



Yorkview Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

86 Cameron Avenue
Dundas ON L9H 1P8
Phone: 905-628-8212
Fax: 905-628-8234

Email: yorkview@hwdsb.on.ca
Website: www.hwdsb.on.ca/yorkview
Principal: Ms. G. Stafford

September 1, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. We hope you all had an enjoyable summer and we are looking forward to having our wonderful community of learners and staff come together this school year. We know that the past few years have been challenging, and we are thrilled to see students, staff and families again. Each new year is a new opportunity for students to reach their full potential, make new connections and learn and grow with their school community.

A friendly reminder that the first day of school for our Grade 1 -5 students will be Tuesday, September 3, 2024. We are looking forward to welcoming students back!

Please find below some pieces of important information for the first day of school.

- **Grade 1-5 Students begin school at 8:20 a.m. on Tuesday, September 3. The playground opens at 8:05 a.m. for students and staff will be outside to guide and support students to their teachers.**
- **JK and new to FDK student orientations will take place throughout the day on Tuesday, September 3rd.**
- **All JK/SK students begin full time on Wednesday, September 4 at 8:20 a.m.**
- All Grade 1-5 teachers will be out on the hardtop on or before 8:20 a.m. on the first day of school with name signs. If you know your teacher's name, please head over towards your teacher on the hardtop. Teachers will be wearing orange duty vests.
- If you don't know your teacher's name, please find a teacher on the hardtop, there will be staff with class lists helping out and directing you to the correct line.
- The entry bell will ring at 8:20 a.m. At this time, each teacher will bring their class into the classroom to begin getting to know their classroom community and environment.
- Dismissal will be at 2:40 p.m. For those picking up students, please wait at the grass area along the playground and your student will come out the same door they entered through in the morning.



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- Upon arrival Bus students will be walked around from the front bus drop off to the back hardtop area for line ups. If the bus arrives after the bell, the students will be brought in through the front doors and escorted to classes by staff.
- All FDK students who come on the bus will be greeted and walked into the FDK playground by staff.
- All parents dropping FDK students off on Wednesday, September 4 are asked to drop off in the front fenced in FDK area with staff any time between 8:05-8:20 a.m. For safety, we ask that the parents/guardian stay outside of the fenced in FDK area when dropping off.

PARKING

A reminder that our school parking lot is for staff only to ensure safety for everyone. Street parking is available at the front and side of our building, please note that this can get very busy at drop off and pick up and we encourage all those students who are able to walk, bike/scooter etc. to do so. This will ease the congestion of the traffic in our area and keep everyone safe.

TRANSPORTATION

If your child qualifies for transportation, please follow the steps listed to access your child(ren)'s information via the online portal. Please keep in mind that last minute changes sometimes do occur and that it is important to re-check the information prior to sending your child(ren) to their assigned pickup location on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Go to www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca and click on the "Parent Portal" on the Home page, OR "Bus Stop Finder" on the landing page.

In order to have busing run smoothly, please ensure that if you have any changes to riding the bus in the afternoon connect with our office directly via phone, so we can ensure that students are safe.

LATE ARRIVAL / ABSENCE – SCHOOL BEGINS AT 8:20 a.m.

If your child is late for school, please bring your child to the front doors, ring the bell and come to the main office and they will be supported in getting to their classroom. If you know your child will be late or absent for the day please ensure that you put this into School Messenger that can be found on the board website or the App can be downloaded to your phone.



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EARLY PICK UP

If you need to pick up your child from school early, we remind you to please allow some extra time for your child to arrive at the office. Students will be called down once you are here and it can take a few minutes for your child(ren) to gather their things and get to the office area. Please let your child(ren)s classroom teacher or the office know if you will be picking up early and the time so they can ensure that your child is ready.



STUDENT DRESS GUIDELINES

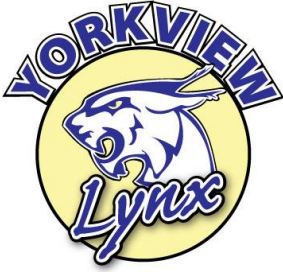
In September 2024, all Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board elementary and secondary schools will be introduced to updated **Student Dress Guidelines**. Developed with input from students across Hamilton, as well as staff and families, they are rooted in fairness and respect for all cultures and identities.

These guidelines were developed with a strong focus supporting students in their dress as it relates to human rights, safety, mental health, well-being, compassion, dignity and belonging. By supporting personal expression and self-identity, schools can become safer and more welcoming environments for every student.

Student Dress Guidelines can be found on **posters in all schools** and as part of the **HWDSB Code of Conduct**. Posters and the code are available on the boards website as well.

CELLPHONES/ ELECTRONIC DEVICES

One area of particular concern that we have been experiencing is the growing use of cell phones/electronic devices and smartwatches during instructional time in the classroom setting. Our goal is and has always been to maximize the learning time for our students and ensure a positive learning environment. Devices have many positive uses. However, in the classroom setting they are an enormous distraction to learning. There is research studies that cite the



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negative effects of cell phone use on students, particularly the overuse of social media. We have found that cell phones not only distract students from learning, but also facilitate negative behavior such as:

- Cyberbullying· Harassment· Taking photos or videos of students and staff without their permission· Accessing unapproved websites· Arranging meetings with friends in the restrooms during class time

My sincere hope is that you have a conversation with your child(ren) about the acceptable time and use of their cell phones and other devices during the school day. Prior to entering school, students should have their cell phones on silent and stored in the safe space provided in the classroom. Students who disregard this policy may be subject to disciplinary consequences including confiscation of devices or a phone call to parents.

Please note that if you need to contact your child during the school day, our Office Administrator is available to take your call and pass on the message to your child(ren).

Thank you for your continued support as we work to reduce classroom distractions and provide our students with the best learning environment possible.

WEBSITE

Please check our school website for updates and important dates. Please ensure that you subscribe to our school website. Informed parents make great partners.

RIGHT TO DISCONNECT

Healthy work-life boundaries, including the ability for all employees to disconnect from work after hours, is an important part of maintaining one's health and well-being. HWDSB has implemented a Right to Disconnect Procedure to support educators, administrators and other HWDSB staff. While all urgent communication will continue to be shared after hours, please note that families communicating with educators and administrators may receive a delay in response to all non-emergency inquiries received after hours.



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ADDRESSING A CONCERN

Students and families with classroom concerns are encouraged to contact their student's classroom teacher. School-wide concerns can be addressed by the principal. Please feel free to reach out when needed.

We know the return to school can be stressful but we are here to support every student's back-to-school experience. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing all our Yorkview students on Tuesday, September 3rd and our Kindergarten students on Wednesday, September 4th to welcome them into our safe and comfy school.

Looking forward to another great school year at Yorkview.

Kind regards,

Ms. G. Stafford

Principal

Yorkview Public School