

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – THE STUDENT EDITION

(but you can let your family take a peek, too)

Q. What time does school start and end?

A. The usual bell and bus schedules remain the same with an 8:25 am start and a 2:45 pm end. What happens in between, however, will be different from what has happened in the past.

Q. What does a typical daily schedule look like?

A. Keep on reading for explanations about the Ancaster daily schedule, but for a quick peek, here's a typical day.

| Time | Period | # Minutes | Notes |
|----------|----------------------|---|---|
| 8:25 am | Block 1 | 145 minutes | In-person class instruction every other day scheduled by Cohort A or B. The cohort staying home on this alternating cycle will work independently on teacher prompts, activities, and assignments. |
| 10:50 am | | 5 minutes | Independent study in the classroom. |
| 10:55 am | Lunch and Transition | 80 minutes | Cohort A or B students eat in their morning classroom OR leave campus and go home if staying for only the morning OR leave campus and return in 80 minutes (not earlier) and go to the assigned Study Hall for remote learning. |
| 12:15 pm | Block 2 | 40 minutes + 10 minutes independent study | Remote learning (all students, every day) Note: some students will choose to attend remotely from home, others will stay at school in Study Hall. |
| 1:05 pm | Block 3 | 40 minutes + 10 minutes independent study | Remote learning (all students, every day) |
| 1:55 pm | Block 4 | 40 minutes + 10 minutes independent study | Remote learning (all students, every day) |
| 2:45 pm | School day ends | | Busses arrive and the usual return home process begins for those who stayed for remote learning in Study Hall. Students who went home for remote learning are now finished their day. |

Q. Where will I go once I arrive on campus?

A. The school will have many signs explaining which entrance/exit you should use when you get to school. To help us socially distance, we will assign you an entrance door to use so that we can avoid crowded areas. Many doors will be opened and your door will likely be the closest door to your morning classroom. Staff will install direction signs on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 8th and 9th. We will also have greeters ready to help you find your classroom.

Q. Will my teacher be present if I come to school for the in-person class? Will I be able to talk with my teacher and see my classmates? Will there be other people on campus to help me if I need to ask questions?

Yes. Teachers, guidance counsellors, social workers, student success teachers, office staff, administrators, and caretakers will all be on campus when you come to school. Although you won't be walking through the school as usual, and you'll be staying mostly in your own classroom, all of these people will be available to support you. They will be happy to answer your questions.

Q. What happens if I want to be in a class with my friends but I don't actually want to come to campus?

A. This is a great choice for some students and we call it **fully remote learning**. Students are registered in classes at Ancaster, and they complete and submit assignments posted by their teachers, supported by learning materials. However, they do not receive direct in-person instruction unless they physically attend a class with their cohort. They may, however, receive direct instruction via the HUB, or conversations with their teacher in MS Teams.

Q. I've heard that I might be able to take an eLearning course. What's different about eLearning and remote learning?

A. Yes, you can explore options for eLearning. This means that you do not see your classmates or teacher in person. In fact, your teacher will probably be from another school, maybe even another school board somewhere in Ontario. Your classmates will be from many different schools as well. eLearning courses continue for an entire semester and do not follow the Cohort A/B schedule. All your learning will be done online. If this option interests you, you must work with a Guidance Counsellor who can explain more details and see if there are eLearning spaces in the course(s) you want to take. Due to the complexity of scheduling eLearning classes at this time, students should expect filled classes and limited course selection. Most of our eLearning classes were filled during option sheet time back in February; however, we are looking for ways to expand these classes to more students.

Q. What will school be like for students registered in special classes?

A. Special class schedules will follow similar schedules to previous years with some adaptations to ensure proper social distancing and to allow for cleaning of equipment, as well as staffing and programming considerations. Transportation will be arranged as usual to meet individual student needs. Special classes are designed to be very small and since they are well within the

range of Public Health small groups, these classes will meet every day and will not follow the adaptive model. For the most part, these classes will proceed as if it is a normal school year.

