



# Sir William Osler Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Welcome to June!

It has been a challenging April and May. We are very thankful for the efforts of both students and school community as we have all made great strides to make this change in routine, both a success, and a work in progress. Well done SWO! In true elementary school fashion, *give yourself a pat on the back!* Please find the following information in this update:

- Class Building
- Grade 8 Graduation
- School Council
- Report Cards

## **Class Building**

It is that time of year when we take a critical look at what our classes will look like for September 2020. We are forging ahead with a plan that may change due to an unknown September environment. We will adapt when we have more information.

The purpose of this section is to:

1. Share our 2020/21 school organization with our school community, as provided by the School Board.
2. How we approach building classes.

### 2020/21 Classes

JK/SK (2 full classes)	6A
JK/SK (Class of 15 - No ECE)	6B
1A	7A
1/2A	7B
2A	7/8A
2/3A	8A
3/4A	8B
3/4B	6FI
4/5A	6/7FI
5A	7/8FI
5/6A	8FI
	ExSL Spec Ed Class

Classes have been listed without teachers attached. At this time, we are unclear as to our final teaching assignments. We will wait until the completion of any potential retirements, medical leaves, transfers, etc., as these staffing scenarios can result in a vacancy at SWO. The most up-to-date staffing/class information available for SWO families, will be known on the last day of school. This information, complete with your child's new teacher and class placement, can be found listed on the final report card . . . keep an eye out!

Since March Break, I have received 109 queries from parents with class requests for their children. We would like to take this opportunity to provide parents with a window into how classes are built. Each teacher is required to complete the following information for each student (applicable criteria only). This provides us with **600 individual snapshots** to support our class building:

Reading Level	Individualized Education Plan (IEP)	Behaviour Considerations
Numeracy Level	Exceptionality (LD, Gifted, etc.)	Medical Concerns
Literacy Level	Accommodations / Modifications	Attendance Concerns
	Self-Regulation Considerations	Gender Distribution

**This is the criteria used to support class placements.** As you can imagine, it is an in-depth process to blend and design classes to provide environments that best support the learning needs of our students. Please note: a class placement criteria that is not listed - **Friend Requests.**

## **Class Building occurs in three phases.**

1. Classroom teachers collaborate to build classes based on the above criteria.
2. Learning Resource teachers and school administrators review tentative classes after teachers have contributed. This is done to allow for a different lens with respect to special education and other programming considerations.
3. School administration may adjust or approve classes after phase two. In a school of 600 students, there are numerous issues and considerations that teaching staff will not be privy to and may require administrator class adjustment. If there are any unclarified or outstanding issues that have come out of phase one and two, school administration will make final decisions regarding student placement.

We thought it is important for parents to have an opportunity to see how classes are built and why parent requests, which are added value, do not guarantee any placement or circumvent the process and criteria listed above. If you have any questions, we would love to hear from you.

## **Grade 8 Graduation**

With our present circumstance, we are unable to celebrate this milestone with our graduation class in traditional fashion. The HWDSB has provided some guidelines, and within that context we will be moving forward with a virtual event scheduled for **June 17th**. In excess of 500 possible people joining the celebration, taking bandwidth and HWDSB guidelines into consideration, this event will be prerecorded and published on the 17th so graduates can choose to attend on the day, as well as tuck the celebration away as a keepsake for future viewing. With final HWDSB guidelines available early next week, parents and graduates can expect further graduation information to be sent out by the middle of next week. This information will be sent via your child's **homeroom teacher on Google Classroom**. It will be the expectation that graduates **share this final graduation information with parents** as there will be an actionable section requiring parent sign off.

## **School Council**

I would like to acknowledge our 2019/20 School Council for their leadership this year. We had an exuberant group of parent leaders that were always working to benefit our students and school community. Thank you for your efforts and we hope to draw another exceptional group next year. Look out for School Council information in September.

## **Report Cards**

At this time, we await the instructions from the Ministry as to how final report cards will be distributed. This information will be sent out via an HWDSB mass communication.

**Stay safe SWO. We miss you!**