



Getting Ready for High School

January 2026

Who Are We?

Mr. Monteith

Principal

Mr. Nicholson snichols@hwdsb.on.ca

Guidance Counsellor (Last Names G-M)

Ms. Adams daadams@hwdsb.on.ca

Student Success Teacher

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Guidance Counsellors

(Well-being & Career Planning)

Ms. O'Sullivan (A-F)

Mr. Nicholson (G-M)

Mr. D'Aguilar (N-Z)

Visit Us!

- A Day in the Life
- Friday Night Lights
- Theatre Production
- Sports Clinics
- Music Events
- Triathlon



Getting to Know Life in High School

- Headstart Program August 24 – 28
- Grade 9 Orientation – 2 Days in August
- Grade 9 Night in September



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PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

GRADE 9 COURSE SELECTION NIGHT for FAMILIES

- January 15, 2026 from 6 – 7 p.m. in the auditorium
- Graduation requirements and recent changes
- Detailed information on high school courses, special programs, and pathways
- Out-of-catchment application process, transportation
- Q & A

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TODAY'S PLAN

- How is High School Different?
- What do I need to graduate?
- Electives at Ancaster High School
- Special Programs
- Using myBlueprint



How is Grade 9 different from Grade 8?



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BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Over 30 Clubs

Academic Clubs

Business & Investment Strategies Club
DECA
Homework Club/OSSLT Prep
HOSA
Math Club
Peer Tutoring Club
Robotics Club
STEAM

Athletic & Active Clubs

Ancaster Athletic Executive Council (AAC)
Dance Team
Sports Teams

Altruistic & Social Clubs

Aerospace Club
Announcement Crew
Automotive Safety Club
Best Buddies
Blood Drive Heroes
Chess Club
Dungeons & Dragons Club
Grad Committee
Healthy Action Team (HAT)
Knitting & Crocheting Club
Make-A-Wish
MedLife
Positive Space
Prayer Group
Royal Gazette
Student Council

Arts & Creative Clubs

Auditorium (Aud) Squad
Concert Band
(NST) Drama Festival Club
Musical Theatre Cast & Crew
Photography & Video Club
Rock Band
Yearbook

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Lots of Sports!

Badminton

Baseball

Basketball

Cricket

Cross Country

Dance Team

Field Hockey

Football

Golf

Gr. 9 Only Teams

Hockey

Soccer

Tennis

Flag Football

Track & Field

Ultimate Frisbee

Volleyball

Water Polo

Wrestling

How is high school different?

- Two semesters (five months each)
- Four courses every day, 75 minutes each
- Students get to *choose* courses
- Students are granted “credit” for passing a course
- Final exams
- No recess ☹....but students are free to go outside at break and at lunch!

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Class of 2030!

Graduation depends on:

- **30** credits
 - 17 compulsory, 13 elective
- **40** volunteer hours
- Passing the Grade 10 Literacy Test
- Achieving **70%** or higher on the Financial Literacy Test in Grade 10 Math
- Two **e-Learning** courses (opt-out option)
- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/earning-your-high-school-diploma>

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Sample Grade 9 Timetable

Period and Time	Semester One (Sept. - Jan.)	Semester Two (Feb. - June)
Period 1	English*	Math*
Period 2	French	Arts & Crafts
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Period 3	Technological Education	Science*
Period 4	Geography	Sports & Games

*We try to design only two per semester for balance

Day 1 – Day 2 Schedule

Day 1 (Odd calendar days like February 1, 3, 5)	Day 2 (Even calendar days like February 2, 4, 6)
Period 1 – English	Period 2 – French
Period 2 - French	Period 1 – English
LUNCH	
Period 3 - Technology	Period 4 – Geography
Period 4 - Geography	Period 3 - Technology

