



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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EMAIL South: Frankpanabakersouth@hwdsb.on.ca
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Principal: Danny Fede
Vice-Principal: Susie Carter
www.hwdsb.on.ca/frankpanabaker

A Heartfelt Welcome Back and Hello to our Frank Panabaker Families!

As the 2024-25 school year quickly approaches, we are excited to welcome students back to class on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Beginning the new school year can be a time of excitement, nervousness and energy for students, staff and families alike.

But the start of the school year at Frank Panabaker is also a time of new beginnings filled with opportunities for all students to experience a sense of belonging, engage in dynamic learning and reach their full potential.

To help our families prepare for their child(ren)'s return to the classroom, we would like to share the following information:

Your Child's Teacher

Please be advised that the parent portal is now open. Once in the portal you will be able to see the teacher that is assigned to your child. Please note that much work and preparation has been put into developing our classes. All parents were invited back in the spring to make placement requests for their child. These were all taken into consideration during class building. Until we have a better understanding of our classroom numbers we are unable to make and further changes at this time. A complete list of our school staff will be posted on our school website in the next week.

School Day Details

The first day of school for all Grade 1-8 students will be on Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

Students are asked to be on the playground no earlier than 8:00 am. This is when supervision begins. At this point, staff will be outside to welcome students. Staff will have a sign with their name and grade so that students will be able to identify their teacher. Once teachers have their class, students will proceed inside, at which point parents and caregivers will be asked to leave the playground. Parents will not be able to accompany their child to their classroom.

We also ask that parents do not block parking spots in our staff parking lot.

School hours will continue to be 8:15AM – 2:35PM.

At the end of the day, parents are welcome to enter the back playground and wait on the blacktop for their child to be dismissed by their teacher if they are not taking the school bus.

Nutrition Breaks

New this year, students will now be going out for the first 20 minutes, and then will be inside for the last 20 minutes of the nutrition break.

Kindergarten Students

Parents were notified of JK visits which will be held on Tuesday, September 3rd. All kindergarten students (JK and SK) begin their full day on Wednesday, September 4th.



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Transportation

Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) provides students with safe and secure transportation for eligible students by HWSTS. This may take the form of traditional school buses, school purpose vans or Hamilton Street Railway transit. For more information, visit HWDSB's [Transportation webpage](#). If your child qualifies for transportation, please remember to re-check information prior to sending your child(ren) to their assigned pickup location on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, as changes can occur.

Code of Conduct

HWDSB is committed to making each one of its schools a caring place that is safe for learning. Every student deserves to feel and be safe in a school, on the school grounds, on the school bus and at school events and activities. Visit HWDSB's [Code of Conduct webpage](#) to learn about these changes.

Family Communication

Staying connected with your child(ren)'s schools, the Board and services matters. HWDSB offers many ways for parents and caregivers to stay connected. To learn how you can access the most up-to-date information, visit [HWDSB's Parent page](#). We also invite families to keep up with HWDSB by [subscribing to email updates](#) or following HWDSB [on social media](#).

SchoolMessenger

Frank Panabaker and all HWDSB schools use SchoolMessenger to notify families about unexplained absences, as well as other important announcements. Families can use the free [SchoolMessenger app or website](#) to choose how they wish to receive these messages. Please contact your child(ren)'s school to provide current - or to change - your information.

Student Dress Guidelines

Starting in September 2024, HWDSB is sharing updated Student Dress Guidelines to help foster positive and inclusive learning environments. Developed with extensive student input and community consultation, these guidelines focus on equity, dignity, and well-being for every student. They can express themselves freely, without fear of bias or discrimination. Visit hwdsb.info/student-dress to learn more.



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At Frank Panabaker we are committed to partnering with our families to ensure that your child(ren)'s school experience reflects HWDSB's values – dignity, trust, compassion and joy. We are committed to ensuring your child(ren) are celebrated for who they are, experience safe and caring school environments and are supported to achieve their own academic success and positive learning outcomes. Please reach out to the office if you have any question, but please also note that the first few days are extremely busy with new student registrations. We will return your call or email as soon as we can. Thank you in advance for your patience!

We continue to focus on ensuring the safety and well-being of our students and staff, as we prepare to welcome our Frank Panabaker families in September.

Sincerely,

Mr. D. Fede & Ms. S. Carter
Principal Vice-Principal