



Westdale Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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IMPORTANT 2020-2021 INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Dear Warriors,

Welcome to the 2020/21 school year—a special welcome to our new students. While we would all like to be returning under different conditions, we are still excited to have you back in the building and learn with you in our new Adaptive Model (a rotating, blended learning model that has a combination of face-face and remote learning). Please read the following carefully (and please share with your parents/guardians) and know that things are changing frequently and as they do, we will send the info out as soon as we can. It is also important that you pay attention to all HWDSB info sent and/or the Board's website.

ADAPTIVE LEARNING MODEL

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and protocols, we are beginning this school year with a rotating, blended learning model (see Rotation Model below). Please note the following with respect to the model:

- Our day will still start at 8:35am and end at 3:05pm based on our 5-period day bell times—this is particularly important to note for students on school buses as our school buses will run with this start and end time in mind.
- Students on school buses or with a long travel distance may elect to stay at school in a study hall for their remote learning (if you are going to stay, this is to be declared through Parent Portal and also, please email our office, at westdale@hwdsb.on.ca).
- Students have been assigned to cohorts and you must remain in your assigned cohort and come to school on your cohort day only—this information is found in the Parent Portal.
- We will not be taking cohort change requests to accommodate friends. These cohorts have been carefully created to balance classes and accommodate families and student transportation needs.
- The start of the school year will be staggered (please see below): Sep. 8 & 9 will be for our students that require Special Education Supports with Transition (families will be contacted by Westdale staff to set up appointments for these days); Sep. 10 & 11 will be for self-contained classes and grades 9 and 10 cohort classes; full cohorts start on Sep 14th.
- Self-contained special education classes will follow our regular day schedule, every day for classes and busing.

Secondary Schools – Staggered Start

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11
LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health*	Students that Require Special Education Supports/Supports with Transitions and Mental Health*	Grade 9 & 10 Cohort A In-Person and Remote Learning Classes Grade 11 & 12 Remote Learning Classes Only	Grade 9 & 10 Cohort B In-Person and Remote Learning Classes Grade 11 & 12 Remote Learning Classes Only
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14	TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15	WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16	THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17	FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 18
All Students Cohort A	All Students Cohort B	All Students Cohort A	All Students Cohort B	All Students Cohort A

The Rotation Model

Block 1 – 145 minutes (in-person/school by cohort) instruction

5 minutes independent study

Lunch and transition 80 minutes

Study Hall

Block 2 – 40 minutes remote learning (full class) + 10 min of independent study

Block 3 – 40 minutes remote learning (full class) + 10 min of independent study

Block 4 – 40 minutes remote learning (full class) + 10 min of independent study

Bell Times for the Rotation Model

Block 1:
8:35-11:05

Dismissal/Lunch:
11:05-12:25

Block 2:
12:25-1:15pm

Block 3:
1:20-2:10

Block 4:
2:15-3:05

**Also very important to note: While Westdale is a 5-period day, during the use of the adaptive learning model, we will be combining periods 3 and 4. This means that during Block 3 of the adaptive learning model, students of Westdale will consider this either their pd 3 or their pd 4 class from their timetable and during Block 4 of the adaptive model, students of Westdale will consider this their pd 5 class from their timetable. **

GUIDANCE APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

1) Timetable Distribution

Timetables are available through Parent Portal. There has been communication to parent/guardian via email to support access to Parent Portal. If your family is having difficulty accessing Parent Portal, please contact info@hwdsb.on.ca. Cohort information will be communicated on Parent Portal the week of August 31.

2) Course Changes:

Guidance counsellors will be available beginning Monday, August 31st for limited virtual appointments through Microsoft Teams or by phone. Counsellors will see students for course changes based on the following circumstances:

- Student has a See Guidance code (SEEGUI) on their timetable
- Student requires a course change based on summer school achievement
- Student has a course in their timetable for which they are missing a prerequisite
- Student is requesting a change of pathway (e.g. academic to applied)
- Student requires a course change to meet post-secondary requirements
- Student is requesting a change to eLearning courses
- Student has an incomplete timetable

Please respect our criteria for prioritizing requests at this time. Please do not book an appointment between August 31 and September 4 to request a change of elective courses or a change of the order of courses.

