



Dundas Valley Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Principal:
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Kim Collier
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October 2024

Greetings Dundas Valley Secondary Students, Families and Community:

We have had a great start to the school year, as we welcomed our new grade 9s to our school community! Our DVSS clubs, teams, and activities are in full motion! On the sports front: Golf, Pickleball, Tennis, Baseball, Football, Soccer (boys), Volleyball (boys), Basketball (girls), and Flag Football (girls) are all up and running — Go Gryphons! Student activities such as Dance Team, NTSFest, Stage Crew, Business Club (DECA), Debate Club, Dungeons and Dragons, Gamers Club, Math Club, STEM/Robotics Club, Warhammer Club, Yearbook Club, Reach for the Top Club, and the Announcement Crew are providing opportunities for students to showcase their talents and build friendships. Student Council and the Mental Health Action Team are also working together to make our Gryphon voices heard, and to affect positive changes at school and in our community.

Terry Fox Run/Walk/Roll was a great success that saw all classes and staff outside for 75 minutes in support of our national hero, and raising money for the Canadian Cancer Society.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation—also known as Orange Shirt Day was honoured last Monday. Orange Shirt stickers were provided to students if they didn't have an orange shirt and still wanted to participate in recognizing this important day. If you are unfamiliar with the story of Phyllis Webstad, Indian Residential School Survivor of St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School in British Columbia, and why we wear orange shirts, please [click here](#).

Gryphon Spirit Day- We had our first very successful Spirit Day where all staff and students were encouraged to wear our black and gold school colours. The day ended with last period classes coming outside to cheer on our senior boys' football team play against Waterdown.

HWDSB
BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

STUDENT DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS

This is a reminder to our parents/guardians/caregivers who are driving their students to and from school each day. In order to promote a workable flow of traffic, and to protect the safety of all of our students, we are asking parents/guardians/caregivers to **use the east entrance** (closest to the football field/Huntingwood Ave) and then **leave via the west exit** (closest to the circle part of the school/Castlewood Blvd). This ensures that cars are not parking or sitting in the traffic circle which otherwise obstructs the many buses that need to unload quickly to get to their next route.

RESPECTFUL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We are asking our families to please have conversations at home with their students to mirror the messaging they are hearing at school. We have been fielding calls from our community businesses and homeowners. Please remind your students that they should not be loitering in the back of the businesses of Castlewood Plaza. Business owners will be working with police if graffiti and vandalism continues. Likewise, please also remind your students to clean up their litter from their lunches if they are eating and congregating in Veterans Park. Thank you in advance for reminding our students to be respectful and responsible community members.

PLANS OF CARE FOR SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If your student has one of the following medical conditions, please complete a Plan of Care form (if you have not already done so) so that school staff are aware and informed about what to do in an emergency. These forms are located within the following link:

[HWDSB Procedure for Policy No. 5.5: Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions](#)

- Anaphylaxis Plan of Care can be found on pages 34-37
- Asthma Plan of Care can be found on pages 38-41
- Diabetes Plan of Care can be found on pages 42-47
- Epilepsy Plan of Care can be found on pages 48-51

Send your completed form to dundasvalley@hwdsb.on.ca . If your student already has a plan from a previous year, and if there are no changes required, please confirm via email at the same email address above.

PRELIMINARY REPORTS and FAMILY NIGHT

HWDSB follows Ministry of Education reporting periods for mid-terms and final reports with information that goes into a student's official record. It also offers a Preliminary Report cycle so that parents/guardians/caregivers have an early opportunity to know what is happening in class, and a chance to connect with teachers.

We will send **digital Preliminary Reports home on Monday, October 21**. We will then host a **Teacher-Family Night on Tuesday from October 29, 5:00 – 7:00 pm at the school**. You will be able to sign up for appointments with teachers electronically with a link that we will share with you closer to the date.

SCHOOL COUNCIL – Next date: Tuesday Nov 5th

We welcome all parents/guardians/caregivers who are willing to volunteer their time to participate on our Dundas Valley Secondary School Council for the 2024-2025 school year. Please come out so we can capture your voice and provide you with updates throughout the year to familiarize yourself with all that is happening at DVSS.

School Councils must hold annual elections to identify voting members and various positions such as School Council Chair. I would like to welcome back Zoey Heeney and welcome Rebecca Hoo as our Co-Chairs, and Cathy Veldman as our Secretary. Elected members vote on School Council matters and represent the group's ideas and advisory suggestions for the Principal. Please note that you do not have to be an elected member of School Council to attend meetings. All meetings are open to all parents/guardians/caregivers who wish to attend. Please consider joining us at School Council as an elected or general member. School Council involvement is a great way to support your child's education and we look forward to working together. **Please email dundasvalley@hwdsb.on.ca if you are interested in joining our School Council** so that I can add your name to our mailing list to have timely communications sent directly to your inbox.

Now that elections have been completed, there will be four more meetings this school year and they will be held in a hybrid model so that you are welcome to come to the school face-to-face in our Library and Learning Commons, or you can join via an MS Teams link that will be provided before each meeting. These meetings will be held:

Tuesday Nov 5th, 6:30pm

Tuesday Jan 21st, 6:30pm

Tuesday April 8th, 6:30pm

Tuesday May 27th, 6:30pm

FREE ANONYMOUS REPORTING SERVICE

We continue to encourage everyone in the community to keep us informed about things of concern or celebration. HWDSB has an **anonymous texting service** that you and your student may use. The service is called **We Help**

Enter this We Help phone number into your contacts if you wish - **905-963-0066**

DVSS DATES AT A GLANCE:

October 9 th	SHSM Launch Period 1 and 2 for grade 10 & 11 students
October 14 th	Thanksgiving holiday. No school for students.
October 16 th	IEPs sent home
October 21 st	Preliminary Report Cards sent home and Family Interview appointments open for booking starting at 2:30pm
October 22 nd	Picture re-take day

October 24 th	On My Way @ Liuna Station 5:30-8:30pm for gr 11 and 12 students to help navigate future pathways
	Grade 9 VIVE night 2:30-8pm at the school. Gr 9s take part in fun activities lead by senior students. Dinner and snacks and a t-shirt are provided.
October 29 th	Teacher-Family Night. Links for booking appointments with teachers will be available closer to date
November 1 st	PD Day - No school for students
November 6 th	Take Our Kids To Work. Grade 9 students able to join a family member at their workplace to shadow them for the day
November 20 th	Midterm Report Cards sent home
November 21 st	Grade 7/8 Open House 6-8pm for our incoming Gryphons
November 22 nd	PD Day - No school for students
January 22 nd	Last instructional day of Semester 1
January 23-29	Exam period for Semester 1

We are looking forward to a great year, Gryphons!

Sincerely,



Kim Collier (she/her)
Principal
Dundas Valley Secondary School