Q. Is it possible for students registered in special classes to do remote Learning?

A. Teachers will create and digitally deliver lessons with adapted strategies that students will complete at home with hands-on help from the people at home. Students who stay home and learn remotely may miss some of the supports normally provided in the classroom where there are additional teachers and Educational Assistants who can help in person.

Q. When will Grade 9/10 Adaptive Learning Cohorts A and B start and how will they continue into the semester?

A. Virtual Orientation starts on Thursday, September 10. Teachers will reach out via email and, where possible, MS Teams. A board-wide orientation is scheduled to arrive at schools by Tuesday, September 8th and staff will prepare this information as soon as possible so that it is ready for Orientation. Please follow the special 2-week schedule as shown below:

| | MONDAY September 7 | TUESDAY September 8 | WEDNESDAY September 9 | THURSDAY September 10 | FRIDAY September 11 |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Week 1 | LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY | Student/Staff timetable adjustments and Study Hall readiness | Student/Staff timetable adjustments and Study Hall readiness | Students who require special supports (in-person transitions) All students remote welcome and orientation | Students who require special supports (in-person transitions) All students remote welcome and orientation |
| | MONDAY September 14 | TUESDAY September 15 | WEDNESDAY September 16 | THURSDAY September 17 | FRIDAY September 18 |
| Week 2 | Gr 9 & 10 Cohort A In-Person and Remote Learning Classes Only | Gr 9 & 10 Cohort B In-Person and Remote Learning Classes Only | All Students Cohort A | All Students Cohort B | All Students Cohort B |
| | Gr 11 & 12 Remote Learning Classes Only | Gr 11 & 12 Remote Learning Classes Only | | | |
| | Rotation 1 Begins | Rotation 1 Begins | | | |

Q. I’ve heard that I will take one class in-person for a while, and then switch to another class later on. Is this true?

A. Yes. In order to keep student contacts within the guidelines determined by Public Health, we have created a schedule that allows as many students to come to school as possible while also keeping them safe when they have in-person contact with teachers and classmates.

There are four 21 or 22 day rotations during the semester, and in each rotation one of your classes will be in-person every other morning. If you are in Cohort A you'll attend on Mondays and Wednesdays and every other Friday. Your classmates in Cohort B will attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays and every other Friday. When it's your school day, you'll be in the class with your teacher with lessons to follow. When it's your at home day, you'll continue working on the lessons your teacher already gave to you.

Meanwhile, EVERY day in the afternoon you'll be working remotely on your other three courses in 40-minute chunks. During these times, your teacher will be at school and, although you can't be in the same room with your teacher, you'll be able to talk, work on projects, and connect with your teacher at a specific time of the day.

In-person Period 1 classes begin on Monday, September 14 in a staggered model. For 22 days, students will come to school in the morning every other day (Cohort A one day and then Cohort B the next) starting at 8:25 a.m. After 22 days, your Period 1 class will move to one of the afternoon 40-minute chunks and your Period 2 class will move to the morning in-person model. Later on, a similar thing will happen with Period 3 and then Period 4.

Yes, it's complicated, but check out the Key Dates below. We are finalizing the specifics and will soon have a day-by-day cohort calendar for you.

Q. If I come to my morning in-person class, what happens when that class is over?

A. Period 1 class lasts for 145 minutes with teacher-led sessions, followed by a 10-minute independent study. You may eat lunch in your classroom and stay there for 80 minutes, or you may leave campus and return home, or go off-campus for lunch. If you leave but are not going home, you may enter the building again after the 80-minute lunch (do not return earlier) and go directly to your supervised Study Hall. We will have a seating plan and you will sit in an assigned seat. This strict seating plan allows us to clean and sanitize the Study Hall area effectively. If you take the bus home, the usual bus schedule will be in place a short time after 2:45 pm. There will be seating plans on the bus.

Q. Where is the Study Hall?

A. The cafeteria and Library Learning Commons are designated Study Hall locations. During Study Hall, three 40-minute classes, Period 2, 3, and 4, happen in sequence. During this time, you will work on your classes with remote teacher instruction in a synchronous setting. Ideally, you will use your iPad or other fully-charged device to complete activities and assignments. Note that there will be limited access to electrical outlets so you should **charge up your devices**. If you have headphones, bring those as well. After these periods are over, you will proceed to the busses for departure. You will be assigned specific entrances and exits for all access into and out of the building. If student demand for Study Hall exceeds the current spaces available, we will quickly open more study spaces to accommodate all student requests.