Students may book Guidance appointments by accessing the **Westdale Guidance (1920) OR Westdale Guidance (2021)** course on The Hub. Please follow the directions on the front page of the course to book an appointment with the appropriate counsellor, based on the last name of the student (please see below).

3) Remote Learning

Parents/guardians may decide to have their student learn at home. All students are automatically enrolled into Westdale blended learning courses with in-class and online components. Parents/guardians may decide that students will not attend the in-class portion and instead complete all work and participate in learning through the Hub. More information will be provided later about how parents/guardians may notify the school that students will be attending classes through remote learning only.

Also, important to note: Full e-Learning courses may be full and options are limited. If you elect to stay with your Westdale timetable and not come into the school for the in-person instruction, you will be working independently from the HUB for the in-person course for those weeks. As such, no direct teacher instruction (or hard copies) will be provided until the course moves to a remote learning block and online, synchronous learning with the teacher.

4) New Registrations

Families who have moved into the Westdale catchment area may register their student at Westdale. Parents/guardians may contact Mrs. Angela Harvey (aharvey@hwdsb.on.ca), Westdale Student Services as of Monday, August 31st to set up a registration appointment.

5) Contacting Guidance

Our Guidance office will be responsive to emails on a consistent basis beginning Monday, August 31st. We expect a high volume of communication to our office during the first few weeks of school. We apologize for any delay in replying. We appreciate that this will be a unique beginning to a school year and respect the questions and concerns of our Westdale families. We will reply to your concern as soon as we can.

MRS. A. HARVEY (email: aharvey@hwdsb.on.ca) STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

MRS. K. GIROLAMETTO (email: kgirolam@hwdsb.on.ca) – Surnames A to B + Fee Paying VISA Students

MRS. K. PARKES-HALLMARK (email: kiparkes@hwdsb.on.ca) – Surnames C to G and I.B. Students (Grade 11/12)

MR. D. MEYER (email: dmeyer@hwdsb.on.ca) – Surnames H to N

MRS. S. GENNARI (email: sgennari@hwdsb.on.ca) – Surnames O to Z

MS. TRACY KUDER (email: tkuder@hwdsb.on.ca) – ESL + Fee Paying VISA Students

Our team is focused on the well-being and achievement of students at Westdale this year. We are very much looking forward to supporting students with having a successful school year.

OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE:

- Attestations must be completed by parents/guardians in the Parent Portal before you may attend school.
- Masks (that cover mouth and nose) are always mandatory while in the school building.
- Following all Public Health protocols are mandatory including social distancing and frequent hand washing.
- Congregating in the halls is not allowed—all students are to proceed immediately to their class.
- Based on classroom locations, students will be assigned an entry/exit door and washroom to use. More info to come on this.
- Transportation times remain aligned to our bell schedule—please make alternative arrangements if you want to leave the school after the morning face to face learning; otherwise, please declare in the Parent Portal that you will be staying for study hall to do your remote learning.
- There will be no courtesy transportation opportunities.
- There will be limited access to the Main Office for students and parents/guardians. Parents/guardians are not to be in the building without an appointment.
- If you have e-Learning or a spare, you do not need to be in the building while that class is running face to face.
- There is no change room use so please come prepared with PE clothes on or have them under other clothing.
- Wherever possible, PE will take place outside so be prepared for outside activities.
- Lockers will not be available so please have a something to hold your items/books etc. with you.
- At this time, Coop placements may take place if the employer is willing and the employer is meeting Public Health protocols.
- We are hoping to run repertoire music classes (those music classes scheduled outside of the regular school day); if this is allowed, they will be taught through remote learning only.
- Music classes held on site will not contain brass or wind instruments.
- There will be no cafeteria services.
- Extra-curricular teams and clubs will not be running during the month of September.

There will be much more information to come as our new learning model unfolds. It is important for all of us to respect the protocols in place to keep everyone safe and healthy. You are not alone. We are here for you.
See you soon Warriors!

Mr. Connor
Principal
