



Ancaster High School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

374 Jerseyville Road West
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3K8
Phone: 905.648.4468
Fax: 905.648.8228

EMAIL: ancasterhigh@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Mr. R. Gallant
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Ms. S. Ferney & Mr. M. Currie
www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh

August, 2019

“Keep on beginning and failing. Each time you fail, start all over again, and you will grow stronger until you have accomplished a purpose - not the one you began with perhaps, but one you’ll be glad to remember”. Anne Sullivan (Helen Keller’s teacher)

Dear Ancaster Students, Parents and Guardians,

The above message accurately reflects what school and life are all about. 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, its community partnerships, its caring, safe and inclusive environment and its 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 2019-2020 school year. In order to prepare for a smooth beginning on **September 3rd**, 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. 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.

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 28th** 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 all grade 9's report to the auditorium prior to 8:25 a.m. for our opening grade 9 assembly on **Tuesday, September 3rd**. All other students will report to their period 1 homeroom class as we will be following a day 1 schedule on September 3rd.

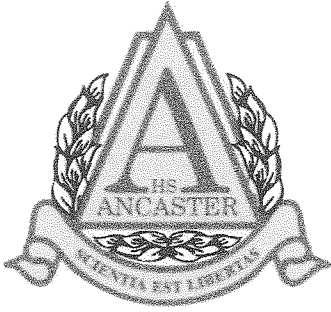
The first School Council meeting of the year will take place on **Monday, September 16th at 6:30 p.m.** in our Library/Learning Commons. All are welcome to join this committed group of parents. The **Ancaster Parent Handbook**, created by our School Council, contains information to support parents and help their student be successful. An updated copy of this handbook can be found on our school website at www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh. The **Ancaster Student Handbook** can also be found on our website. 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.

On behalf of **Ms. Ferney 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 28th (grade 9)** and **Tuesday, September 3rd (all students)**.

Mr. R. Gallant
Principal



Ancaster High School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

374 Jerseyville Road West
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 3K8
Phone: 905.648.4468
Fax: 905.648.8228

EMAIL: ancasterhigh@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Mr. R. Gallant
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Ms. S. Ferney & Mr. M. Currie
www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh

July, 2019

Dear Parent / Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that there will be a service dog in our school assisting one of our students. This service dog is a highly trained companion for our student and is able to assist in many of the routine activities which may pose some challenges for this student. The child's right to have a service dog is protected under Human Rights legislation.

There will be information sessions at the school to integrate the service dog into our daily routines and all our students will be instructed as to the proper procedure regarding the service dog. They will be informed that the service dog is a working service dog and not a pet while at school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Mr. R. Gallant

Cc: Jane Macpherson: Superintendent of Student Achievement

Student Services Newsletter Summer 2019

New Guidance Team

We are pleased to announce that Mr. J. Vallance will be taking over for Mr. T. Baker who has retired. Mr. Vallance is an experienced teacher with a wealth of experience to share with his students. (jvallanc@hwdsb.on.ca)

Ms. C. O'Sullivan returns in her new role as the Assistant Department Head of Student Services and will be looking after our International Students. (cosulliv@hwdsb.on.ca)

Mr. S. Nicholson returns as the Department Head of Student Services and will be taking over as the lead counsellor for our International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. (snichols@hwdsb.on.ca)

Timetables and Drop/Add

Please note that teacher assignments and room numbers could change between now and September 3. Teacher changes will not be communicated in advance, and room number changes will be posted on the classroom door on the first day of school.

We begin the new school year with most classes already at capacity. We are holding a drop/add window of five school days and will do what we can to accommodate changes in this new climate of reduced flexibility. In particular, withdrawing from co-op and replacing this with two classes will be difficult. Please note that e-Learning has the same class size maximums as regular classes and most of these are already waitlisted too. The last day to request a timetable change is September 9 at 2:45 p.m.

During drop/add, students will be seen using a "ticket" system and must attend their currently scheduled classes until they are called. We might not be able to accommodate their request. Our regular, 20-minute appointment times will begin on September 11. Students from the Class of 2020 will be seen for drop/add as a priority to ensure that everything is in place for their final year of high school.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteering is a great way to gain experience and explore careers this summer. The 40 hours required by the Ministry of Education, however, have special guidelines. Sometimes a well-meaning community member will promise volunteer hours in exchange for work that is not eligible for the required 40 hours. Examples of ineligible activities might include helping a neighbour with yard work or helping out at the local pharmacy. For information on how to tell if your 40 hours qualify for graduation or not, please check here: www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/graduation-information/diploma-requirements/cih

Honour Roll

Please review the requirements for the Principal's Honour Roll. Guidance Counsellors will not encourage students to stay in a class that isn't working out (i.e. health reasons, etc.) in order to protect eligibility for the Honour Roll or Ontario Scholar designation. It is the students' responsibility to know the criteria:

Grade 9	Grade10	Grade11	Grade 12
80% in 7 courses*	80% in 7 courses*	80% in 6 courses*	80% in 6 senior division courses*

*In order to qualify for an Honour award, students can take courses from *any school in the Province of Ontario that follows the Ontario Curriculum. This includes e-learning, night school, and summer school (these courses must meet Ontario Curriculum expectations)*. Courses must be taken between July 1 and June 30 of a school year.

Ontario Scholar

This is awarded to any student who achieves an 80% average across six Grade 12 courses. They can be taken any time (Grade 11, 12, post-graduate year, etc.)

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS OPENING DAY - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

Opening day for the 2019-2020 school year is Tuesday, September 3rd. **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**. The following is the **time schedule for September 3rd**. Regular day time schedules are posted in all classrooms.

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

Come prepared with a pen and paper. In your home room, 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 busses will arrive shortly thereafter.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH 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 7, 11, 15 = Day 1 September 10, 14 = 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.

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 10	March 5
Parents' Night	October 17	March 26
Mid-Term Report	November 22	April 23
Final Exams	January 23-29	June 18-24

STATUTORY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

To assist parents in planning family holidays etc., the school holidays for 2012-2013 are as follows:

Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 14
Holiday Break	Monday, December 23 - January 3 inclusive
Family Day	Monday, February 17
March Break	Monday, March 16 - Friday, March 20
Easter Break	Friday, April 10 - Monday, April 13
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS FOR 2019-2020

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has approved the following Professional Activity Days for teachers (students do not attend school on these days):

Semester 1 - Friday, September 20; Friday November 8; Friday, November 29; Thursday, January 30

Semester 2 - Friday, March 6; Thursday, June 25; Friday, June 26

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 BE JUST A STUDENT AT ANCASTER – BE AN INVOLVED STUDENT OF ANCASTER

GRADE NINE EVENING

This year's Grade Nine Evening is September 13. Plans are well underway for an evening of many fun-filled activities.

LIBRARY

In September, all Grade 9 students are scheduled into the Library Resource Centre, 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 Ms. Behiel, our teacher-librarian, for assistance.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The first School Council will meet Monday, September 16 at 6:30 pm. in the library. Parents who are interested in becoming a member are invited to fill out the self-nomination form found on our website under the Council's tab and return to Ms. Zidar in the Principal's office by Friday, September 13.

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 Administrator. 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, O'Sullivan -	last name A-G
Mr. Nicholson -	last name H-N
Mr. Vallance -	last name O-Z