

Human Development and Sexual Health Learning

Human Development and Sexual Health will occur between Monday May 6th and Friday June 14th, 2024.

Key Messages for Parents/Caregivers

The following outlines key messages regarding delivery of the 2019 Health and Physical Education curriculum:

1. HWDSB is committed to the health and well-being of all our students. All students deserve to have the knowledge to keep themselves safe and to act with care and consideration for themselves, their peers, and all people in their communities.
2. We are committed to, through our Human Rights Policy, “Fostering and maintaining a culture of human rights at HWDSB requires providing equitable and inclusive services grounded in the principles of equity, inclusive design, anti-racism, anti-colonialism and decolonization, and anti-oppression; and identifying and addressing discriminatory biases and systemic barriers.”
3. Our staff is committed to teaching the 2019 curriculum including topics such as online safety, sexual orientation, mental health, gender identification and consent, with our continued comprehensive safety and well-being approach, in a professional and respectful manner that is both developmentally and age appropriate.
4. It is important that students feel connected to the curriculum, that they see themselves in what is taught, how it is taught, and how it applies to the world at large.
5. Parents are the primary educators of their children with respect to learning about values, appropriate behaviour and ethno-cultural, spiritual, and personal beliefs and traditions. Parents act as significant role models for their children. It is therefore important for schools and parents to work together to ensure that home and school provide a mutually supportive framework for young people’s education.
6. Families can find information on the HWDSB website at this link: [Human Development | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca)

Key Messages for parents/school councils include:

1. Teachers are required to teach and report on curriculum provided by the Ministry of Education;
2. Teaching and learning in all subject areas need to be inclusive, accepting, and free from discrimination;
3. We are committed to, through our Human Rights Policy, “Fostering and maintaining a culture of human rights at HWDSB requires providing equitable and inclusive services grounded in the principles of equity, inclusive design, anti-racism, anti-colonialism and decolonization, and anti-oppression; and identifying and addressing discriminatory biases and systemic barriers.”

4. Please feel free to review the curriculum at: [The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Health and Physical Education, 2019 - revised \(gov.on.ca\)](#).
5. Communication regarding when and what Human Development and Sexual Health learning is occurring in the classroom will be shared with parents, as per past practice; (i.e., letters sent home two weeks prior);
6. HWDSB remains committed to Ministry and Board plans and policies on equity and inclusion, as we strive to help all students and staff feel safe, supported, and accepted.
7. Families can find information on the HWDSB website at this link: [Human Development | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](#)