



Huntington Park 2024-25 Welcome Back Message

Friday, August 30th, 2024

Dear Huntington Park 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 & anticipation for students, staff and families alike. The start of the school year at Huntington Park 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 Huntington Park families prepare for their child(ren)'s return to the classroom, we would like to share the following information:

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.

Huntington Park School – Code of Conduct & Communication to Families

Through a collective team effort our educators worked collaboratively to develop Huntington Park's School Code of Conduct to ensure all members of the school community are responsible & contribute to a positive school environment that is respectful, safe & inclusive of all students, staff & visitors. **All Huntington Park students will receive our School Code of Conduct which will be reviewed & reinforced by homeroom teachers the first day of school.** Your child will be sent home with our Code of Conduct to be reviewed & discussed with parent(s)/caregivers(s) to ensure a consistent understanding of our school wide expectations. **We ask that you please review our School Conduct with your child & sign the bottom of the page to acknowledge that the expectations have been reviewed and discussed. Please have your child return the signed School Conduct to their homeroom teacher within the first week of School.** Thank you for your teamwork to build the home-school connection to start the year off with a consistent understanding of expectations that focus on a positive school culture at Huntington Park. We value the home-school connection & appreciate your support!

Personal Electronic Devices at Huntington Park – Our School Rule - “When the Bell Goes the Cell Goes”

In line with our Board wide policy which emphasizes the importance of minimizing distractions with respect to Personal Electronic Devices, Huntington Park will continue to rely on the expectation set in the Spring of 2024 with respect to personal cell phone devices.

Upon morning entry into the school, students will be responsible for turning off their personal electronic device, storing it in their backpack & securing it in their locker for the entire school day. If your child does not have a lock on their locker, we suggest that they bring one to school or choose to leave their device at home. The school is not responsible for lost personal devices.

As a school team, we have noted significant gains with student focus, concentration & engagement and look forward to sustaining optimal learning environments in September.

If a student has their personal electronic device out of their backpack during the school day, they will be provided with a reminder & instructed to put their device back in their locker. Further offences will result in contact being made with parents/caregivers to re-inforce the importance of honouring board policy. Repeated offences may result in personal electronic devices being picked up by parents & caregivers from the school to secure at home.

School Communication

All communication coming into the school from parents/caregivers must come through **Huntington Park's main office at 905-383-3305**. This will ensure that all messaging is timely and communicated from our office administrators. Please leave a message should you contact the school & be connected to voicemail. If the school needs to contact home during the instructional day, our office administrators will be in contact with our parents/caregivers.

Punctual Daily Arrival & Regular Daily Attendance

Ensuring your child arrives to school on time daily and attends regularly is a trajectory for success over the course of the school year. Developing **morning entry routines with your child entering the building with their class & teacher on the back playground daily is the expectations for all students**. Ensuring students are attending school daily is vital to their learning & will teach them the life skill of honouring a daily schedule. **Our goal is to minimize student entry through the main doors of the school to ensure students are following entry routines with their class guided by their classroom teacher.** Please establish a morning routine that redirects your child's entry with their class on the back playground to avoid entry through the main doors. This will allow our Office Administrative team can carry on with their office duties each morning. Thank you in advance.

To ensure school attendance accuracy & accountability, please do your best to support your child's arrival to school on-time for the entry bell at 8:40 a.m. daily. **Staff will be supervising the back playground starting at 8:25 a.m. All students are expected to arrive to school and line up with their class on the blacktop by the entry bell at 8:40 a.m.**

If you are required to pick-up your child prior to the end of the school day, please contact the main office so that your child's early dismissal is recorded in our system. The tracking of student late drop-off and early pick-up will be made centrally at the main office. As an elementary school, all necessary communication between home and school must be directed through the main office at all times to ensure student safety & accountability.

Parking Lot Safety at Huntington Park

The parking lots located at both ends of the building are only to be accessed by school & system board staff daily. Parents are not to use the school parking lots for student drop-off or pick-up. **The parking lots are out of bounds to students for their safety.** We ask that families determine a consistent & safe drop-off and pick-up location should parents choose to drive their child to and from school. Thank you for honouring this student safety guideline at Huntington Park.

