



# Hess Street Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

107 Hess Street North  
Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2T1  
Phone: 905.527.1439  
Fax: 905.527.8659

EMAIL: [hessstreet@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:hessstreet@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: Steve Johnston  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/hessstreet](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/hessstreet)

Friday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Dear Hess Street Families,

Welcome back, again! We hope that everyone has had the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful summer weather we've had these last few months.

We understand that many of you have questions and concerns regarding the HWDSB back to school plan, specifically our Hess Street School's plan. As a parent and as the Principal of Hess Street, I want you to know I understand your fears and concerns. We have been working diligently to ensure our start up is as smooth as possible and is safe for students, families, and educators. On our website, we will be posting a detailed plan specific to Hess Street. This will answer your questions and address your concerns. Our First Day entry plan and our dismissal protocols will be detailed in that plan.

If you have not subscribed to our school website, I strongly encourage you to do so at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/hessstreet>. The website will provide you with the most current information from the school and from the Board.

Below you will find several pieces of information that may be helpful as you prepare your family for the new school year.

1. The Ministry of Education and Public Health have confirmed that all elementary students must screen for COVID symptoms on a daily basis. A one-time attestation will be provided to caregivers electronically on the parent portal, or in a paper copy where needed. All students must complete their attestation by the second day of school. Screening for symptoms must occur daily.
2. All students, K-8, are required to wear medical or non-medical grade masks. Please speak with your child(ren) about the reasons why they will be wearing a mask at school (i.e., their own personal safety and the safety of others). Students will not be required to wear a mask during outdoor Nutrition Break times while in their cohort as long as they are physically distanced from others. All parents will be required to wear a mask while on school premises.
3. Students are asked to bring a water bottle from home, clearly labelled with their name, as we are not using water fountains. We will be using the hydration stations to fill water bottles.
4. Change rooms are not available during phys-ed periods, please encourage your child(ren) to arrive in comfortable clothes that can be used for active play such as Physical Education classes or Daily Physical Activity.
5. We will not be using the lockers when we return to school. This will be review as we move into the cooler months.
6. Due to the measures we must take to follow Public Health protocols and keep children safe, we will not be allowing access to the Kindergarten Play Area or the playground for parents this year.



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Many parents and caregivers like to wait in these areas with their child. We will have dedicated educators in the play area to supervise these areas each morning.

7. At this time, caregivers or volunteers are not permitted into the school. If a child needs to be dismissed early from school, we are asking that you use School Messenger (<https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home>) to inform the school or call the school directly at 905-527-1439. We will ensure that your child(ren) is escorted to the front doors of the school for pickup once you have arrived.
8. Please ensure that your child arrives each day with a healthy lunch/snack for Nutrition Breaks and that they have all of their materials. We will not be accepting deliveries of lunches to the school as it is too difficult to maintain our safety protocols.
9. Extra-curricular activities such as educational excursions, pizza days, frozen yogurt, etc. Continue to be on pause. Should the opportunity to begin these activities open up, we will inform parents and caregivers. If this should be the case, we strongly encourage families to register for School Cash Online to make payments so there is no exchange of money within the school. You can register at <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>
10. Extracurricular activities such as sports teams will resume this school year. More details to follow about this.
11. Please ensure that the school has updated phone numbers and email addresses for parents as this will be our primary source of communication. You can call the school at 905-527-1439 to speak with our Office Administrators should you need to update this information.
12. We are strongly encouraging parents and caregivers to teach their child(ren) how to find their own way to their class cohort/line up area. Your child will learn this location on the first school day.
13. Parking is not available in staff parking areas, we encourage families to walk their children to school. This allows for physical exercise and keeps the congestion around the school to a minimum.
14. If your child has a life-threatening medical condition or allergy, please inform your child's classroom teacher and the office immediately upon the first day of school. We want to ensure that we have a plan in place to address any emergencies should the need ever arise.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to ensure that our students, families, and staff experience a safe and orderly return to school. The Staff at Hess Street School is looking forward to a great year and we especially look forward to seeing everyone after such a long time away from school.

Sincerely,

Mr. Johnston, and the Hess Street School Staff