



Ancaster High School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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September 7, 2020

Hello Ancaster High Community,

Welcome to our incoming Class of 2024 (this year's Grade 9s), and to our returning students. I hope that you have been able to enjoy your summer break during this unprecedented time of social distancing and restrictions.

This new school year brings many changes to Ancaster High, and to all HWDSB secondary schools, as we begin this year with an array of learning options for students. Many students want to return to school in person, and others want to study remotely. If you are coming to school, it will be in an **Adaptive Model**, alternating days, blended learning model that combines in-person and remote learning. In this model, you belong to a class that meets in person for part of the day, and for another part of the day you do assignments and lessons remotely online or offline, but not in the classroom with your teacher and classmates. You may do remote learning at home or in the afternoon in one of our supervised Study Halls on campus.

Some students do not want to attend school in person. If you have chosen this option for you and your family, you will have learning options available in a fully **Remote Model** and possibly in an **eLearning Model**. This letter, and an additional FAQ explain how these models work.

Please read the following carefully. Also know that things are changing frequently, and as they do, we will send out updated information as soon as we can.

ADAPTIVE LEARNING MODEL

HWDSB secondary schools will start the school year in an adaptive model that consists of alternate days learning at home and learning at school. Four charts below explain 1) the first two weeks, 2) a typical daily schedule, 3) a semestered schedule which follows a traditional semester length but is divided into 4 rotations of 21 or 22 instructional days, and finally, 4) a cohort schedule. Students are divided into two cohorts (A and B) and will alternate in-person and at-home learning. The cohorts run generally on a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule with alternating Fridays.

- As in the past, our day starts at 8:25 am and ends at 2:45 pm. New bell times are below.
- Students on school busses or with a long travel distance may elect to stay at school in a designated ‘Study Hall’ area of the school for remote learning blocks (if you are going to stay, this is to be declared through Parent Portal).
- The start of the school year will be staggered as shown below.
- Self-contained special education classes will follow our revised schedule just like the rest of the school in terms of the length of the blocks but will engage in face-to-face teaching/learning blocks for the entire day.

**CHART 1
SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS**

	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			

**CHART 2
DAILY SCHEDULE**

Time	Period	# Minutes	Notes
8:25 am	Block 1	145 minutes	In-person class instruction for half of the class every other day for Cohort A or B. The cohort staying home on this alternating cycle will work on teacher prompts, activities, and assignments on their own.
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 the classroom OR leave campus and go home OR leave campus and return in 80 minutes and go to assigned Study Hall for remote learning.
12:15 am	Block 2	40 minutes + 10 minutes independent study	Remote learning (all students in the class) 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 in the class)
1:55 pm	Block 4	40 minutes + 10 minutes independent study	Remote learning (all students in the class).
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.

Note: Students who opt-in to a fully remote learning option will continue in the Rotational Model but will not get direct teaching for the course during the in-school instructional time; however, they will continue to learn remotely. These students also have the option to enroll in an e-learning course if space and course selections permits. Students should connect with their guidance counsellors for more information.

**CHART 3
SEMESTER SCHEDULE**

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

**CHART 4
GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE COHORT SCHEDULE**

Once we receive details regarding end-of-semester routines, we will publish a finalized semester-long cohort schedule. For now, there is a general schedule. Classroom teachers will help students understand the scope and sequence of the semester for each course. For this week, please start with the staggered entry plan noted above.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Alternate Fridays
Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort A or Cohort B

I hope you have been reading the updates that are sent regularly by [HWDSB](#). We update our [school website](#) as information becomes available to us. Mr. Currie and Ms. Ferney, our Vice-Principals, and all our teachers and staff join me in our commitment to provide a positive and successful learning experience as possible for each student. Please feel free to contact us or our Student Services team and Office team if you require support or assistance with any matter. We will do our best to help you. The following resources are excellent places for current information and we encourage you to explore.

[Secondary Model](#)

[Secondary Remote Learning](#)

[Special Education Supports](#)

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

Sincerely,

Ms. B. Woof, Principal

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