



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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Andrea Moore

October 2025

Greetings Dundas Valley Secondary Students, Families and Community:

We have had a great start to the school year, as we welcomed our new grade 9's 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 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, 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, Positive Space, Equity team and 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.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation—also known as Orange Shirt Day was honoured last Tuesday. 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 and 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 just under \$1000 for the Canadian Cancer Society! We followed up with a BBQ fundraiser for Terry, and then the afternoon culminated with our classes coming outside to cheer on our senior boy's football team as they played against Saltfleet! It was a great day celebrating Terry, and building community as Gryphons!

STUDENT DROP OFFS AND PICK UPS

This is a reminder to our parents/guardians that are driving their students to and from school each day. In order to promote a flow of traffic, and to protect the safety of all of our students we are asking parents/guardians to **use the east entrance** (closest to the football field /

HWDSB
BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

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 obstructing the many buses that need to unload quickly and get to their next route.

RESPECTFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITY

We are reaching out to ask for your support in reinforcing the values and expectations we promote at school. In recent weeks, we have experienced significant vandalism in our male washrooms, resulting in damages that have cost the school tens of thousands of dollars. This is deeply concerning and not reflective of the respectful and caring community we know DVSS to be.

We kindly ask that you speak with your youths at home to help reinforce the importance of respectful behaviour and responsible decision-making. When school and home work together to support shared values, we create a stronger, safer environment for all students.

Please also be reminded that vandalism of any kind is a serious offence. It may result in a lengthy suspension and, in some cases, could lead to expulsion.

Thank you for your continued partnership in fostering a positive and respectful school culture.

PLANS OF CARE FOR SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If your student has one of the following medical conditions, please complete a fillable of Plan of Care form so that that school staff are aware and informed about what to do in an emergency:

- [Anaphylaxis Care Plan](#)
- [Asthma Care Plan](#)
- [Diabetes Care Plan](#)
- [Epilepsy Care Plan](#)

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 and caregivers have an early opportunity to know what is happening in class, and also a chance to connect with teachers.

We will send **digital Preliminary Reports home on Monday, October 20**. We will then host a **Family/Teacher Night on Thursday, October 30, 5:00 – 7:00 pm at the school**. You will be able

to sign up for appointments with teachers via an online process that we will share with you closer to these dates.

FROM OUR GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT- Ms. Warren and Mr. O'Connor

DVSS staff presented information to Grade 12 students on Monday September 29th regarding apprenticeships, university and college application timelines, and scholarship opportunities. The PowerPoint was emailed to grade 12 students and also is posted on the Dundas Valley website under "Grade 12 Information":

[Grade 12 Information | Dundas Valley Secondary School](#)

Guidance counsellors will be repeating this presentation for any parents who might like to see it

Date: Thursday October 30th, 2025 (Family-Teacher Interview Night)

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Library/Learning Commons

Key dates to be aware of now:

- Applications to highly-competitive college programs should be submitted in late October/early November.
- The deadline for college applications for equal consideration is February 1st (we are suggesting students to complete applications in early January).
- The deadline for university applications is January 15th, 2026 (we are suggesting students to complete applications in early December).

FROM LEARNING RESOURCE DEPARTMENT- Ms. Presta, Ms. Drake, and Mr. Arnold

We hope the school year is off to a positive start for your student. As part of our commitment to supporting all learners, we would like to share some updates from the Learning Resource Department.

Our Team and alpha assignments:

Calvin Arnold (A-K), Period 2

Tania Presta, Acting Department Head/SEC/SEA (L-Z), Period 1,3,4

Grade Assemblies & Grade 12 Information sharing

This past month, we held grade-level assemblies to remind students about the supports available at DVSS, including a focus on the importance of accessing the Learning Resource Room, the transition planning process, and next steps for students considering post-secondary pathways.

Learning Resource Room

The Learning Resource Room is open daily to support students with:

- Quiet test/assessment writing space (with approved accommodations).
- Additional time and technology support.
- Organizational, literacy, and numeracy skill development.
- A safe and supportive place to check in throughout the day.

IEP Updates

We are currently finalizing Individual Education Plans for the fall term. Families can expect updated copies to be sent home by **mid-October**. Please review these documents carefully and reach out if you have questions or updates to share about your child's needs.

Grade 12 IPRC Reviews

Late fall will mark the start of Identification, Placement, and Review Committee meetings for Grade 12 students. These reviews help ensure we have updated information on file for students as they prepare for graduation and transition to post-secondary or workplace pathways. Families will receive invitations and information packages in advance.

Ongoing Communication

Our Learning Resource Team encourages families and students to maintain open communication with us. Early conversations often make for smoother transitions, whether that's around classroom accommodations, post-secondary planning, or strategies to support learning.

How Families Can Help at Home

- Review your student's IEP once it is sent home.
- Encourage your child to self-advocate and use their accommodations consistently.
- Remind them that the Learning Resource Room is a space they can access regularly for support.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thank you to those who attended our first School Council meeting of the year. At this time, there was no interest expressed in forming an executive committee. It was also acknowledged that the traditional evening meeting format may not be the most effective way to engage our parent, guardian, and caregiver community.

We deeply value your voice and perspectives as we work together to support our students, staff, and broader school community. To ensure we are creating meaningful opportunities for input, we are inviting you to share your thoughts on how best to gather community feedback moving forward. Please use the link below to offer suggestions or express interest in alternative formats for engagement.

I remain committed to keeping our community informed through regular email and school website updates, as well as celebrations and events shared on our Instagram account

(DundasValleySS_HWDSB). If there is a desire for deeper connection or new ways to collaborate, I welcome your ideas.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Feel free to offer your suggestions in the link below:

[Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Feedback Link](#)

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 # into your contacts if you wish- **905-963-0066**

DVSS DATES AT A GLANCE:

October 8 th	SHSM Launch Period 1 and 2 for grade 10 & 11 students
October 13 th	Thanksgiving holiday. No school for students.
October 15 th	IEPs sent home
October 20 th	Preliminary Report Cards sent home. Family Interview appointments open for booking starting Oct 22 nd at 6pm until Oct 29 th 2:30pm
October 21 st	Picture re-take day
October 23 rd	Hallowe'en Dance 7-10 pm at DVSS
October 24 th	PD Day. No school for students.
October 30 th	Family -Teacher Night. Links for booking appointments with teachers will be available closer to date
November 5 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 6 th	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.
November 11 th	Remembrance Day Assembly for all students
November 13 th	Grade 7/8 Open House 6-7:30pm for our incoming Gryphons
November 19 th	Midterm Report Cards emailed home
November 21 st	PD Day- No school for students
December 4 th	Winter Semi-Formal at Marquis Gardens in Ancaster 5-10pm
December 19 th	Last instructional day before Winter Holiday (December 20 - Jan 4)
January 20 th	Last instructional day of Semester 1
January 21-27	Exam period for Semester 1
January 29 th	Exam Take-Up Day- New this year! More details to follow.
January 30 th	Start of Semester 2

HOLD THE DATE!

May 14 th	Senior Prom at Liuna Station
June 9 th	Athletic Banquet at Marquis Gardens in Ancaster
June 24 th	Grade 12 Commencement at Hamilton Convention Centre 4-6pm

We are looking forward to a great year, Gryphons!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Collier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

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