The tables and chairs in the Study Hall all face one direction and are spaced 2 metres apart. You will not be permitted to move these tables and chairs.

Study Hall is available only to students whose cohort is coming in the morning. Students in the other cohort are not coming to school at all on their non-cohort day. This practice is necessary in order to reduce the number of contacts that a student has on any one day. Please do not invite your friends to join you in Study Hall.

Q. How will cleaning take place and will I be safe to go to the bathroom?

A. Caretakers have a very specific cleaning schedule that HWDSB and Public Health have designed. They will be wiping surfaces, disinfecting areas, and following the explicit assigned tasks on a rigid schedule. Their schedule includes study hall, bathrooms, your classroom, hallways, elevators, and all the places you’ll go.

Remember, we all need to be part of the health and safety plan, so when you come to school you’ll notice many signs around the building to remind all of us to stay socially distanced (there are markers on the floors, for example), to wear our masks, and to wash our hands effectively. If we all do our part, we will keep the school clean for everyone.

What are some key dates that I should put into my calendar?

A. Here is a chart that shows the first two weeks of the school schedule.

| MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 | WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 | THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10 | FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11 |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY | Student/Staff Timetable Adjustments Study Hall Readiness | Student/Staff Timetable Adjustments Study Hall Readiness | Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health (in-person) All Students Remote –welcome and orientation | Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health (in-person) All Students Remote – welcome and orientation |
| MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14 | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 | WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 | THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17 | FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18 |
| Grade 9 & 10 Cohort A In-Person and Remote Learning Classes Grade 11 &12 Remote Learning Classes Only Rotation 1 Begins | Grade 9 & 10 Cohort B In-Person and Remote Learning Classes Grade 11 &12 Remote Learning Classes Only | All Students Cohort A | All Students Cohort B | All Students Cohort B |

Here is a chart showing the rotations for the rest of the semester. A special schedule for the Civics and Careers half-credits is also being developed. It will follow the dates below with an additional 'half-way' date in the middle of each half credit.

Semester Schedule

| Rotation | Start Date | End Date | Instructional Days | 4 Period School | | 5 Period School | |
|----------|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | In-Person Course | Remote Learning Courses | In-Person Course | Remote Learning Courses |
| 1 | September 14* | October 9 | 20 | Period 1 | Periods 2,3,4 | Period 1 | Periods 2,3/4,5 |
| 2 | October 13 | November 10 | 21 | Period 2 | Periods 3,4,1 | Period 2 | Periods 3/4,5,1 |
| 3 | November 11 | December 10 | 21 | Period 3 | Periods 4,1,2 | Period 3/4 | Periods 5,1,2 |
| 4 | December 11 | January 22 | 21 | Period 4 | Periods 1,2,3 | Period 5 | Periods 1,2,3/4 |

Q. How did the cohorts get determined and can I change my cohort?

A. Cohorts are determined centrally by HWDSB after consideration of many factors which are intended to keep student contacts within the mathematical requirements of Public Health. Switching a cohort may be managed at the school level IF a student does not require transportation. If bussing is involved, school staff are required to consult with the Transportation Consortium to see if a change is possible within the larger context of all the students who may also need to take a bus. For this reason, unless there are extenuating circumstances, cohorts will not be changed. Families who have children assigned to two different cohorts should contact the school immediately so that we can get an entire family into one cohort.

Q. What if I want to switch a class?

A. If you want to switch a class, you and your Guidance Counsellor can set up an appointment to explore options. This is a normal practice, something that we do every year, every semester. We cannot guarantee that course switches will be logistically possible, but we do try to make things work in the best interest of the student. Preference will be given to schedule changes that require pre-requisites, support a student’s chosen pathway to post-secondary, and balance work load over two semesters. Please note that classes are very full and we may not be able to accommodate all requests.

