



George L. Armstrong Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

460 Concession Street
Hamilton, Ontario L9A 1C3
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www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong

September 22, 2020

Welcome Back Eagles!

We have had a great return of students to in-class learning at G. L. Armstrong!

Our outside lines are working really well in keeping our students socially distanced as they await entry in the morning, at Nutrition Breaks and at the end of the day. Each class also has a section of the yard designated for them for nutrition break. These cohort areas allow us to keep students with the same group should we need to do any contact tracing. In the event of rain, when students arrive, they will go right into the building and walk directly to their classrooms.

Our school has many signs posted to help us to remember the rules when indoors. These include wearing masks, hand hygiene, maintaining social distance, reporting if you feel unwell, staying to the right hand side of the hallways and special spots on the floor for lining up. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the school. Caretaking is diligent about cleaning high touch surfaces many times throughout the day—door handles, washrooms, railings, and any rooms where a child has reported feeling ill during the day.

Each hallway area of the school has its own entry and exit doors so that lines do not cross when students are on the move.

We are so proud of our students, staff and families for the great job they are doing!

What Happens When a Student Feels Sick

Remember to screen your child before they come to school using the online screening tool at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>. Students who report not feeling well or exhibiting any symptoms of Covid-19 while at school will be removed from the classroom to an isolation room and families will be called to pick them up. Currently, the isolation room is near to the office so that we can monitor students who are waiting for pick-up

- Students who **test negative** for COVID-19 must isolate until they do not have a fever (without using medication) and without symptoms for 24 hours. Household contacts should continue to monitor for symptoms.
- Students who **test positive** for COVID-19 must remain in isolation and follow Hamilton Public Health Service guidance and cannot attend school for at least 14 days. Household contacts should self-isolate at home and follow public health guidelines.



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- Ill students **not tested** and given an **alternative diagnosis** by a health care provider, the individual is to isolate at home until without a fever (without the use of medication) and free of symptoms for at least 24 hours.
- Ill students, if **not tested**, must not return to school for 14 days from the start of symptoms and be without symptoms for at least 24 hours. Household contacts should monitor for symptoms.

You can find more information and a Flow Chart of steps on the HWDSB website.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-At-Home-Protocol-1.pdf>

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-At-School-Protocol-1.pdf>

Drop Off and Pick Up

Supervision on the playground begins at 8:25 am. There is NO supervision prior to that time so we ask that students **not arrive prior to 8:25 am**. Upon arrival, students are asked to move directly into line to wait for the bell. Parents will be asked to wait on the perimeter of the yard so that we can limit the number of contacts for our students as they wait in line to enter. Supervision at the end of the day will end at 3:15. School Buses continue to be at a shortage for drivers. So far our school's bus has not had a driver and therefore has not been available for students. We do not know when this situation will change so please continue to check the Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Website for more information at <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/>

The Hamilton By-Law officers do visit now and then so if you are driving your children to school **please park where permitted**. Mind the signs!

Visitors in the School

Thank-you to our families as we get used to the new routine of parents and visitors not being permitted into the school. This is for the safety of our students and staff. If you need to drop something off or pick up your child, please buzz the officer using the buzzer outside of the East 19th street entrance and someone from inside the school will help you out. Any students who are late will need to buzz and wait for someone to come to the door with hand sanitizer for entry.

Student Attendance

Attendance reporting is extremely important. If your child is going to be absent or late, please input this information into the Safe Arrival/Parent Portal app. If your child is required to leave school early, you will also need to enter that data into the system. A reminder that for students to attend school they must clear the daily medical screener questions each morning. Being on time is also important as one of the Office Administrators has to leave their desk to let students who are late in to the building.



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School Information

Most of the information that you will be receiving from the school this year will be posted on the Parent Portal, the School website and the school Twitter account. This allows for a safe way to get information to our families homes without sending paper home. ***Please complete the beginning of the year forms that are currently available in the Parent Portal.*** Please contact the school office if you are unable to access the Parent Portal.

The website is: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong/>

Twitter: @GLA_HWDSB

Introducing Boomerang Lunches at GLA!

Perhaps your child never eats the grapes you send and always has half a sandwich left? At least that is what the teacher tells you...

Boomerang lunch programs help families save money by seeing which of the food being sent each day is actually been eaten.

A Boomerang Lunch means that everything your child brings to school in their lunch, will go back home with them. Any garbage, recycling, containers, leftover food – anything, will all go back home. The idea is to increase our awareness of the amount of waste that is created in a single day's lunch.

As school reopens, we have needed to adjust to changes. This includes a pause on recycling. At home, we can recycle more fully than we can at school; the garbage can be disposed of in a more environmentally friendly manner.

The concept of the boomerang lunch has been practiced with success by other schools and education centres in the province. We hope that the Boomerang Lunch will be a success for our school as well. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation in our quest for environmentally friendly lunches!

Thanks to Mrs. Wardle for organizing this initiative as part of our Eco-Schools.

Fire Drills and Other Health and Safety Drills

We are required to have different drills throughout the year so that students become aware of emergency procedures. This includes Fire Drills, Shelter In Place, Bomb Threat, Lockdown, and Hold and Secure. We will practice these in the fall and again in the spring. They may look a bit different due to Covid social distancing but we will do our best to ensure that our students are aware of safety expectations.



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Fall Open House

Our traditional Fall Open House is on hold due to social distancing. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher, please call the school and leave a message for the staff to return your call. Communication between our families and our staff is very important and we value this connection.

School Council

Please stay tuned to the school website for more information about School Council and what that may look during these unprecedented times.

School Day Organization

At G.L. Armstrong School we operate on a balanced day schedule which allows students to have two nutrition breaks and recess breaks throughout the day. Our daily schedule is as follows:

8:25-8:40 Outdoor supervision
8:40-9:20—Period 1
9:20-10:00—Period 2
10:00-10:40—Period 3
10:40-11:20—Nutrition Break 1
11:20-11:50—Period 4
11:50-12:20—Period 5
12:20-1:00—Period 6
1:00-1:40—Nutrition Break 2
1:40-2:20—Period 7
2:20-3:00—Period 8
3:00-3:15—Outdoor supervision

We continue to appreciate all of the support and cooperation we are receiving from our Armstrong families.

Be Kind! Be Caring! Be Safe!

curiosity.

creativity.

possibility.

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