

DUNDAS VALLEY SECONDARY SCHOOL

August 15th, 2016

Dear Dundas Valley Secondary School Students:

WELCOME BACK TO THE BEST SCHOOL EVER!!!! Dundas Valley Secondary School is the school where your dreams can come true...you need to do the hard part of finding a way to make your dreams a reality. WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!!!! I hope you are all well and equally excited as I am with the return to school in the hopes of living a life of passion and purpose. I want to welcome all our grade 9 students to the start of their high school experience. I know you will have the time of your lives. Please let me know how I can add to your rich experience. In fact, ALL STAFF (teachers, office, caretaking and administration) are here to support you in your high school career!

And, welcome back to all our students as we co-create “magic” this year. This year will prove to be an amazing year as we create history and build a school culture that is reflective of our vision of what education means for us in the AWESOME town of Dundas! I am so thrilled to be the FIRST Principal of DVSS, Home of the Gryphons!! So now the HARD WORK of living our VISION STATEMENT BEGINS! At DVSS, we are committed to create **“AN EMPATHETIC CULTURE OF RESPECT AND LEARNING THROUGH THE LENS OF HUMAN RIGHTS”!** I want to ask you to take some time as a family to reflect on this question: **“What can I do to make DVSS’s VISION STATEMENT a reality?”**

Your work, your actions, your voice and your thoughts will all help you live a life in which you can use the VISION STATEMENT as a filter. PLEASE let me know how we can help you.

As always, I am governed by my passions, talents, Ethical Standards of the Teaching Profession, the Ontario Leadership Framework and my values to promote confidence in public education. Please have a read of my Commitment Statements, found on the school website. These statements act as daily filters for my decision-making. Please understand that these statements help me to work through the “gray” when looking to support an educational institution while providing an educational direction reflective of The HWDSB Strategic Directions. These statements are not open to interpretation; but rather, they serve as a means of breaking down a situation and look toward a healthy resolution/action. Enjoy them as much as I have enjoyed living them!

This summer letter is intended to help you with all the information you need for a healthy start to a great school year. Keep this letter in a safe place so that you can access it to answer any of your questions. This letter is a collection of processes, information and schedules that came from your emails and your questions. Thank you to our awesome SCHOOL COUNCIL for providing me with direction as to what you need. If I have missed anything, do not hesitate to email me (edelsord@hwdsb.on.ca) with your question so that I can add it to this letter and update it on the school website. Thus, ALWAYS access the website first (DVSS website: www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundasvalley) and let me know how I can continue to build meaningful communication. Accept this process as my commitment to you to communicate effectively in an open and transparent manner.

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER @EmDelSordo or follow the school @Dundas_ValleySS

To follow new legislation regarding spam email, the HWDSB and DVSS need consent to send you email updates. The following link allows you to subscribe to mailing lists for both DVSS and other HWDSB updates. <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/news/subscribe/> select Dundas Valley from the list of schools to sign up for the school list.

DVSS PHONE NUMBER - The number 905-628-2203 will have voice mail options to leave messages regarding attendance, access the staff directory, contact the Student Services Office, and reach reception in the main office

GRADE 9 STUDENT INFORMATION

For our GRADE 9 STUDENTS, WELCOME TO HIGH SCHOOL!!!! I promise you all that I will do whatever I can to make your high school experience an AWESOME experience....and let me start by saying, **YOU HAVE THE BEST TEACHERS!!!!** I ask you to access the school website (www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundasvalley) to access my **COMMITMENT STATEMENTS** for the students, staff, and parents/caregivers/guardians. I use these statements as filters to help me make the best possible decision to serve our kids! I use these COMMITMENT STATEMENTS to help me live and role model a life of passion, purpose and meaning! Let me start by saying: **I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU ALL THE GREAT NEW BEGINNINGS WE WILL START AS DVSS GRYPHONS!!!!**

GRADE 9 SMART START DAY - Wednesday, August 31, 2016

Dundas Valley Secondary School is excited to welcome Grade 9 students to their new home at our Smart Start Day. DVSS Smart Start Day will be held on Wednesday August 31, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. On Smart Start Day, Grade 9 students will have the opportunity to:

- meet new classmates
- meet senior students eager to welcome them to their new home
- receive another tour of the school with a special emphasis on first semester classrooms and daily routines at school

There will be a brief welcome assembly at 10:15 a.m. Lunch is included and will be served at 11:15 a.m.