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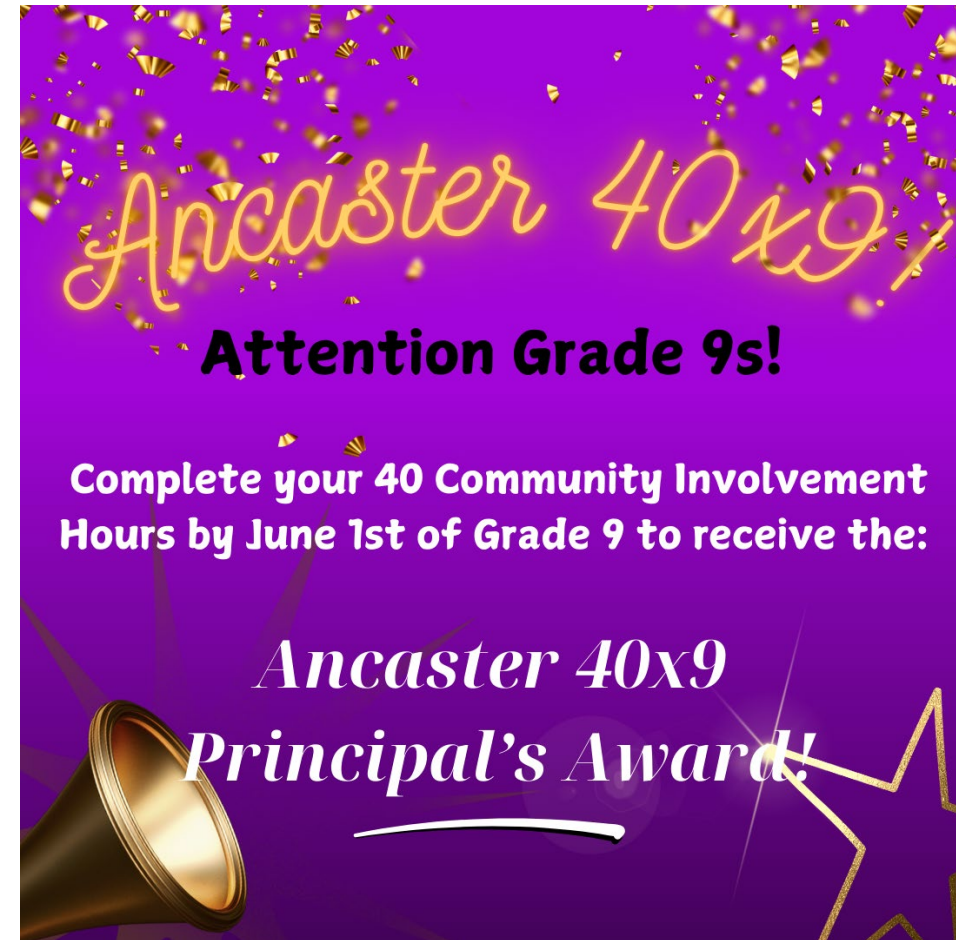
Community Involvement

- The organization should be community-based
- The activity should be something for which a person is not normally paid
- Check www.hwdsb.on.ca/cih for more information

ELIGIBLE	INELIGIBLE
Timekeeping a high school sport	Work an extra shift at McDonald's for "free"
Volunteering at a hospital	Filing at a doctor's office
Teaching language at a cultural school on Saturdays	Helping an elderly neighbour clean up their yard
Reading program at the library	Working with uncle renovating basements
Shovelling snow for a senior who is registered with "Snow Angels"	Teaching martial arts/dance to small kids who pay for lessons
Taking tickets at Hamilton WingFest	Volunteering at a pharmacy because it's a future career

Ancaster 40x9 Award!

- Complete 40 hours of community service by the end of Grade 9 (40x9)
- Start volunteering in your community as early as July 1, 2026



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Grade Nine Students Take 8 Classes

Everyone Takes These 5:

- English, French, Geography, Math, Science

Choose 3 More!

- Visual Art, Non-Traditional Art, Drama, Music
- Sports & Games, Sport Performance, Hockey
- Technology and the Skilled Trades
- Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset, Exploring Family Studies

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Today's Focus – 3 Electives!

- Visual Art, Non-Traditional Art, Drama, Music
- Sports & Games, Sport Performance, Hockey
- Technology and the Skilled Trades*
- Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset, Exploring Family Studies

We encourage one Art, one Physical Education, and one Tech course because they are mandatory to graduate.

Grade 9 is a good time to take them!

**Technology and the Skilled Trades must be taken before Grade 11*

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Drama

- Improv, directing, acting
- Stage design, costume design
- Join the Drama Club, take Musical Theatre in Grade 11!



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Visual Arts

- Sketch, paint, sculpt, use coloured pencils
- Digital and mixed media
- After grade 9, students specialize in ceramics, digital media, drawing & painting



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Non-Traditional Art (**NEW**)

- Urban Art (graffiti & skateboard deck design)
- Crafts (carving, stitching, & pyrography)
- Outdoor Art (chalk murals & found object sculptures)
- Take any kind of art you want in Grade 10 – 12
- Special classes include Ceramics and Drawing & Painting



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Instrumental Music

- Get an extra credit with repertoire/concert band
- Join the band just for fun!



