

HWDSB

BILL TORRENS
Superintendent of Program
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558
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905.527.5092 x 2624

DATE: October 6th, 2017
TO: Elementary and Secondary Principals & Vice-Principals
FROM: Bill Torrens, Superintendent of Program
Geeta Malhotra, Principal of Student Success
COPY: Executive Council
SUBJECT: My Path My Way—November 1st, 2017

Introduction:

Our fifth annual My Path My Way Information Night will take place **on Wednesday, November 1st from 6:30-9:00 at Liuna Station on James Street North**. This event will showcase and help to make our community aware of the many wonderful programs, services and supports our Board offers for families with students in Grades 7-12. My Path My Way has always been a very successful event for our school board. Last year, over 1300 people attended the event; therefore, the location has moved to Liuna Station to better accommodate the anticipated crowd for this year.

School Involvement

Strong support from schools is a key reason for the success and popularity of My Path My Way. Secondary schools are encouraged to send staff and student representatives to showcase their programs and student work. Storefronts will be available.

Please contact **Lynn Krusto, Experiential Learning and SHSM Consultant, Lkrusto@hwdsb.on.ca** for more information if you have not been already contacted.

Format:

The format of the evening has been changed this year. There will not be a formal presentation at the beginning of the evening. Instead we will have more of an open house format with a short pathways presentation in another room repeated a few times throughout the evening. The aim is to provide participants more flexibility and time to speak with people at the storefront displays.

To support families in pathways planning based on student interests and learning needs, the event will feature programs such as Experiential Learning, Specialist High Skills Majors, Special Education, French Immersion, Indigenous Education and English as a Second Language. Community partners such as Mohawk College, McMaster University and ArcelorMittal Dofasco will also be in attendance, as well as our local partners who can offer students opportunities to earn Community Involvement Hours (CIHs), a necessary requirement for graduation. Organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Hamilton Health Sciences and Wesley Urban Ministries will also be in attendance.

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To assist with planning we are asking families to RSVP via email or phone to angie.vanderzalm@iechamilton.ca or to 905-529-4483 x224 . Child-minding and transportation (bus tickets) can be provided upon request. Please see the flyer attached.

Next Steps in Communication

This evening has been well attended in the past, largely due to your support. Schools are asked to please:

- Send home the attached flyer to elementary students in grades 7 and 8 as well as secondary students in grades 9-12 (hard copies of these flyers should have arrived at your schools this week);
- Invite, personally, secondary students who have yet not acquired their CIHs;
- Publicise the event by posting to your school website, communicating to your School Council; making announcements and using social media.

At the system level, synervice calls will be made in coming weeks to promote the evening.

If you have any questions, please contact Geeta Malhotra, Principal of Student Success.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts and participation in this evening.