Family Communication

Staying connected with your child(ren)'s school, 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](#).

School Messenger

Huntington Park and all HWDSB schools use School Messenger to notify families about unexplained absences, as well as other important announcements. Families can use the free [School Messenger app or website](#) to choose how they wish to receive these messages. Please contact the main office should their need to be updates made or changes to any information within the system.

Student Class Placement

Class placement is a collaborative team process that our educators invest in to create the most optimal classroom dynamic for our students. Thank you for respecting their professionalism to ensure your child will learn in the most optimal environment based on their learning profile, skills and achievement. A considerable amount of time and thought goes into placement decisions. Please note, changes to class placements are not being considered at this time. This year your child's class placement has been communicated to you via the Parent Portal. 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.

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.

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. 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. It is very important that your child knows how they will be getting home at the end of each day. **Please take the time to review bussing with your child so they are respectful when travelling on the school bus both to and from school. Respectful behavior is an expectation for all students while travelling on the bus with other students and the bus driver.**

Student Agendas

All Grade 1 to 8 students will receive a student agenda to support student tracking, organization and any daily communication that may be necessary between home & school. The school agenda is a vital organizational tool that your child will rely on to keep them organized and up to date with schoolwork, reminders for the days that follow & upcoming events. It may also be relied on if there needs to be daily communication between home & school. Your child's homeroom teacher will establish a routine for agenda tracking use and will communicate this expectation with your child. Your child's teacher will communicate any expectations they may set for its use as a school & home communication tool.

Agenda expectations:

- 1) The agenda should be kept with your child at all times while they are at school. It should be taken to each class daily and home every night.
- 2) For successful time management, record any homework, assignments and test dates daily.
- 3) Keep track of special events (team practices, games, extra-curricular involvement etc.).
- 4) The agenda should be relied on daily during announcements, in all classes, and prior to dismissal so that important information & reminders can be recorded.

Student Supply Lists

Our Grade 1 – 8 educator teams generated a list of student supplies that would support your child when engaged in their personal learning requiring the use of materials & utensils etc. This supply list was sent home with your child's June report card. We thank you for taking the time to review this list and provide your child with their personal supplies to support their daily learning. Should you have any questions about the supply list provided or if your child is new to Huntington Park, please feel free to reach out to your child's homeroom teacher to get a copy of the supply list.

Nutritious Lunches

Nutrition plays a key component to student energy levels, focus and concentration throughout the school day. We ask that families do their best to provide students with nutritious snacks & a lunch that has a healthy balance of the food groups to sustain them throughout the school day. Please provide your child with a **fillable water bottle** to ensure they remain hydrated throughout the school day particularly when we are faced with seasonal high temperatures throughout the year.

Daily Physical Activity (DPA) – Routines & Proper Footwear

Student physical activity is a vital component for students mental, physical & emotional well-being. Homeroom teachers provide students with structured Daily Physical Activity to keep their bodies in motion which stimulates & activates their cognition & overall well-being. Please ensure your child has access to proper footwear daily or have them store it in their locker to ensure their comfort & safety is met for their feet daily when in motion!

Volunteer Opportunities

Huntington Park and HWDSB values and appreciates dedicated volunteers who share their time and talents in support of healthy, positive and flourishing school communities. If you are interested in exploring volunteer opportunities like School Council at Huntington Park, information about nominations and elections will be sent electronically via School Messenger. Please see HWDSB's [Volunteers in Schools](#) page for more information.

At Huntington Park, 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.

If you have any questions with respect to your child's daily routines we ask that you contact their homeroom teacher. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our main office at 905-383-3305 for a message to be left for the specific educator. Our office administrators will also respond to any queries you may have in relation to school operations.

We are looking forward to a successful new school year ahead and hope you enjoy the final days of summer break leading into Labour Day weekend!

Sincerely,

Huntington Park School Team

Ms. N. Radojevic – Principal