



Ray Lewis Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

27 Jessica Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8W 4A1
Phone: 905.318.3131
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EMAIL: raylewis@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Jennifer Burleigh
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Cheryl Urbanczyk
www.hwdsb.on.ca/raylewis

Hello Ray Lewis students and families.

I hope everyone has had a healthy and restful few months away from school and you are enjoying the last week of the summer. I would like to welcome the entire Legends community back to school and hope everyone is excited to be back learning and having fun together.

I know many students and parents are feeling unsure about returning to school. School staff have been working hard to make this September's return to school safe for our students. I hope the information shared in this communication will answer some questions you may have and ease your stress.

We have had some changes to our school organization which lead to some class changes for students and for staff. This week, classroom teachers will be emailing families to welcome students into their classes. Parents can also check the Parent Portal to view their schedules.

As you may have heard, the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), is delaying and staggering the start of the school year. The schedule for the next two weeks is located on our school website and on the Principal's twitter @JBurleighHWDSB. This allows a thoughtful and measured start to the school year, giving staff time to implement safety protocols, provide students needing supported transitions into the building the time they need and focused teaching of new routines to student around keeping everyone safe.

Staff are scheduling special visits for some students for Thursday and Friday of this week.

On Monday September 14th we welcome students (Last Names A to K) and the remaining half will attend on Tuesday September 15th (Last Names L to Z). On Wednesday September 16th, all students will be back in the building and ready to learn. Please remember to complete the attestation form before the first day of school.

The Bell Times at Ray Lewis have changed slightly with the morning bell sounding at 9:10am signaling the start of our school day. The school yard is supervised starting at 8:55am.

We have two 40-minute nutrition breaks, the first one at 10:58am and the other (which many consider lunch) at 1:14pm. Our school day ends at 3:30pm and the school yard is supervised until 3:45pm.



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Students and parents should not be arriving at school prior to school yard supervision at 8:55am. This year, we are asking parents and students to schedule drop off or arrival as close as possible to 8:55am to help staff with cohorting and physical distancing on the school yard. At the end of school day, we are also asking students and parent that pickup be prompt with no lingering on the school yard.

Ray Lewis has a very large staff so the parking lot will be for staff only. If you are driving to drop off or pick up your student, please park on the road at the front of the school or side streets that are adjacent to the school. We strongly encourage that our students walk or ride their bike. For those parents who are parking in the surrounding neighborhood please be sure to observe any city parking signs.

When students arrive at school they will need to lineup and stay in their designated Cohort Areas. The cohorts and cohort areas are assigned by classes and are an important step in maintaining a healthy and safe school. Supervising teachers will help guide students to their cohort areas and have them remain there. At 9:10am classroom teachers will pick up their classes and proceed into the building in a predetermined order to minimize doorway and hallway traffic. Cohort line-up areas will be at the back of the school (except for Kindergarten) and they will be identified by class signs with teacher and grade listed.

During nutrition breaks classes/cohorts need to stay together. For the inside portion of nutrition break students will remain in their classrooms to eat. During the outside portion classes/cohorts will have a designated area on the school yard. Supervising teachers will make sure students remain with their cohorts.

There are a number of public health measures that all schools in the HWDSB are following to help the students and staff be safe during the school day. Cohorting, wearing of masks (and additional PPE for staff), hand hygiene and physical distancing are all behaviours that will be explained, then expected of all of our students as we return to school. Repeated failure to follow these measures will be a considered a violation of the school's/board's Code of Conduct and progressive disciplinary steps will be taken.

Access to the school for visitors and parents will be greatly restricted this fall because of public health measures. If you need to get a message to your student or speak to a staff member, please call the school (905-318-3131) or email your child's educator. Reporting absences needs to be done using School Messenger.



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Last, McMaster Children Hospital has prepared a series of videos to help prepare children to return to school. Please take some time to share this resource with the students in your home.

Follow the link below; <https://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/back-to-school/>

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at the school or email me at jburleig@hwdsb.on.ca

Sincerely,

Jennifer Burleigh, Principal
Ray Lewis Elementary School
HWDSB