



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

23 Dundana Avenue
Dundas, Ontario L9H 4E5
Phone: 905.628.2622
Fax: 905.628.2699

EMAIL: dundana@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: K. Keery Bishop
kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana

Friday, September 3, 2021

Welcome to another exciting school year at Dundana! A very special welcome to our students and families who are brand new to Dundana, as well as our students who are returning to us after a year of remote learning. We're excited to meet you and welcome you to this great learning environment.

Communication to Families About Protocols and Procedures

As you know, this year (like last year) presents some unique challenges to do our best to ensure student, staff, and community safety to the best of our ability. For students and families returning to us, the protocols will look very similar to last year, with a few small changes. For students and families who are new to Dundana, I encourage you to read over the **Dundana Site Specific Plan**, available on our school website. This will provide an overview of all of the protocols and procedures that we will follow here to begin our school year.

It is important to note that Hamilton Public Health and HWDSB will be constantly monitoring health and safety conditions in our schools, as well as the state of COVID in our province and city. At times, changes to our protocols may be instituted. When this happens, information will be shared on the school website. City- or board-wide changes will be shared on the HWDSB website. I encourage all of our families to become subscribers to the website to ensure you receive notification when information is added. This is the best means we have of communicating information widely and clearly with families. To subscribe, please go to: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana/> and click on the "Subscribe" icon.

NEW - Daily Active Screening and Verification for All Students

The biggest change to protocols is one we need your help with. Public health is requiring students to submit a daily verification of screening for an educator to review. If the student does not have verification, they will remain in class, with a mask and distanced as much as possible from others. In elementary, the verification will come in the form of a parent/guardian signature **daily** on a paper calendar. This paper will be provided to your child on the first day of school. We ask that parents/guardians ensure their child is screened each morning using the provincial screener, found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> Then, the parent signs or initials that day's box on the calendar. Have your child bring their verification calendar to school with their agenda/communication bag every day. When the school does not receive written verification daily, we are required to then contact parents/guardians for confirmation. As the school has limited resources to make these contacts, we ask families to please do their best to remember to send these in each day. Thank you!



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

23 Dundana Avenue
Dundas, Ontario L9H 4E5
Phone: 905.628.2622
Fax: 905.628.2699

EMAIL: dundana@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: K. Keery Bishop
kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana

Privacy and Immunization Status

HWDSB's immunization disclosure policy is in effect, and all schools will follow provincial guidelines regarding vaccination requirements. As students and staff come together in schools, we remind everyone that individual health information, including vaccination status, is confidential. In order to support an inclusive and respectful school environment, we ask families to not engage in conversations around vaccination opinions or ask for vaccination status of other students, staff or teachers.

Case Management

HWDSB will continue to work with Hamilton Public Health services to confirm details related to contact tracing as well as procedures related to dismissed cohorts and closures. Information on confirmed cases of COVID-19 that involve a student or staff member in a school setting will be posted on the COVID-19 Advisory Dashboard, found here:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/covid19/confirmed-cases-of-covid-19/>

Visitors and Volunteers

Access to the school is very limited for parents and caregivers. There will be a temporary pause on welcoming volunteers in our school as staff await more information from the Ministry of Education about how the Immunization Disclosure Policy impacts them.

Ventilation

Dundana is a Tier 1 school in terms of ventilation. To find out more information about what is being done to support optimal ventilation in schools, families may access the following:

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/school-renewal/ventilation/>

Making Wellness a Priority

When it comes to our students, wellness comes first. That's why we're introducing a new welcoming, inclusive initiative to help students as they return to school. Reimagining Wellness is a series of activities and lessons which address needs highlighted during school building closures for COVID-19: the need for safety, routine, support, growth, community and more. Short activities covering weekly themes such as personal and collective identity, understanding and managing emotions, self-care and more will be woven into your child/ren's learning schedule.

Transportation

Parents of qualifying students will be able to confirm their transportation arrangements on the Transportation Parent Portal, found here: <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/>

If your qualifying student **won't** be using school bus services, we encourage you to opt out of transportation to complete the Decline Transportation form. This will ensure your child is not part of contact tracing for that bus cohort, if that is required.



Dundana Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

23 Dundana Avenue
Dundas, Ontario L9H 4E5
Phone: 905.628.2622
Fax: 905.628.2699

EMAIL: dundana@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: K. Keery Bishop
kkeerybi@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundana

At this time, we do not have the ability to accept courtesy bus students, but it is hoped that this will change in the next few months. Continue to monitor the Dundana website for more information if this does become available.

Device Return

Students who still have a HWDSB device from last year (even if they didn't attend Dundana) are asked to bring it to their educator on the first day of school – Wednesday, September 8. Please label the device with your child's name. Thank you!

Remote Transition

Families requesting a transition between remote and in-person learning this September can do so by completing the form in the Parent Portal between September 3 and 10. Students will begin the school year in their original selection and will transition in early October.