














♥ Welcome to
Kindergarten

at
**Central Elementary
School**















Tips towards a successful first year in Kindergarten

-  Visit the classroom with your child during the Kindergarten Orientation Session in the spring.
-  Establish school day routines such as bedtime, breakfast, and dressing, a week or two before Labour Day.
-  Purchase a backpack and lunch bag together, and determine what your child might enjoy for a nutritious lunch and snacks. Please remember no nut products are allowed.
-  If your child will be walking to school, try and walk the route several times, and time it so you can arrive to school on time every day.
-  Think of ways to help your child be independent and confident. Ensure he/she is able to toilet independently.
-  Have your child wear clothing and shoes that allow them to participate fully and independently in an active program. Running shoes with velcro closures are recommended.
-  Provide opportunities for your child to play with other children of the same age. and/or with some of his/her classmates.
-  Set up a creative center at home with pencils, crayons, paper, scissors, glue, and any other materials your child might enjoy using. Help your child hold the pencil appropriately, and supervise the use of scissors.
-  Help your child learn to spell and recognize his/her own name, using a capital only for the first letter, and lowercase for the remainder.
-  Count out loud together. Count and sort objects. Sing the ABC's and recite nursery rhymes. Read and enjoy stories together every day!
-  Label all clothing and water bottles with your child's name.



How to have a successful 1st year

-  Teach your child how to use the washroom by themselves and hand washing
-  How to put on their shoes and dressing themselves
-  Have them experience separation from loved ones and their home
-  Teach them how to interact and share with others and problem-solving
-  How to pencil grip
-  Learn their name / "Special Letter"
(1st letter of child's name is his/her "Special Letter")
-  How to use scissors safely
-  How to pack their backpack and lunch bag
-  Encourage reading in any way you can, and practice ABCs, colours and counting
-  Ask your child about their day at school
-  Help them learn to listen to others and respect adult directions
-  How to put on their outdoor clothing



School Day 2025-2026

Morning Arrival in Kindergarten Playground 8:30-8:45am	
Period 1	8:45 -9:25 am
Period 2	9:25 – 10:25 am
NUTRITION BREAK 1 10:25 – 11:05am	
Period 3	11:05 - 11:55 am
Period 4	11:55 – 12:45 pm
NUTRITION BREAK 2 12:45 – 1:25pm	
Period 5	1:25 - 2:05 pm
Period 6	2:05 – 3:05 pm
Collect from Kindergarten playground 3:05pm	

SafeArrival

What elementary school families need to know

With **SafeArrival**, families report a student absence in one of 3 ways:

- **Use the SafeArrival website**, go.schoolmessenger.ca
The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
- Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store (or from links at go.schoolmessenger.ca). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
- Call toll-free 1-844-506-4350 to report an absence using the automated phone system. Using this method does not require setting up an account.

These options are available 24 hours/day, seven days a week. You can report a future absence any time.



What's unique for families of elementary school students?

Notice – Elementary school families will be notified by the automated notification system when their child is absent without an explanation.

Explain – The system will attempt to contact families multiple times until parents confirm and explain the absence. If a designated contact can't be reached, school staff will follow up.

Report – As always, parents are expected to report absences as soon as possible – and then you will not receive notification about unexplained absences.

Questions – If you have questions, please speak with your school office or principal.

Find more resources on SafeArrival at bit.ly/safearrivalHWDSB and on your school's website.



How to set your SchoolMessenger preferences

Did you know that you can choose how you want to receive messages from schools and HWDSB?

Use the **SchoolMessenger app** and website so that you receive messages in one or more of these ways:



Phone
(Home, cell or both)



Email



Text



**SchoolMessenger
App/Website**

For each of the following message types:

- **Attendance**
- **Non-School Hours Emergency**
- **School Hours Emergency**
- **General**
- **SafeArrival**
- **Survey**

Follow the steps below to create an account and set your preferences:

1. **Download the SchoolMessenger App**, or visit go.schoolmessenger.ca.
2. **Create an account** (using the email address you have on file with your child's school).
3. Once you are logged in, go to **Preferences** on the left hand menu and turn on/off phone, text, or email for each message type.

Good to know:

You must have one phone number on file in case of emergencies. The phone number registered at your child's school will be used for any School Hours Emergency and/or Non-School Hours Emergency communications.

All messages will be delivered to your account in the SchoolMessenger app/website. If you wish to receive messages on the app only, you can turn off phone, text, and email options for all message types.

If you have any questions please contact your child's school.

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the "SUPPORT" option at the bottom right hand corner of the screen. Language preference can be selected at the bottom left hand corner of the screen.

- b) Complete each of the three Registration Steps
*For security reasons your password requires eight characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and one number.

The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.

Find Student

School Information

School Board Name: Looking for a student in a different school board?

School Name: Find

Student Information

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date: Date Format: mm/dd/yyyy

[Continue](#) [No students? Click here!](#)

- Verify the School Board Name.
- Select the School Name.
- Enter Your Child's First Name, Last Name and Date of Birth.
- Select "Continue".
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select "Continue".
- Your child has been added to your account.



Please go to this link for Parent Portal

[Parent Portal Support | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
\(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://parentportal.hwdsb.on.ca)

**In Parent Portal, you can connect to your child's school online, anytime, anywhere. Available in the following languages:
English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, and Serbian.**

You can do the following:

- **Complete school and board forms online (Media Consent, 2nd nutrition break dismissal for grades 7 & 8 and Human Development & Sexual Health exemption)**
- **Report an absence from school**
- **Pay for school items or events using School Cash Online**
- **Find transportation information**
- **Communicate with your child's teacher**
- **View your school's website and more!**

