



Viola Desmond Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

50 Secord Dr.
Hamilton, Ontario
L8K3W7
Phone: 905.296.2549
Fax: 905.661.8079

EMAIL: violadesmond@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Mrs. T. Morabito
VICE-PRINCIPALS: Ms. J. Welsh
Mr. Y. Tjanetis
www.hwdsb.on.ca/violadesmond/

May 6th, 2025

Dear Grade 8 Parents/Guardians,

The date for our Grade 8 Commencement has been set to **Friday, June 20, 2025**. With the event on the horizon, we wanted to share with you more details to assist with your planning for the day.

Friday, June 20th

Mandatory Rehearsal - 9:00 am - 11:00 am

All Grade 8 students will meet at Glendale Secondary School (145 Rainbow Dr) for a full **mandatory** rehearsal. It is recommended that the students bring the shoes they will be wearing at the ceremony to wear during the rehearsal. Students will be dismissed from Glendale at the end of the rehearsal (approx. 11 am), under the supervision of their parents to prepare for the festivities later on in the evening.

Ceremony - Grade 8 Students to arrive at 4:00 pm, Procession will begin at 5:00 pm

The Commencement ceremony begins in the Glendale Auditorium at **5:00 pm sharp**. All grade 8 students are to arrive at **4:00 pm** and will be marshalled by the teachers before the ceremony. Due to fire regulations, each grade 8 student will be provided with **three numbered tickets** for their family for the Commencement Ceremony. Grade 8 students **do not** need a ticket for themselves. Tickets will be provided at the rehearsal on Friday, June 20th. If you do not require all three tickets, please inform the school so that they can be reallocated to families that require extra tickets. If you require extra tickets please inform the school in writing by 12:00pm on Monday, June 16th, 2025. No extra tickets will be issued after that point. Please note that extra tickets are not guaranteed as we must follow fire code regulations.

Dinner/Dance - 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Grade 8 students are invited to attend a dinner/dance in the Viola Desmond School gymnasium. Tickets for the event will be **\$5** each (cash only please). Tickets will be sold from June 10th - 16th. The dinner/dance will be supervised by Viola Desmond Staff. For security reasons, only grade 8 students from the Viola Desmond class of 2025 are permitted to attend. Transportation to and from the dinner/dance is the responsibility of parents/guardians. Please arrange to have your child arrive at the Viola Desmond gymnasium by 6:30pm, using the doors off Glen Echo Drive. Please do not use the front entrance of the school. Students must be picked up by their parent/guardian by



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8:30 pm. If students are picked up by someone other than their parent/ guardian, they must inform the school with a written note, **prior** to June 20th.

Attendance June 23rd - 26th

The school year for all elementary students ends at 3:05pm on Thursday, June 26th, 2025. Historically, most parents choose to allow their grade 8 child to remain at home after the commencement activities.

IF YOU ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO REMAIN HOME AFTER COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES, PLEASE INFORM THE OFFICE SO THAT OFFICE STAFF DO NOT MAKE ATTENDANCE CALLS FOR YOUR CHILD.

Please note that if your child does attend school after June 20th, the expectation is that they will remain at school ***all day*** and will be required to complete any and all work that their teachers have assigned them.

While Grade 8 Commencement festivities are an important milestone in the lives of our young adults, it is best to keep the evening simple and in perspective. Very expensive clothing, limos and other extravagances are best saved for high school or post-secondary school graduations.

We are looking forward to celebrating this event with the grade 8 students and their families.

Sincerely,

The Grade 8 Team

Mrs. T. Morabito, Principal

Ms. J. Welsh, Vice-Principal

Mr. Y. Tjanetis, Vice-Principal