We know the 2016-2017 school year is going to be awesome. We can't wait to welcome new Gryphons to the DVSS community!

GRADE 9 IPAD ROLLOUT

Welcome Gr. 9 Gryphons! As you embark on your high school career, early in the semester we will be leveraging digital technology to deepen your learning. All Grade 9 students will receive mini iPads as a tool to support your learning. Prior to the distribution of the devices we will ensure you and your parents are aware of the responsibilities and expectations for use and help you to develop digital citizenship skills. Throughout your courses, you will have the opportunity to use the DVSS mini iPad to access the digital world to support your problem solving, inquiry and ability to critically analyze the vast world of information available to you.

1. DVSS TIME SCHEDULES

Dundas Valley will operate on a **ROTATING DAY 1 and DAY 2 schedule**. This means that a calendar day that falls on an ODD NUMBER (1,3,5,7,9 ...) will follow a DAY 1 schedule, and a calendar day that falls on an EVEN NUMBER (2,4,6,8,10...) will follow a DAY 2 schedule. **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CLASSES WILL OPERATE ON A DAY 1 SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST 2 DAYS OF CLASSES--SEPTEMBER 6TH AND 7TH. SEPTEMBER 8TH WILL BE THE FIRST DAY 2.** We will always announce when we will change the DAY schedule so that we can optimize our time. (For example see below under Grade 9 Transition Activities)

Please see below for the Day 1 and Day 2 class schedules and times:

DVSS DAY 1: (Odd number dates)

Period 1: 08:25 a.m. – 09:40 a.m.
Period 2: 09:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
LUNCH: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Period 3: 12:00 p.m. – 01:15 p.m.
Period 4: 01:20 p.m. – 02:35 p.m.

DVSS DAY 2: (Even number dates)

Period 2: 08:25 a.m. - 09:40 a.m.
Period 1: 09:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
LUNCH 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Period 4: 12:00 p.m. - 01:15 p.m.
Period 3: 01:20 p.m. - 02:35 p.m.

ASSEMBLY SCHEDULES will be created as we need them. Please listen to announcements for assembly information.

2. DVSS WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS

I would like to welcome the following new staff to our already awesome staff:

Ms. J. Burleigh, Ms. O. Dolibic, Ms. E. Hazard, Ms. T. Kehl, Mr. S. Kilby, and Mr. D. Utjesinovic.

3. LUNCH AREAS

We ask that you please obey the school rules and do not block the egress to school; this means that there can be **no eating or sitting in the school hallways** (unless it is a designated bench area). PLEASE EAT either in the cafeteria or in designated teacher classrooms. *THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM TO ACCOMMODATE THE SCHOOL POPULATION TO HAVE LUNCH.* Please use the garbage bin to discard your garbage. Help us to help you...keep the school looking clean and bright so that it is reflective of you!

4. “NO PARKING” AREAS

When parents are waiting to pick up students, it is important to be aware of our signage indicating parking restrictions. Please **ONLY** pick up your student in the student parking lot – do not wait along the driveway leading into the staff parking lot or outside the back doors of the circle (west end of school).

Signage has been clearly posted from the front entrance of the school toward the rear of the circle wing of the school which indicates that there must be no parking at all due to fire regulations.

Please be advised that, if necessary, bylaw officers will be called to come and issue tickets if these areas are not kept clear of all vehicles.

Thank you for your attention to this very important safety matter.

5. TRANSPORTATION/ BUSING

Information about Transportation was posted to the school website (<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundasvalley/transportation-information-2/>). Families that will be eligible for bus transportation should receive a letter directly from the Hamilton Wentworth School Transportation Services (HWSTS) during the summer. If you have questions about transportation, **families must call the HWSTS directly** at 905.523.2318 or 1.800.691.6402.

