



Waterdown District High School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Dear Waterdown students, parents, and guardians:

I hope that your summer has given you time: Time to renew relationships; time to pursue hobbies and excitement; time to rest and relax. And although our schedules may feel full as we launch into the new school year, I very much look forward to our time together over the next ten months: Welcome to all of our students new to Waterdown and welcome back to our returning students.

We've had some exciting changes to our building over the summer! Our front doors and atrium have been redone, we have new dust collectors in our Tech shop to enhance Health and Safety, and we have a host of new single-use washroom facilities. In the near future, WDHS will see renovations to our Learning Commons as well as new doors and windows too.

And our physical plant is only one consideration as staff work together to bring a positive experience to our students. A continued priority for this school year is to ensure that all of our students feel a sense of belonging at Waterdown. We want every voice to matter, and we will continue to seek the perspectives of both our students and families to that end.

To our students, you know (or if you are new to Waterdown, you will quickly learn!) that Waterdown Secondary is a special place. While our mission is to deliver curriculum and move you forward to earn your Ontario Secondary School Diploma, we know that we cannot do this unless you feel accepted and celebrated; seen, heard, and valued. Every adult in this building works towards that goal.

We will be hosting our **Grade 9 Orientation Day on Tuesday, August 26**. We look forward to welcoming all Grade 9 Warriors on that day. Please arrive at the school by 9:00 am and enter through the main doors. At check-in you will receive your schedule for the semester and be assigned to a group. Groups will participate in a series of activities (school tours, icebreakers, motivational speaker, Q&A, etc...) that wrap up by our 2:30 pm departure time. Have a look at our teams and clubs: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/waterdown/teams-and-clubs/>. We hope that you'll find something that engages you. If not, let us know what you're interested in!

All families will be able to access student timetables through the Parent Portal during the week of August 25. Students and families who would like to explore a schedule/timetable change can make a guidance appointment during the first week of school through the following link:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/WDHSGuidanceAppointments@hwdsbonca.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

Grade 9 students will receive their locker during their Orientation Day; returning students will have their lockers assigned through Homerooms during the first week of school.

HWDSB
BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Our first day of classes is Tuesday, September 2. Waterdown's bell times are as follows:

Period 1 8:00 – 9:15

Period 2 9:19 – 10:34

Period 3 10:38 – 11:53

Period 4 11:56 – 1:11

Period 5 1:15 – 2:30

For information about busing, please follow the link: [FAQs | Waterdown District High School \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](#). Also, for the latest information, please subscribe to our website: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/waterdown/>. Our first **School Council meeting of the year is Tuesday, September 30 at 6:30 pm** in the school library. All parents and caregivers are welcome.

Finally, I want to express how much I am looking forward to working alongside you throughout the 2025/26 school year. Students, staff, families, and community – together we make a powerful team. We will be learning with and from each other this year and I am confident that we will accomplish great things!

See you soon!

Greg Clark
Principal
Waterdown District High School