



Rockton Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

670 Hwy 8
Dundas, ON L9H 5E1
Phone: 289.345.4555
Fax: 519.647.0182

Principal: Leanne Tovey
Vice Principal: Bill Forrester
Office Administrator: Deb Jeffrey
EMAIL: rockton@hwdsb.on.ca
www.hwdsb.on.ca/rockton

Friday, August 29th, 2025

Good Afternoon Rockton Families,

We are excited to welcome students back to class for the 2025-2026 school year. A friendly reminder that the first day of school for Grades 1-8 will be **Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025**. We are thrilled to see students, staff and families again. Each new year is a new opportunity for students to reach their full potential, make new connections and learn and grow with their school community.

Over the summer we did have an addition to our administration at Rockton. Mr. Bill Forrester will be joining us as a half-time Vice Principal. I am very excited to welcome him to our Rockton Family! Mr. Forrester is looking forward to meeting our Ravens and getting to know students, families, and staff. I know he will be a great addition to our team here!

Beginning the new school year can be a time of excitement, nervousness and energy for students, staff and families alike. The start of the school year at Rockton is also a time of new beginnings filled with opportunities for every student to experience a sense of belonging, engage in dynamic learning and reach their full potential. We are excited to welcome back many students and welcome new students to Rockton as well!

To help Rockton families prepare for their child(ren)'s return to the classroom, we would like to share the following information:

Monday, September 1st, 2025

- Labour Day (no school)

Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025

- JK Students and SK students who are new to Rockton will be emailed by the teaching team and invited to a short visit with a parent/guardian/caregiver
- No school for returning Kindergarten Year 2/SK students
- First Day of school for Grade 1-8 students: our educators will meet students on the back playground at 9:15am and support students with knowing their new teacher and their class.

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

- All students attend school

To see the 2025-2026 school year calendar, please visit [School Year Calendar | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board](#)



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Parking Lot and Driving Lane Reminders

A reminder that, for student safety, please drive safely during drop-off and pick-up times at Rockton. Please do not pull into the Bus Lane at any time, please use the parking lot, or the Kiss-and-Drop Lane. Please do not park near the dumpsters, or outside any of the concrete lane markers. Please make sure that you and your children use the crosswalks for safety. Please do not walk between buses.

Playground Supervision Drop-off and Pick-up

Student supervision on the playground begins at 9:00am. Students should not be on our school yard before then. At the end of the day students being picked up, should be picked up at the 3:35pm dismissal bell. To eliminate disruptions, please do not pick-up after 3:00pm, the school is too busy and the office becomes overwhelmed and it interrupts student learning. If you do need to pick your child up early, please call the office and let them know earlier in the day so that your child's teacher can be notified and your child can be ready at the office for pick-up.

SchoolMessenger

Rockton and all HWDSB schools use SchoolMessenger to notify families about unexplained absences, as well as other important announcements. Families can use the free SchoolMessenger app or website to choose how they wish to receive these messages - <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home>. Families can also call 1-844-506-4350.

Code of Conduct & Mobile Devices

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 more: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/reducing-distractions-classrooms-schools/>

To support reducing distractions for students, students must not use their personal electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, laptops and tablets) during the instructional day. **Students are to have their devices stored out of view and powered off (or on silent mode) throughout the full school day, including nutrition breaks - unless permitted by the educator.** Where possible, we encourage all students to leave their devices at home.

Transportation

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) provides students with safe and secure transportation for eligible students by HWSTS. For more information, visit HWDSB's Transportation webpage (<https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/>).

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 2nd as changes can occur.



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School Cash Online

HWDSB's School Cash Online (<https://hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>) is a convenient online payment system for families to pay for activities, events and school items without handing in cash or cheques. Once parents sign up for an account and connect the student(s) they will be paying for, the account will move with the student(s) as they progress to other HWDSB schools. Even parents who are not able to make online payments through their bank are encouraged to sign up, because School Cash Online can let parents know about upcoming events, sends email reminders about payment due dates and can accept credit cards. Instructions are available on the attached form.

Family Communication

Staying connected with your child(ren)'s schools, 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 (<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/parent/>). We also invite families to keep up with HWDSB by [subscribing to email updates](#) or [following HWDSB on social media](#).

At Rockton, families will receive a weekly email through SchoolMessenger about the happenings at Rockton and upcoming events. Please be sure to have the correct email contact information on file with the office so that you receive these emails.

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.

We know students can feel a range of feelings leading up to the start of the school year, but we are here to support their back-to-school experience.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out at Rockton@hwdsb.on.ca or call 289-345-4555.

Sincerely,

Bill Forrester
Vice-Principal

Leanne Tovey
Principal