



Welcome Back! February 8 – February 12

Monday, February 8 <b>Black History Month</b>	Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please follow our Re-opening Protocols</li><li>• <i>Students must be screened daily. A friendly reminder to keep your child home if they fail the daily screener.</i></li></ul>
Tuesday, February 9	Day 3	
Wednesday, February 10	Day 4	
Thursday, February 11	Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Photo Day Rescheduled for Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Grad Photos continue on February 24 &amp; 25.</li></ul>
Friday, February 12	Day 1	Classes may celebrate Valentine’s Day. Please <b>Note: Due to COVID-19 Protocols students will not be sharing treats or handing out cards.</b>

### Gatestone Efforts

Thank you to all of the students who had to quickly adjust for learning at home. Your optimism and dedication show how well you can adapt to change. This is an important skill to have. Thank you to all of our parents for supporting and managing remote learning for a lot longer than we thought. We are grateful you were able to make a challenging situation easier for our students.

### Technology Return

Students that borrowed a device from Gatestone will need to return the device on their first day back at school, Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Please place the device, charger and charger chord in a bag and label your child’s first and last name on the bag. Students

will bring the device to their first period class. Office staff will come around to each class to collect the devices. If your child will be absent on Monday, please make sure the device and accessories are returned their first day attending in-person learning.

## **COVID-19 SAFTEY PROTOCOLS**

The HWDSB will continue to communicate with families updated COVID-19 Protocols. Below are some important reminders for our Gatestone parents and students.

### **Screener**

Daily student screening must be completed prior to entering the building. If your child does not pass the Ministry COVID-19 Daily Screener, they must not attend school. If your child becomes sick at school they need to be immediately picked up by a parent or caregiver. Students are required to remain in our isolation room with an adult supervisor while waiting for a parent/caregiver to arrive.

### **Masks**

Masks must be worn on school property for all students, staff and parents. If a parent or student requires a mask exemption, this must be communicated to the office and staff will support with next steps. We appreciate your understanding here. With the cooler weather, students should pack extra masks for the day. The school may also supply masks for students.

### **Outdoor Nutrition Break & Entry/Dismissal**

Students must wear masks when entering the property and during the dismissal process due to the high traffic on the field, blacktop and walkways.

Students may remove their mask during outdoor times, but only when able to stay 2 metres apart from peers and staff. This poses a challenge for many students during unstructured times. We will continue to educate our students around the need to distance. Please also review protocols with your child.

Staff will provide many opportunities throughout the day where students may remove masks for a mask break. Students must be at least 2 meters apart from others when

they need to remove their mask. The only exception is during the eating portion of the nutrition break when students are in their classrooms sitting 1 metre apart. Once lunch is complete masks are placed back on.

### **Lockers/Cubby Areas**

During the morning students will go directly to their classroom and wait for a supervisor to direct them to lockers or cubby areas. Student belongings must go home every day. We are not able to store items/personal belongings in lockers or cubby areas. Staff will direct students during nutrition breaks to access belongings as well.

### **Visitors**

A friendly reminder that parents must ring our main bell if they need to connect with our main office. Parents should not enter the school unless a staff member has directed them inside to our main office for appropriate screening. In most cases, we ask parents remain outside if they are picking up a child earlier in the day. We appreciate your understanding here.

To limit extra contact, please also avoid dropping off lunches, water bottles and other materials. Students need to be prepared in the morning with all of their essential items needed for a day of learning.

## **Valentine's Celebrations**

Due to COVID restrictions, students will not be handing out Valentine Day Cards or treats. Please do not send anything to school. The school and classroom teachers will schedule activities to celebrate this occasion with students. Thank you for your understanding.

## **Social Networking Safety**

Paul Davis will be visiting virtually with our students, Grades 4-8, on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The presentation purpose is to educate our students around safe practices using social media and preparing them to make respectful and appropriate choices in this digital world.

**A parent presentation is also scheduled for the evening of Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM on Zoom.** The link to register for the meeting was sent out to families on School Messenger. A reminder will be sent out a few days before the presentation as well. We are hoping to have many of our Gatestone parents attending this important session. Please e-mail [gatestone@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:gatestone@hwdsb.on.ca) if you need the registration link.

Paul Davis TEDx Speaker - 2015  
[www.socialnetworkingsafety.net](http://www.socialnetworkingsafety.net)  
See Feedback from Principals and Parents!  
<http://socialnetworkingsafety.net/feedback/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/pauldavisSNS>

Facebook: [facebook.com/pauldavistips](https://facebook.com/pauldavistips)

## Black History Month

Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. The HWDSB provides various resources (e.g., stories, videos, lessons for staff) for students to learn more about the importance of this commemoration and celebrate achievements of Black Canadians.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month/about.html>



## Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild

Students will engage in our Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild work through weekly lessons. Communication will be shared on our HWDSB website for families as well. **Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild@HWDSB: Building a Community of Care** is a K-12 curriculum resource that supports the HWDSB Equity Action Plan. This resource is intended to support HWDSB staff as they address and teach issues related to equity, mental health, and well-being within the context of the dual pandemics of Covid-19 and Anti-Black Racism with our students.