



# Ancaster High School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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[www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh)

August, 2017

**“The essence of teaching is to make learning contagious, to have one idea spark another.” Marva Collins**

Dear Ancaster Students, Parents and Guardians,

Ancaster is a dynamic school that encourages and nurtures critical thinking and problem solving in our students. As a staff, we are dedicated to providing experiences and opportunities for our students to challenge themselves and be successful. Throughout the year, **we encourage all students to do their very best at every task they attempt, set goals for the upcoming year and demonstrate respectful qualities.**

I hope you had a wonderful summer break and are now "looking forward" to resuming your educational journey. **A special welcome to our new Royals** - our incoming grade 9's and students new to our area. **Our school is renowned for its' academic excellence, community partnerships, caring, safe and inclusive environment and co-curricular activities.**

I am looking forward to another school year at Ancaster in which we strive for excellence in all aspects of school life. We have many opportunities to celebrate student and staff achievements in academics, co-curricular activities and community involvement.

The staff at Ancaster set high academic standards by providing and maintaining exciting and challenging curriculum. Even though our main focus is academics, we provide numerous co-curricular activities such as dances, clubs, music nights, drama productions, athletics, and spirit events such as the BAA Triathlon, Cherry Pie Concert and Grade 9 evening to make school fun, interesting and engaging. I encourage all of you to become involved in the numerous activities planned throughout the school year and to join other Royals in keeping Ancaster one of the best schools in Hamilton.

This newsletter contains information that will be helpful to you as you start the new school year. Please keep this letter available so that you will have the information when it is needed. As well, we have enclosed a copy of your semester 1 timetable for the 2017-2018 school year. In order to prepare for a smooth beginning on **September 5th**, we are asking all students please pay the mandatory **\$20.00 student fee** through our **cash on-line system**. Please visit our website for more information on how to register for cash on-line. All you will need is the student number found on the report card or timetable. Once registered, you will be able to pay most fees through this system...field trips, yearbook etc. The student fee is used for entire school events like guest speakers, spirit days and other school events.

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Students will have the option to make changes to their timetable during the first ten days of school only. Students must complete a "Change Request Form" in the Guidance Office in order to see their Guidance Counsellor. Counsellors will be processing the Change Request Forms with priority given to students in their graduating year, then Grade 11 students, then junior students. All students must continue to follow their original timetable and attend all classes even after completing the Change Request Form. Students not present in class when they are called for will be placed at the bottom of the queue. Students should never assume that they will be dropping a class and stop attending while they wait to see their Counsellor.

Lockers will be assigned by the Homeroom Teacher on the first day of classes. Students returning to Ancaster will be able to re-use the locks they removed from their lockers in June. Students new to Ancaster must bring their own locks. The recommended locks are Dudley Combination Locks. **No key locks will be allowed. Please do not share a locker with other students as we have enough lockers for every student.**

On **Wednesday, August 30<sup>st</sup>** from 10:00 a.m. to approximately 11:30 a.m., we will be hosting an orientation tour for **all new grade 9 students**. Please meet in the **West Wing Auditorium** at 10:00 a.m. Student Council representatives will assist with the tours. If you are unable to attend, we ask that on **Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**, you report to the auditorium prior to 8:25 for our opening grade 9 assembly. All other students will report to their period 1 homeroom class as we will be following a day 1 schedule on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

The **Ancaster Parent Handbook**, created by our School Council, contains information to support parents and help their children be successful. An updated copy of this handbook can be found on our school website at [www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancaster](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancaster). Be sure to check out our website throughout the school year for updates and information.

I hope this year will be successful and exciting for you. Ancaster has a great deal of success in many areas and you can become part of a great legacy. There is always someone available to help you or to answer questions and offer support. I want to welcome **Mr. Currie**, who has joined our staff as our new vice principal. I know he will find Ancaster a great place to come to work every day. **Ms. Valeri** has moved to Nora Henderson as their new vice principal.

On behalf of **Ms. Baillie and Mr. Currie, our two vice-principals**, I again urge you to become involved in as many school activities as possible this year. We are counting on your talents and energy to maintain Ancaster's reputation as a leading school in our area. Your commitment and contributions are essential in creating and sustaining a positive learning environment.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, August 30 (grade 9) and Tuesday, September 5 (all students).

Mr. R. Gallant  
Principal

## INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS OPENING DAY - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Opening day for the 2017-2018 school year is Tuesday, September 5th. **Grade 9 students will report to the Auditorium in the West Wing by 8:20 a.m. for our opening day assembly.** Following the assembly, you will meet your homeroom teacher who will escort you to your homeroom (period 1) classroom. All other students are to report to their **homeroom (period 1) class.** **Please bring your timetable with you.** The following is the **time schedule for September 5th.** Regular day time schedules are posted in all classrooms.

