

# Sherwood Welcome Back to School 2022-2023

Hello Sherwood students and families!

I am the Principal Wendall Gillis, and on behalf of Vice Principals Dian Alexandre and Stephanie McNeill, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year. I hope your summer has been going well. At Sherwood, we are excited to begin our new school year.

HWDSB has been busy this summer preparing our new temporary school location at 75 Palmer Road, while the 25 High Street site undergoes extensive renovations! We shared a letter July 15 with updates from our school's key departments. You can find that [update on our school website](#) under News ([www.hwdsb.on.ca/sherwood](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/sherwood)).

I would like to add a few items to prepare for the start of our new school year:

## **Main Office:**

- The first day of school is Tuesday, September 6. We start at 8 a.m. (All bell times are the same as last year and please refer to the [July 15 update](#) on our website for specific class times).
- There is no student parking available at this time at our temporary school location. Please abide by all local street signs and be respectful of our immediate community members.
- You will be able to find your class schedule in the [Parent Portal](#), updated and ready for view, by Monday, August 29. (Take a pic of your schedule with your device if you can).
- Visit [www.hwdsb.on.ca/parent/](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/parent/) for information on accessing Parent Portal if you need to.
- If required, printed timetables will also be available in the cafeteria during the morning of the first day of school.
- For students who qualify, transportation letters will be ready for the first day of classes and may be accessed in your home room period one class (or main office if you do not have a period one home room class on your schedule). We also anticipate the letters will also be available for our orientation day Wednesday, August 31, if you are able to come.
- We will be providing new maps of the school that will be ready at the orientation day and the first day of school for your navigation to classes.

## **Student Services:**

Students will be able to access their timetables on Parent Portal as of August 29. If students see any issues on their timetables, such as a SEE GUIDANCE code, or if they have taken a summer school course and need to adjust their timetable, they are asked to book an appointment with their guidance counselor as soon as possible. You may book an appointment through our online booking app (found in your Guidance course on the Hub), or by calling the school. Your Guidance Counselor is determined by your last name:

- Last Names beginning with A-Fe: Ms. Grilli
- Last Names beginning with Fi-M: Ms. Vander Vliet

- Last Names beginning with N-Z: Mr. Sloan

Physical copies of timetables will be available the morning of the first day of school in the cafeteria for students who were unable to access them online.

Students taking eLearning courses in the 2022-23 school year should be able to access Semester 1 courses through their Hub starting September 6. Students can work independently on their eLearning courses in the Library Learning Commons or the Cafeteria.

## **Learning Resource Department:**

The Resource teachers will be at the school on August 31 (open house day) if you have any specific questions about accommodations or equipment.

Drop by the Library anytime and see Ms. McKague, Ms. Martin or Mr. Thomaidis, and we will be happy to answer any of your questions or help you find a class.

Special Education Services - Special Education teachers and rooms will all be on the main floor near the library.

Students with Individual Education plans (IEPs) - If you are a student with an IEP, you will be assigned a Resource teacher to help you navigate your schedule and classes throughout the year and we will reach out to you in September. iPads are picked up in the library.

## **Student Success:**

This year, Mr. Sillett and Ms. Oliver will be the student success team. Our focus will be on the incoming Grade 9 students but, as always, we will be available to support any student throughout the school year.

## **Orientation Days:**

We will host open house/orientation days on **Monday, August 29** and **Wednesday, August 31**.

**Monday, August 29** will be for Grade 9s only and will run online from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This will be more academically focused. All Grade 9s have been pre-registered and can join on Teams. Students should receive a Teams invite to their school email address in the coming days.

**Wednesday, August 31** will be in-person and split into two sections: 9 to 11:30 a.m. for Grade 9s, and 12 to 2 p.m. for grades 10 to 12.

- 9 - 11:30 a.m. will be Team Building and school orientation focused for Grade 9s. Grade 9s can meet in the back of the parking lot at 9 a.m. to sign in and meet Student Council (Look for the balloons!!). From there we will do some introductions, team-building activities, take a tour of the school and finish in the library for iPad distribution.

- 12 - 2 p.m. will be time for students in grades 10-12 to take a self-guided tour of the school. Students can enter through the main doors to greet Student Council members, who will be available with maps and to direct students as they need. Most classrooms will be closed, but students are welcome to walk around familiarize themselves with the building. Parents/Guardians and siblings are welcome to accompany students if they wish.

**Note:** Please be mindful during the open house we are still in preparation mode for our school. There will be areas that will still need unpacking and organization, but rest assured the school will be ready for operation our first day of school September 6. Also of note you will see some broken windows covered with plywood and these windows will be replaced after the open house but before the first day of school. So again we will be ready Sept 6<sup>th</sup> !

The idea for the open house is to allow our students and families to have a look at our main facilities and get an idea and feel for the school. I am hoping you can walk throughout the school and learn where to find entries, exits, your classrooms, cafeteria, washrooms, library, special education rooms, etc.

Key staff will attend, to answer any questions.

Thank you, students and families, for staying up to date as we prepare for school! Please email [sherwood@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:sherwood@hwdsb.on.ca) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wendall Gillis  
Principal