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Exploring Family Studies

- Sewing, cooking, raising a baby
- Managing your life
- Take Food & Nutrition, Hospitality & Tourism, Food & Culture, or Nutrition & Health in Grades 10, 11, and 12!



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Technology and the Skilled Trades

Students explore five areas in grade 9:

- Communication
- Construction
- Design
- Manufacturing
- Transportation

In Grades 10-12, students can specialize in one of the above, in addition to:

Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Healthcare, Hospitality & Tourism



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Building the Entrepreneurial Mindset

- Introduction to the world of business
- Focus on entrepreneurship
- Students will learn about making money by starting or running a businesses
- Financial risks associated



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Physical Education – We Have 3 Kinds!

- Sports & Games
(Female Identifying)
- Sports & Games
(Male Identifying)
- Sport Performance *(Co-ed)*
- Hockey *(Co-ed)*



BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Sports & Games

Activities

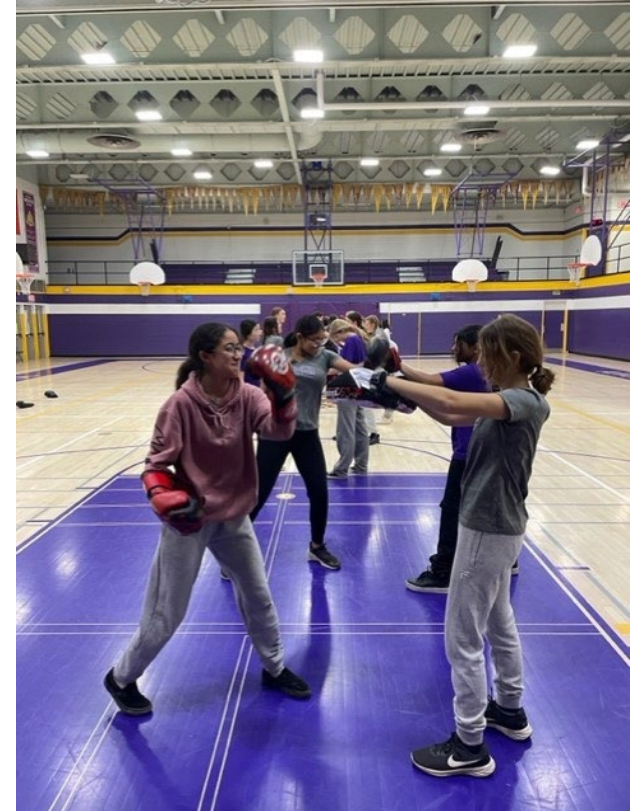
Traditional and non-traditional sports (i.e. archery, outdoor games and kickboxing)

Fitness Training

Fitness for life – daily warm-ups, weekly fitness room workouts and circuits

Health

Same in all 3 courses



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Sport Performance

Activities

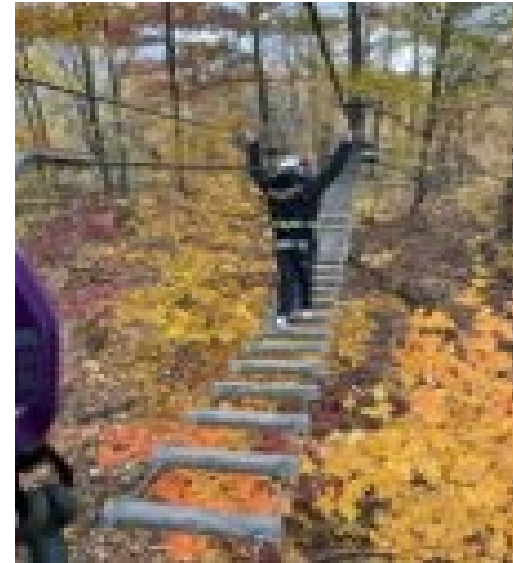
Skill development in **volleyball, soccer & basketball**. Competitive environment, skill & drill focus

Fitness Training

High level fitness cardio and conditioning and training (plyometric drills, interval training, circuit training)

Health

Same in all 3 courses



BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Hockey

\$40 fee applies + must provide own equipment

Activities

Skill development in hockey. 30 sessions on ice & specialized goalie instructor weekly. Dry land training and sports

Fitness Training

High level fitness cardio conditioning

Health

Same in all 3 courses



BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Ancaster High's NHL and OHL Pedigree

Our Hockey teacher:

- Mr. Ryan Lounsbury, skate coach for the **OHL Guelph Storm**
- Former skate coach for the **NHL Vancouver Canucks!**



BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Our Football Coach & Phys-Ed Teacher

Mr. Dunbrack

Toronto Argonauts

Ottawa Renegades

Hamilton Tiger-Cats




HWDSB

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.




myBlueprint – Log in and Explore!

www.hwdsb.on.ca/hwdsb



- Home
- Who Am I
- High School
- Continuing Education
- Post-Secondary
- Work
- Money
- Guides
- Favourites

 Your courses are **Not Submitted**

1 Step 1
Add Courses

2 Step 2
Review Courses

3 Step 3
Submit Courses

Review Course
Selections

Grade 9 Next Year	Grade 10 Plan Ahead	Grade 11 Plan Ahead	Grade 12 Plan Ahead
Grade 9 English ENL1W1 • 1 Credit	+ English	+ English	+ English
Grade 9 Mathematics MTH1W1 • 1 Credit	+ Mathematics	+ Mathematics	+ Course
Grade 9 Science SNC1W1 • 1 Credit	+ Science	+ Course	+ Course
Grade 9 Exploring C... CGC1W1 • 1 Credit	+ History	+ Course	+ Course
Grade 9 Core French FSF1D1 • 1 Credit	+ Careers	+ Course	+ Course

Graduation Indicator

8/30
REQUIRED
CREDITS

8
Planned

0
Earned

8
Total

View Progress

SHSM Planner

Your school offers 5
Specialist High Skills
Majors

Will stay "Not Submitted" until February

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Planning 30 Credits

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	English	English	English
Math	Math	Math	Elective – full choice
Science	Science	STEM (lots of choice)	Elective – full choice
Geography	History	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice
French	Civics/Careers	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice
Tech	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice
Art (4 kinds)	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice	Elective or Study
Phys-Ed (3 kinds)	Elective – full choice	Elective – full choice	Elective or Study

Black Font = 17 Compulsories

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Special Programs Start in Grade 11

Specialist High Skills Majors (We have five)

- Students will graduate with specialized skills, knowledge and certifications relevant to their chosen industry
- Students take a 2-credit co-op and a bundle of 5 credits in addition to English and Math
- No special preparation is needed in grade 9 or 10

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Specialist High Skills Major – Arts & Culture

Careers

- Actor, Musician
- Graphic Designer
- Visual Artist
- Technician for movies, broadcasting, performing arts, etc.



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Specialist High Skills Major – Health & Wellness

Careers

- Medical Laboratory Technologist
- Nurse
- Educational Assistant
- Hospital Clerk
- Physician



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Specialist High Skills Major - Hospitality

Careers

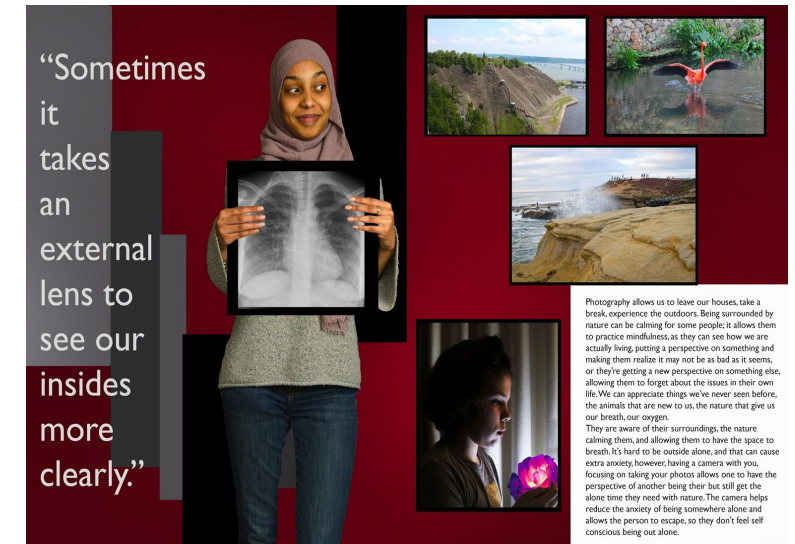
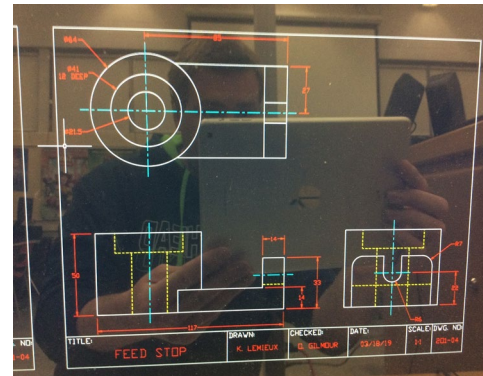
- Event Planner
- Health Inspector
- Chef
- Flight Attendant