Period 1	8:25 am	To	9:40 am
Transition Time	9:40 am	To	9:50 am
Period 2	9:50 am	To	11:05 am
Lunch	11:05 am	To	12:05 pm
Period 3	12:05 pm	To	1:20 pm
Transition Time	1:20 pm	To	1:30 pm
Period 4	1:30 pm	To	2:45 pm

In your homeroom, you will complete registration forms and will be assigned a locker. Please bring a Dudley combination lock. Every student must use their assigned locker. In each class, you will receive an outline of the course and be issued the required textbook(s). Please look after your textbooks. You are responsible and accountable for all materials issued to you. You are required to return textbooks at the end of the semester, and you will be charged a replacement fee for lost or damaged textbooks. Textbooks are issued at no cost for all grades.

**The last class ends at 2:45 p.m. and buses will arrive shortly thereafter. If there are bus issues, please contact the Transportation Department at 905-523-2318.**

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> WILL FOLLOW A DAY 2 SCHEDULE

All odd-numbered days are Day 1; even-numbered days are Day 2. Our school "Day Schedule" will correspond to calendar dates i.e. September 9, 11, 15 = Day 1 September 10, 14, 16 = Day 2

## CAFETERIA SERVICES

Lunches are to be eaten in either of the two cafeterias. If you wish to purchase food, the cafeteria provides drinks, snacks and complete lunches. Eating in hallways or stairwells is not permitted due to Fire Code regulations.

## STUDENT PARKING

Students wishing to park at school must register in the Main Office. Please adhere to speed limit signs and regulations or this privilege will be revoked.

## EXAM AND REPORTING DATES

Please note the following dates. The dates for exams are particularly significant. It is not the policy of the school to reschedule exams due to holiday trips or work commitments. Final examinations and culminating activities are compulsory. **Examinations will not be re-scheduled or waived to accommodate students who wish to start work early or go on vacations.** Students and parents who require exams to be re-scheduled because of emergencies or other critical situations may request consideration in writing to the Vice-Principal. Teachers are not authorized to re-schedule examinations.

Parents must notify the school promptly if students will be **absent from an examination or culminating activity** because of illness or serious emergency. A doctor's note will be required for an illness. If students **are late** for an exam they should report to the office. Normally **NO EXTRA TIME** is allowed. If students **forget to show up** for an exam, they will not normally be allowed to write it.

	<u>Semester 1</u>	<u>Semester 2</u>
Interim Report	October 12	March 8
Mid-Term Report	November 23	April 20
Final Exams	January 25-231	June 21-27

## STATUTORY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

To assist parents in planning family holidays etc., the school holidays for 2017-2018 are as follows:

Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9
Holiday Break	Monday, December 25 – Friday, January 5 inclusive
Family Day	Monday, February 19
March Break	Monday, March 12 - Friday, March 16
Easter Break	Friday, March 30 - Monday, April 2
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21

#### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS FOR 2017-2018**

<u>Semester 1</u>	<u>Semester 2</u>
September 22	March 2
November 3	June 28
December 1	June 29
February 1	

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Activities get underway very quickly. Co-curricular sports starting the first week of school for girls are tennis, cross-country running and basketball and for boys, volleyball and cross-country running. Students must participate in Ancaster High shorts and t-shirts. These will be available for purchase during the first week of school.

#### **DON'T JUST BE A STUDENT OF ANCASTER – BE AN INVOLVED STUDENT OF ANCASTER**

#### **GRADE NINE NIGHT**

This year's Grade 9 Night will take place on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm to midnight. Our senior student volunteers are already planning for group activities, games, a dance and, of course, lots of food to welcome our grade 9s into our school. Registration forms are available on our Ancaster High – Student Services website – Welcome Grade 8s. Fees for this event will be collected in September. We hope to see every grade 9 take part in this fun event – Welcome Royals!

#### **LIBRARY/LEARNING COMMONS**

In September, all grade 9 students are scheduled into the Library/Learning Commons, with the co-operation of the period 1 subject teacher, for a general information and orientation session as the first step in helping you to become independent, informed and responsible users of the library's resources and services.

In the meantime, you should know that the library is open each period of the day - including your lunch period. If you have any questions about borrowing privileges before your orientation session, please do not hesitate to ask Mrs. Behiel, our teacher-librarian, for assistance.

#### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The first School Council meeting will take place on Monday, September 18 in the Library/Learning Commons. Parents who are interested in becoming a member are invited to fill out the self-nomination form found on our school website and return to Ms. Zidar in the Principal's office by Friday, September 8. **Submitting the self-nomination form means you will attend all meetings and will have voting rights.** However, all parents are welcome to attend all meetings.

#### **STUDENT SERVICES**

Counsellors are available to provide information on courses, careers, and post-secondary institutions and to assist with the personal and social needs of students. Parents/students may obtain information or arrange appointments through Mrs. DesRochers, our Student Services Assistant. In addition, the services of a social worker and a public health nurse are available through the school.

Guidance Counsellors are responsible for students as follows (projected allocations):

Ms. C. O'Sullivan last name A-G

Mr. S. Nicholson last name H-M

Mr. T. Baker last name N-Z