



# Dundas Valley Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

310 Governor's Road  
Dundas, Ontario L9H 5P8

Phone: 905.628.2203  
Fax: 905.627.2904

EMAIL: [dundasvalley@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:dundasvalley@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: EM DEL SORDO  
VICE-PRINCIPALS: GAIL CIPRIANI  
CORIE PILLININI  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundasvalley](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/dundasvalley)

September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian;

**Dundas Valley Secondary School** will be offering the Empower™ Reading Program to students during semester 1 of the 2016-17 school year. Empower™ Reading is an intensive reading program that provides struggling readers with the skills necessary to become successful readers. Empower™ Reading was developed by researchers at the Hospital for Sick Children's (HSC) Learning Disabilities Research Program. Over the past 25 years, the HSC has refined this reading program and studied the benefits for children.

The reported improvements in reading skills have been excellent for the children participating in this program. Currently, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board offers Empower™ Reading to primary level students in all schools and in 17 schools with junior and intermediate level classes. This year, we continue to offer the secondary school version of Empower™ in our schools.

During Empower™ Reading, students are given the opportunity to learn and practice reading strategies that will help them to become better readers. Empower™ Reading will be delivered in 75-minute blocks, five times a week for a total of 80 lessons. The time commitment is an essential part of the program so it is vital that your child attend school regularly. Empower™ Reading will take place in either your child's 'Learning Strategy Course' or 'Literacy Prep Course'. The teacher will assess the progress of students in the Empower™ Reading program on a regular basis using a variety of tools.

HWDSB's research department, E-BEST, will be monitoring the effectiveness of the program at your child's school. This research will involve asking teachers about their experiences with implementing this program in their classroom and examining the results of the assessments that are collected by the teachers. Participation in the research is voluntary.

Please complete the form below and return it to your child's school by **September 29<sup>th</sup>**. Additional information about the Empower™ Reading program can be accessed through [www.sickkids.ca](http://www.sickkids.ca) or from your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Em Del Sordo  
Principal

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

**HWDSB**



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Parent(s)/Guardian(s), please complete the form and return to the school by September 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Part 1**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree that the results of any of my child's assessments or research as part of the Secondary Empower™ Reading program may be used to determine the effectiveness of the program, and may be published by the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, or by the Hospital for Sick Children.

**Please note that children will not be identified by name or school in the sharing of data.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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