



Dundas Valley Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Principal:
Vice-Principals:

Kim Collier
Lisa Farrugia
Andrea Moore

August 2025

Welcome Back DVSS!

We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer with family and friends. We look forward to seeing everyone back for the new school year on **Tuesday September 2nd**. We are also very excited to welcome our new grade 9's and new students to DVSS. Welcome Gryphons...cheers to an exciting, meaningful, and enjoyable year ahead!

The Administration Team

I am grateful to share that our Administration team will remain the same this year:

Ms. Kim Collier - Principal

Ms. Andréa Moore – Vice Principal (working with students with last names A-K)

Ms. Lisa Farrugia – Vice Principal (working with students with last names L-Z).

Please feel free to seek us out if you require support or assistance with any matter; our doors are always open.

Ready, Set, HIGH SCHOOL! (Grade 9 Orientation Day)

DVSS is excited to welcome our Grade 9 students on **Tuesday August 26th** with the Ready, Set, HIGH SCHOOL! Grade 9 Orientation Day. The event will run from 9:00-2:15 and a pizza lunch will be provided. No registration is required but please ensure your contact information is up to date in the Parent Portal so that you don't miss out on any communication about the event.

These sessions help students make connections with new classmates and teachers, become familiar with their new school and online tools, in addition to providing helpful tips for time management, study habits and other keys for success in high school.

Students who have completed their Digital Tools Permission form will be able to pick up their HWDSB laptop during the orientation. The form can be found on the Parent Portal (instructions attached). [Where-to-locate-the-Digital-Tools-Permission-Form-in-Parent-Portal.pdf](#). The Media Consent form can also be found on the Parent Portal and

HWDSB
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families are encouraged to complete that form as well. If you are unable to complete the forms through the Parent Portal, please download, print and complete the attached PDF forms and send the completed/signed form with your student on the day of the orientation. Students who are unable to attend the event will be able to pick up their HWDSB laptop during the first week of school.

[HWDSB-Digital-Tools-Permission-Form.pdf](#)

[Media-Consent-Agreement_Sept2025.pdf](#)

No further action is needed from families to register for event. We're looking forward to helping all our Grade 9 students feel confident and comfortable as they begin their high school journeys!

When – Tuesday August 26th 9 am – 2:15 pm

Where – Dundas Valley Secondary School, 310 Governors Road Dundas.

Who – Grade 9 students only

How – no formal registration required

What – Tour the school, play games, meet classmates, and receive your timetable, and laptop

What to bring – a water bottle and comfortable clothing, Laptop permission form signed by guardian (*online in Parent Portal or paper copy*)

*****A pizza lunch will be provided, but bring your own snacks and drinks if desired.**

The First Day of School

Students return for the first day of the school year on ***Tuesday, September 2nd***.

Classes start at 8:05am. We will be following a Day 1 schedule. Different from last year, a reminder that we will no longer be flipping our school day periods! **This means that EVERY day will have the same order for your classes as follows:**

2025-26 Bell Schedule	
Time	Class Schedule
8:05 AM - 9:20 AM	Period 1
9:25 AM - 10:40 AM	Period 2
10:40 AM - 11:40 AM	Lunch
11:40 AM - 12:55 PM	Period 3
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Period 4

Timetables

Timetables can be seen via the Parent Portal starting August 25th. Please note that changes will still be occurring to student timetables during next week (and potentially the first week of school). We will send out digital copies of student timetables to parent/guardian and student emails by Friday of next week. **Please have students take a screen shot or make a copy of this timetable so that they know which classes to attend each period on the first day of school.** Staff will be in hallways and available to help students navigate to their new classrooms on the first day of school. Please see below message from Guidance if you have concerns with your timetable.

A Message From Guidance

If you would like to investigate a timetable change for semester 1, please stop by Guidance to put your name on our Timetable Change Request List. If you are unable to come by in person, please call the school and connect with the guidance department: **905.628.2203 Ext. 4854**

You will need to include the following:

1. Your first and last name
2. The change you would like to make
3. The reason you would like to make the change
4. A phone number where we can reach you

If your last name begins with A - K, please select **Mr. O'Connor's** list.

If your last name begins with L - Z, please select **Ms. Warren's** list.

We will be prioritizing students who do not yet have a full timetable, and students who need a course change for their pathway (e.g. adding grade 12 math to apply to a Business program).

The sign-up lists will be available from Monday August 25th to Friday September 5th in the Guidance Office.

Picture Day

Picture day is on **Tuesday, September 16th**. You will have the opportunity to purchase photo packages online, but even if you do not want to purchase photos, it is still important to get your photo taken for your student card. Student cards are provided free of charge to all students.

Ministry of Education Code of Conduct

The environment we learn in is very important to all of us. It is crucial for all students to feel safe and welcomed. If you come across any issues during your time at Dundas Valley, please make sure the office is made aware so that we can support you as best as we can. A reminder to students and caregivers that cell phones are not permitted during class time. Vaping and smoking of any kind are prohibited on all school grounds by all students and adults. The Ministry mandates progressive discipline for all violations of the Code of Conduct. As an additional reminder, please have conversations with your students about expectations of using our washrooms. Last year, there was significant vandalism, on repeat occasions costing tens of thousands of dollars for repairs and causing long periods of time where various washrooms were closed for use. It truly "Takes a Valley" to support our community, so please join us in helping to spread the word about respectful behaviour expectations.

Parent Portal

To report your student's attendance, there are several options available:

1. Download the Safe Arrival app at go.schoolmessenger.ca
2. Through your web browser, login to the Safe Arrival website at go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/login
3. Student absence reporting is available by phone by calling Safe Arrival at 1.844.506.4350
4. Leave a message on the school's dedicated attendance line at 905.628.2203 and dial extension 5700
5. Call the school directly at 905.628.2203 and dial 0 to reach the main office
6. Email the school at dundasvalley@hwdsb.on.ca

To login to Parent Portal, please visit ps.hwdsb.on.ca/public/home.html. If you are experiencing difficulties and require assistance, please contact the main office at 905.628.2203 and dial 0.

SchoolCash Online is a fast, easy, and safe way to pay for your student's school purchases. If you haven't already done so, you can sign up at <https://hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>.

To stay up-to-date on school news and calendar events, we encourage you to subscribe to the school's website updates by completing the subscribe form located at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/media/subscribe/>.

General school social media updates can be found at:

- Instagram: [dundasvalleyss_hwdsb](#)
- Twitter: [@DVSS_HWDSB](#)

On behalf of myself, Ms. Farrugia, Ms. Moore and our entire amazing staff at DVSS, we wish you a wonderful start to the school year. I look forward to seeing everyone on September 2nd! Go Gryphons Go!

Kim Collier

Ms. Kim Collier
Principal