IF you would like COURTESY TRANSPORTATION, please download a courtesy transportation application: http://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/public_v2/service-emptyseat-hwdsb.aspx
ALL courtesy transportation application approvals will be done by the PRINCIPAL at the end of September, pending seating availability on the bus. PLEASE submit your Courtesy Transportation application to Mrs. Sandra Kelly, in Student Services. All courtesy transportation applications will be date and time stamped, so that it is a first come first served basis pending bus seats.

6. SCHOOL COUNCIL

The first meeting of the 2016 - 2017 School Council will be held on **Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 20th** in the Learning Commons at 6:30 p.m. At this meeting our School Council election will take place. Please go to the DVSS website to review the DVSS SCHOOL COUNCIL BY-LAWS. We would LOVE to have as many parents involved in our School Council so that together we can co-lead and co-create a community school reflective of our needs and wants and created with teachers and parents working side by side. Please come and join our AMAZING parents as we see all parents/caregivers as a partner to our students' education.

7. LOCKERS

Lockers will be assigned by your PERIOD 1 teacher. You must bring in a combination lock, in which you show your teacher the combination and open the lock in front of your teacher. ONCE you open your combination lock, your PERIOD 1 teacher will assign you a locker. SO PLEASE NOTE that you MUST ONLY take a locker that is assigned to you. IF you take a locker that is assigned to someone else, you will be asked to remove the lock or your lock will be cut off. The goal is to support you in being close to your first period class. IF you wish to change your locker, then come and see a VP who will re-assign you another locker. PLEASE FOLLOW THIS PROCESS. It will make your life and those who work in the school a lot easier.

8. ONLINE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

With the support of School Cash Online, we're making paying for school related expenses easier. You can now make online payments through our school website or using your credit card. This is a win-win by making it safer and more efficient for everyone by reducing the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. While parents will still have the option to send cash or cheques for school related expenses, we encourage you to get on board with our new service and register today and begin receiving notifications by email. If your child is moving to another HWDSB school

in September, by registering now, your payment history and registration will move with you to the next school. Please connect with our ACCOUNTS Office Assistant, Ms. Judith Smith at 905-628-2203 extension 263.

9. TIMETABLES

Please note that all timetable changes will start the week of September 6th.

Grade 9 students will receive their timetables on August 31 at Smart Start Day.

Grade 10-12 timetables will be with students' homeroom teachers. Homeroom class lists will be posted the first day of school in the cafeteria. Students can find their names and go to homeroom to pick up their timetables.

GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

The Guidance Office and counsellors will be available Monday, August 29 - Friday, September 2 from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm for new registrations. Counsellors may also be available for timetable conflicts and changes if time permits: students may drop in to see if they can be assisted between registration appointments, or wait until the first week of school to make timetable changes. The best thing to do is make all the changes you want to your timetable ASAP, so that you do not miss any class time.

10. STUDENT PARKING

Student parking is limited to the parking lot next to the tennis court. Bringing your vehicle to school is a privilege; therefore, please respect all the vehicles around you and any pedestrians who may be nearby. PLEASE avoid speeding and driving recklessly...your life and the lives of those around you matter. IF you are found being careless in your vehicle, this administration will ask you NOT TO BRING YOUR CAR ON SCHOOL PROPERTY. We state this seriously so that you can respect the lives of those around you.

Also, please respect all NO PARKING areas. Signage is in place and must be followed. If necessary, we will request bylaw officers to come and ticket those who park in restricted areas.

As always, I am here to help you in any way! I am philosophically aligned to Servant-Leadership and therefore I believe in dialogue, discussion and collaboration. Please call and make an appointment to come and introduce yourselves and share with me any information you believe might help me assist you as a learner, as a family, as a DVSS student and as a person who will change the world for the better! I look forward to meeting all the grade 9s and making them feel welcome to our awesome Gryphon family! AND, of course I am excited to continue to joke around and connect with all returning students. I look forward to lunch with you all!

WELCOME to all our GRADE 9 students and WELCOME BACK to all our grade 10-12 students!!!

Yours in education,

E. Del Sordo

Em Del Sordo
DVSS Principal