



# Waterdown Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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September 22, 2016

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s),

## PLEASE RETAIN THIS LETTER FOR YOUR REFERENCE

Since 2014, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) has been implementing its 21<sup>st</sup> century learning vision which is centered on teaching that is supported by digital tools. Teachers have been engaging in professional development on how to use different teaching strategies and technology in their classrooms.

### HOW WILL WE TRACK OUR PROGRESS?

The research department at HWDSB is monitoring how this work is supporting students' learning in different ways across all schools.

For the next 3 years, students will be asked to complete a **computer activity** which includes (1) questions about what students think about their learning, and (2) interactive tasks for students to show how well they can use technology and their ability level across various 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills (e.g., creativity, decision making, digital citizenship, etc.). The activity will be voluntary, based on students' skills, and completed in two 30 minute sessions. If you'd like to learn more about this activity please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/HWDSB-Activity>

We are also working with external partners from York University, Brock University, Wilfrid Laurier University, the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and Curriculum Services Canada to look at how well students and teachers use digital tools in their everyday experiences.

We would like to combine your child's **report card data** and **EQAO scores** along with their results from the **computer activity** and then share it with our research partners. The information will be shared in group format so that no individual student is identified. This will help us to know whether we are effectively supporting our students' school achievement, engagement and development of 21st Century Skills.

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

**HWDSB**

HOW LONG WILL THESE PROJECTS GO ON FOR?

We are seeking consent for your child to participate over the next 3 years.

You will receive a letter every year reminding you about this work and providing you with an opportunity to withdraw your child's participation in the monitoring of the projects.

WHAT ABOUT RISKS AND CONFIDENTIALITY?

When we report our findings we will describe them in general ways so that no individual student or classroom will be identified. There are no known risks to students in completing the computer activity or in us using/sharing their report card data, EQAO data and/or school work. Your child will be asked if they want to participate in the computer activity. If you or your child decides to not participate, there will be no consequences and your child's school experience will not be affected.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

If you have questions about sharing the information explained above please call or e-mail Dr. Dana Liebermann, the manager of the research department at our Board at 905-527-5092 ext. 2259 or at [dlieberm@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:dlieberm@hwdsb.on.ca). For any other concerns or question please contact your school Principal.

Sincerely,



W. Bielak  
Principal

**This letter is yours to keep, however please complete the following page and return it to your child's teacher by:**

**Monday September 26, 2016**

For more information, please visit the school's website at [www.hwdsb.on.ca/waterdown](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/waterdown)