Specialist High Skills Major – Information & Communication Technology

Careers

- Programming
- Network Security
- Technological Design
- Media

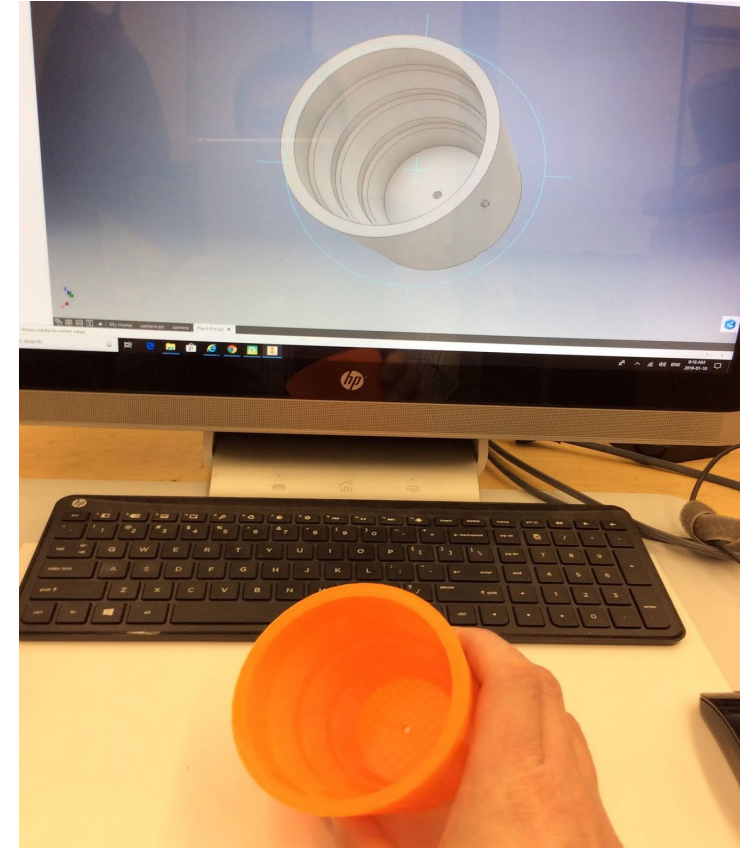


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Specialist High Skills Major - Manufacturing

Careers

- Engineer
- Machinist
- Welder
- Industrial Designer
- Technologist



International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

- A challenging two-year curriculum (Gr 11 & 12)
- Includes studying six subjects
- Provides a global perspective with cross-cultural understanding
- Leads to a qualification recognized by the world's universities
- Students graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma AND the IB Diploma
- E-mail our IB Coordinator Ms. Toor at mtoor@hwdsb.on.a with your questions



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Important Dates Ahead

February 2026

- Grade 8 students enter options into myBlueprint with help from Mr. Nicholson & Ms. Adams

March 30 – April 2, 2026

- Parents/guardians approve course choices in Parent Portal (web version only)

www.hwdsb.on.ca/cce/summer

Grade 8 ::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::
Summer Reach Ahead
Course Registration
OPENS FEBRUARY 2

Civics and/or Careers
Cosmetology
Construction

CLICK HERE FOR
 MORE INFORMATION



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Summer School Reach Ahead *for Credit*

July 2 – 29, 2026

Grade 8 students can register for Civics (2 weeks) or Careers (2 weeks) or **both** (4 weeks). These are offered via **e-Learning only**

OR

One technology course **in-person** at one of our secondary schools

NOTE: some students qualify to take a learning strategies course for credit but need to talk to their grade 8 teacher before registering

To register, go to **myBlueprint.ca/hwdsb** and log in using your HWDSB credentials, then, click on Continuing Education on the left-hand-side.

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Summer School Programs (*Non-Credit*)

There are programs designed to help students improve their skills but do not grant a credit:

- International Languages
- Skill Builder
- ESL Literacy

Please talk to your Grade 8 teacher about these programs

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Questions?

1. Ask your grade 8 teacher
2. Check the Grade 8 section of our Student Services' website:
www.hwdsb.on.ca/ancasterhigh/student-services/grade8
3. Contact Ms. Adams at daadams@hwdsb.on.ca
4. Please direct questions about specialized services (exceptional and non-exceptional IEPs) to Ms. Baker at dbaker@hwdsb.on.ca

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