



Frank Panabaker Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

295 Nakoma Road
Ancaster, Ontario L9G 1T2
Phone South: 905.648.4439
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Frankpanabakernorth@hwdsb.on.ca

www.hwdsb.on.ca/frankpanabaker

September 4, 2020

Dear Frank Panabaker Families,

We are excited about welcoming back students – in person and through remote learning – to the 2020-21 school year. The pandemic has brought many changes to our school and its families, but we know that we can rise to the occasion if we work together.

Thank you for keeping up with the communications coming from HWDSB, and for completing important forms and surveys as required.

We are taking many actions to prevent COVID-19 at our school. You will notice that safety is guiding our programming choices. Here are some of the important points to remember:

Attestation Before a student can enter a school, we require that their family completes an attestation that they have read, understood, and will abide by expectations. Find this on the Parent Portal or print a copy of the attestation form on this web post.

Daily COVID-19 Screening HWDSB COVID-19 Student Screening Checklist is to be completed daily before arriving at school. The checklist is found on the Parent Portal as well as on the HWDSB website. If you answered YES to any of the screening questions, or if you refuse to answer the questions, the student has failed the screening and must not attend school. The family should contact Public Health (905) 974-9848 or their family doctor for testing. Please contact the school using SafeArrival to report the absence. If the student is tested for COVID-19, your school would appreciate knowing the outcome of that test.

Staggered start details

As you know, we will be opening our school with a staggered start timeline. This means that not all students will begin on the same day. Please see the chart below, note which group your child falls into, and reach out if you have more questions:

New routines and protocols

School operations are changing significantly to ensure that we can provide a safe learning environment for students. We are finishing school-specific protocols and expect to post these to our website in the days ahead. These will cover everything from parking lots, classroom set up, nutrition breaks, mandatory masks for students and more.



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Water Bottles

Drinking fountains in all schools will be bagged and not used. Please be sure to send your child with a labelled, reusable water bottle so they stay hydrated, in addition to their non-medical mask.

Visiting Schools

This year, our school must significantly limit or even prohibit visitors to school, including parents, to support a safe and healthy learning environment. We ask families to call or email our school if they need to supply information or contact a staff member. Also, it is strongly recommended that parents do not drop off items during the school day.

Junior Kindergarten Orientation- Friday, Sept. 11th

In order to better acquaint yourself with the kindergarten program, please go to the following link <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/kindergarten/> where you will find a social story that supports families to further explore the school experiences for your child along with additional information about Kindergarten.

By Wednesday, Sept. 9th, you will receive a message inviting one parent/guardian and JK student (as per Covid-19 Protocols) to a scheduled 5-10-minute visit on Friday, September 11th,

with your child's educators. Please make sure the email on file at the office is up to date. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school family at Frank Panabaker South.

French Immersion Grade 1 In order to prepare students for learning in French, please take a moment to view the Grade 1 French Immersion Orientation video. More information about French as a Second Language in HWDSB can be found here. We look forward to welcoming our Grade 1 French Immersion Students at Frank Panabaker North.

Supported Transitions- Thursday, Sept. 10 and Friday Sept. 11th

Families with children who would benefit from a supported transition due to special needs, should expect to receive a phone call on Friday, September 4th for an appointment time. During this school visit, students should expect to meet their classroom teacher and learn more about daily routines and safety measures. Please note, as per COVID-19 Protocols, only one parent and the student may attend this meeting.



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Elementary Reorganization

Due to changes in student enrolment at Frank Panabaker, classrooms and teacher assignments will be updated the week of Sept. 8th. You will see your child's class and teacher in the parent portal mid-week.

We will continue to send updates as we receive added information. Thank you for understanding the challenges of planning the new school year, and for sharing our commitment to safe and successful school year. Learn more about COVID-19 precautions at HWDSB at www.hwdsb.on.ca/covid19.

If you have any questions, or think your child might struggle with school, please let us know at: Frank Panabaker South (Kindergarten, Grades 6-8): frankpanabakersouth@hwd