

Dear Families,

Welcome to Frank Panabaker!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to our school community and look forward to seeing many of you next week. We are grateful to have many of our staff returning and would like to also welcome new staff that are joining us this year. For a **staff list** please use the following link:

[Staff | Frank Panabaker Elementary School \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/staff)

At this time, you will be able to access the Parent Portal where you will be able to view the name of your child's teacher for the 2022/2023 school year. The process of class placement is a collaborative effort that takes place over several weeks. A considerable amount of time and thought goes into placement decisions. Consideration is given to current and potential friendships, student success and student achievement. Please note, changes to class placements are not being considered at this time. Our dedicated and caring staff will work with you to support students in transitioning to their new classrooms. If you have any specific concerns about your child, please reach out to your child's teacher.

The First Day of School

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 6th. On Tuesday, students in Grades 1-8, will meet their teachers at the back of each building. Students will look for a sign with their teacher's name on it. This is where they will connect with classmates and will find their teacher. At 8:15am, teachers will bring students into their perspective classrooms for the start of the day. Staff will be on the school yard to supervise and assist students 15 minutes before and after school each day. Please visit the **School Day and Routines** [School Day & Routines | Frank Panabaker Elementary School \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/school-day-routines). on our website for information regarding nutrition breaks and bell times.

Students in Kindergarten and grades 5-8 will meet at Frank Panabaker South.

Students in Grade 1-4 will meet at Frank Panabaker North.

For the safety of students, we ask parents to stay off the main play areas and field and wait to the side of the playground when dropping off students in the morning and when picking up at the end of day. If you require any assistance, please look for a staff member in an orange vest who will be happy to help.

Kindergarten Students

Tuesday, September 6, 2022

All kindergarten children new to kindergarten and/or the school will have the opportunity for a short visit with a caregiver in order to ensure that they feel comfortable and supported as they transition to school.

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

All Kindergarten students begin full day attendance and will meet their educators in the fenced Kindergarten area of the South building.

Transportation and Parking Lot

To help promote an active lifestyle, to support our eco initiatives and reduce congestion in our parking lot we strongly encourage students to walk or ride bikes and/or scooters to and from school. Please take some time to review the information and expectations around our school parking lot and access points found in the **Parking Lot** tab on our website. [Parking Lot | Frank Panabaker Elementary School \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/frankpanabaker/) If your child is taking the bus this year, they will be met by staff upon arrival and supported by staff at the end of the day until buses arrive. It is very important that your child knows how they will be getting home at the end of each day. Please take some time to review this with your child. During start-up, bus transportation may experience some delays; your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Families that are eligible for **transportation**, should have received an email with the following link [New student transportation portal | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/frankpanabaker/) Please review this link as it contains important information for the 2022/2023 school year.

Stay connected for more information by subscribing to our **school website** (<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/frankpanabaker/>) and following us on Twitter (PanabakerHWDSB). On our website you will find more detailed information about bell times, school expectations, staff and procedures. If you have any questions, please contact the classroom teacher or the school at 905.648.4439 (Kindergarten, Grade 5-8) or 905.648.4115 (Grades 1-4).

We are looking forward to a great year together and hope you enjoy these last few days of summer!

Sincerely,

Caitlin Evans (Principal)

Cathy Calvano (Vice Principal)