Q. What if I can't get to school on time? Where do I go?

A. Ancaster High will be signed with specific entrances for specific classes. We will let you know where your entrance is via signage that walkers, bussed students, and students driving to school will easily see. This is designed to limit the number of students in one place and to limit contacts in hallways and foyers.

If you are a little bit late, you should enter the building via your assigned door. After most students have entered the building, caretakers will lock the doors except for the main entrances. Therefore, if you are very late, enter the school via the main entrance and go to the office. We will work together with you to make sure that you have clearance to walk the halls and get to your classroom.

Q. What should I do if I have to be absent?

A. If you cannot attend in person on a certain day, you can still ‘attend’ by remotely logging into your HUB Course and/or participating in a MS Teams meeting or discussion. Teachers will take attendance in accordance with protocols and policies that will be established by the district.

Q. What if I have to leave class for a medical appt?

A. If you need to leave early you will need parent/guardian permission. Parents/guardians should contact the office to report and authorize the early departure. You will exit the building via the doorway that has been assigned to you.

The office is clearly marked and is a safe place where you can go to get help or information. You will speak to office staff through a Plexiglas barrier. There are many stations with hand sanitizers.

Q. What if I feel sick while at school? What is protocol?

A. HWDSB, in consultation with Public Health, has established a protocol for immediately isolating the any person on campus who feels unwell. If you feel sick, please tell an adult immediately. We will then start our safe protocol and contact your parent or guardian, who will be asked to pick you up as soon as possible. Once you get home you will follow whatever next steps Public Health recommends.

During the time while we are waiting for you to get picked up, you will use our designated isolation room that is equipped with additional Personal Protective equipment and other resources to support you until such time as you can leave the building safely into the care of your parent or guardian. Please be assured that we have set up the isolation room in compliance with HWDSB and Public Health directives.

Q. What should I bring to school?

A. You should bring anything you will need for the day in a **backpack** – this includes writing tools, books, iPads or computers, chargers and anything else you will need. Please **charge up before you come to school.**

Lockers are not available (as per direction from Public Health) and have all been tied shut. During inclement or cold weather you will need to carry your coat and other clothing as needed. Classroom teachers know that you will be coming to class with backpacks and more personal belongings than usual. Classroom teachers will help you safely store your backpacks inside the classroom during class time.

You should bring a **refillable water bottle**. Water fountains have been bagged and covered in order to prevent people from putting their faces near the spout. Hydration stations may be used to fill water bottles. Stations are located in various places in the school building, but we do recommend that you arrive with a full bottle every day to reduce the number of times you will need to approach a station. Hallways are marked with two metre distancing markers so that you can easily see where to stand when you approach hydration stations, washrooms, and as you walk the halls.

Q. What should I do if I notice empty soap dispensers or hand sanitizers?

A. Please tell any adult immediately if you notice that something needs replacing or a fill-up. Although we have a frequent cleaning and bathroom check schedule, if anything is missed we need to know about the situation immediately so that we can fix things immediately.

Q. Do I have to wear a mask?

A. Yes, **masks are mandatory** at all times inside the school and on the bus (with a reasonable exception for lunch time when you need to eat). **Bandanas, scarves, and gaiters are NOT acceptable masks**. You must wear an appropriate non-medical mask. If you do not have this kind of mask, we will give you a mask. To further keep you safe, you'll notice that adults in the building will wear both a mask and a face shield. Some exceptions to masking may occur if you are outside for class. The teacher will explain the expectations for each class.

Q. What if I forget my mask?

Ancaster High will supply masks if you forget to bring one or if your mask is damaged. Please come to the office for help. Do not wander through the building looking for masks – we will have them centrally located in the office.

Q. Where will I eat my lunch? Will I be able to buy food at the cafeteria?

A. You will eat lunch in your assigned classroom, or you may leave the building and eat lunch off campus, in which case there will be no supervision. If you leave campus, you must return to campus after 80 minutes, ready for a 12:15 pm Study Hall start. We will assign you to a location where you will remain for the afternoon remote classes.

The cafeteria food services will be closed until further notice. You should bring food that you alone will consume. Food is not to be served or shared. Note that some exceptions will be made in certain programs such as Food and Nutrition classes. In these situations, teachers will be in charge of following appropriate protocols that have been published by HWDSB in collaboration with Public Health and subject specialists across the province.

