



July, 2016

Dear Student, Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Grade 9! We are excited to be learning and growing with you over the next few years of your high school career. Along this journey you will accomplish many milestones on your way to graduation.

A graduation requirement for all students is the completion of a minimum of 40 hours of Community Involvement Hours (CIH). Community Involvement Hours are important learning opportunities for students to explore career options, develop their skills and interests, and promote community values. Choosing the opportunities that are right for you and documenting your contributions has never been easier with the introduction of Hour Republic, a web-based resource directly accessible to students, parents/guardians and community partners.

We are pleased to be launching Hour Republic at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. This tool will allow students to record and track Community Involvement Hours, connect students to volunteer opportunities, and provide relevant information to schools and the school board about community involvement.

Students can start completing their Community Involvement Hours during the summer before they enter Grade 9. Starting on July 1, 2016, students who have graduated from Grade 8 may start working toward fulfilling the Community Involvement Hours requirement for their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Students must complete 40 hours to graduate, and we are encouraging students to complete their hours by the end of Grade 10. Students may continue to enjoy and benefit from collecting CIHs into their Grade 11 and 12 school years.

Attached to this letter are sign up instructions to help students get started using Hour Republic. Keeping these instructions in a convenient location will encourage students to look for meaningful CIH opportunities and submit their hours promptly for tracking.

We are committed to providing practical and user-friendly solutions that will enhance our students' learning experiences. If you have any questions or comments related to this initiative, please contact your school's principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter Joshua".

Peter Joshua
Executive Superintendent Leadership and Learning