

February 16, 2021

Dear Families,

At HWDSB, we are aware of how COVID-19 has caused two pandemics in our society: one related to the virus itself, and one related to social inequities the virus intensified, like anti-Black racism.

HWDSB is committed to developing safer, more equitable and more inclusive learning environments. Schools have an important role in learning about equity, and supporting student and staff well-being.

To address both pandemics, a team of staff informed by our community created a series of lessons called **Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild@HWDSB: Building a Community of Care**.

These lessons for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students align with HWDSB's [Board Annual Plan](#) and [Equity Action Plan](#). The lessons will support students and staff on topics related to human rights, equity and mental health during the pandemic. Content aligns with the Ontario Curriculum.

We have organized age-appropriate lessons into four modules:

- Module 1. Physical Safety, Mental Health and Wellness.
- Module 2. Understanding Identity and Intersectionality.
- Module 3. Exploring Human Rights, Equity and Anti-racism.
- Module 4. Empowering Action and Allyship.

Students will learn that who they are – their identity – is an important part of their learning and well-being. We want students to understand who they are, speak up when things are unfair, and help create a safer learning experience for everyone.

Some of these topics are complex, so we encourage you to talk with your child about this learning. You can ask questions like: What did you learn about today? What did you think about what you learned today? Do you have any questions about this topic?

You can learn more and find sample lessons on the web page for [Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild.@HWDSB](#). (*forthcoming*)

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your child's teacher or principal. You can also learn more about [Addressing Concerns at HWDSB](#).

Thank you for helping all students and staff feel safe, supported and accepted.