Q. Will we have Pizza Days and BBQs?

A. No. Fund-raising and/or food-sharing activities such as pizza days and BBQs are paused until further notice.

Q. Is there adequate ventilation at school?

A. Ventilation varies in different parts of the school. Ancaster’s recent window renovation means that all classes have updated windows with thermo treatments on windows to reduce temperature fluctuations and reduce energy costs. Some windows open. Ventilation is managed by Facilities Management. At present ventilation standards are being met; however, if concerns are raised, HWDSB will investigate and/or we will move classes to other parts of the building.

Q. What’s new since we were last at school in March?

A. All of the windows are new. Also, there are many new upgrades behind the scenes that include upgraded fire prevention measures, new ceiling tiles, new elevators, and new flooring in some areas. If you look out to the football field you’ll see that our new turf field is under construction.

Q. How often will bathrooms, surfaces, handles be cleaned?

A. HWDSB and Public Health have established new standard cleaning practices. Caretaking staff have been trained and will account for regular and frequent cleaning. Students will be reminded often to wash their hands and use sanitizer.

Q. Where will hand sanitizer be available?

A. Sanitizer is available in every classroom and in multiple other areas of the school including entrances. Additional protocols will be used in higher contact areas such as gyms or science labs. Students will be trained on how to disinfect touch points such as handles on gym equipment or tools in tech class. Students will be encouraged to be active participants in their own well-being through appropriate hand-washing and masking.

Q. Are there hydration stations?

A. See above. Yes, water stations are available and students should bring a refillable bottle.

Q. Where will AHS post latest info for parents and families?

A. HWDSB is sending out multiple messages to families. Read these communiques first since they contain the most important messages that pertain to all students across the district. Additional items that pertain only to Ancaster will come via website, School Messenger, and direct email. Parents may also contact the school directly, including the Principal. Send email questions to <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh/contact/>

Q. Will I have an iPad to use? What if I’m having problems logging on?

A. You may bring their own devices but you should also bring your board-issued iPad. Please charge these items before coming to school since access to electrical outlets may be limited due to COVID restrictions that limit travel throughout the school.

If you do not have an iPad from HWDSB, please let your teacher know immediately and they will then make arrangements through our Teacher-Librarians, Mr. Bower and Ms. Bentham, to

get you the support you need as quickly as possible. The exception is for grade 9s, who will be issued an iPad within the first week of class.

If you do have an iPad but it has problems, let us know that, too. We can also help with logins, HUB navigation, and many other techie things. Just ask for help and we'll be there to support.

We do not generally have extra iPads, but an iPad that a you no longer need can be dropped off at the office. Someone there will take the iPad and store it properly.

Q. Will I have access to WiFi at school?

A. Ancaster High has WiFi throughout the building, so when you are at school there should be no problem getting online.

Q. I don't have WiFi at home. What should I do?

A. If you don't have WiFi or internet access at home, please let us know right away. Tell your teacher and then we will begin looking for solutions.

Q My family and I cannot get onto the Parent Portal. What should we do?

A. Ancaster Office staff are equipped to triage support for parents in the Portal. Please contact the office directly via phone (905-648-4468) or email at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh/contact/>.

Q. Will I be able to go the school library and sign-out books?

A. Access to the print collection will be limited. HWDSB and Public Health protocols prevent us from having students use the library in traditional ways. Our teacher-librarians are presently working on ways to safely distribute books to students. Please wait for more direction via classroom teachers and the teacher-librarians who will also be visiting classes.

Teacher-librarians will work directly with students to make sure resources are distributed and returned in appropriate ways. Fees, if we have them at all, will be worked out between the student and the teacher-librarian.

Q. Where can I go for more information

A. The following websites are updated frequently and can help you get information. You can always contact us at school. 905-648-4468 or <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh/contact/>

[Secondary Model](#)

[Secondary Remote Learning](#)

[Special Education Supports](#)

[Hamilton Health Sciences \(Pediatrics\) "return to school" - resources and information](#)