One of our continued priorities for this school year is to ensure that all of our students feel a **sense of belonging** at Waterdown. This is a passion that I share with both Ms. Gokhale and Ms. Alexandre. I know that all of our staff feel the same. In pursuit of this, we will continue to seek student voice to improve everyone's experience here at Waterdown, and we encourage you to share your best thinking with us as to how we can accomplish this.

For those of you returning, you know that Waterdown Secondary is a special place: Our staff work very hard to demonstrate care and connect to our students through Caring Adult relationships. For those of you new to Waterdown, I know that you will quickly see how our staff are committed to your well-being and academic success.

We will be hosting our **Grade 9 Orientation Day on Wednesday, August 28**. We look forward to welcoming all Grade 9 Warriors on that day. Please arrive at the school between 9:00 - 9:30 am and enter through the main doors. At check-in you will receive your schedule for the semester and be assigned to a group. Groups will participate in a series of activities (school tours, icebreakers, motivational speaker, Q&A, etc...) that wrap up by our 1:30 pm departure time. Have a look at our teams and clubs: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/waterdown/teams-and-clubs/>. We think you will really enjoy our exceptional facilities at Waterdown!

All families will be able to access student timetables through the Parent Portal during the week of August 26. Students and families who would like to explore a schedule/timetable change can make a guidance appointment during the first week of school through the following link: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/WDHSGuidanceAppointments@hwdsbonca.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

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Grade 9 students will receive their locker during their Orientation Day; returning students will have their lockers assigned through Homerooms during the first week of school.

Our **first day of classes is Tuesday, September 3**. Waterdown's bell times are as follows:

Per. 1 8:00 – 9:15
Per. 2 9:19 – 10:34
Per. 3 10:38 – 11:53
Per. 4 11:56 – 1:11
Per. 5 1:15 – 2:30

For information about busing, please follow the link: [FAQs | Waterdown District High School \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](#). Also, for the latest information, please subscribe to our website: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/waterdown/>. Our first **School Council meeting of the year is Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 pm** in the school library. All parents and caregivers are welcome.

Finally, I want to express how much I am looking forward to working alongside you throughout the 2024/25 school year. Students, staff, families, and community – together we make a powerful team. We will be learning with and from each other this year and I am confident that we will accomplish great things!

See you soon!

Greg Clark
Principal
Waterdown District High School