

# Westdale Secondary School



## Back to school Questions & Answers for Students & Families

Welcome back to school. Staff at WSS are excited to begin our school year. Things may look and feel a little different this year but please be assured our commitment to your safety and learning are as important as ever to us!

We look forward to meeting with you throughout the year as you begin your learning journey. Have a great start to your academic year. Here are some Q & A's we have been getting and we hope this helps.

WSS Administration

Mr. J Connor, Ms. S Beauchamp and Mr. W Gillis

Question	Answer
If I stay for <b>study hall</b> in the afternoon, what does that look like?	You will be assigned a room location with a few other students. We have very strict public health guidelines to not mix students with other cohorts which means you will most likely not be with friends. You are expected to engage in your online classes all afternoon in that same room location. Movement is restricted (except washroom breaks) There will be teacher supervision but little to no teacher support for your class as teachers will be teaching online.
What does <b>lunch</b> look like?	After 11:05 AM during your face to face you will be assigned a room to eat lunch and will have to stay seated in the room location for 80 mins (again no gathering time for students)
Why are they calling High School “adaptive” learning?	We could be fully back in school with all students (as per normal years) or we could be fully online (as the end of last year) or we can be adaptive which is partial in school (face to face) and partial online ... hence “adaptive”
Can I come to school starting next week for my morning?	Yes you may come to school (during your designated times) but only if your parent has completed the attestation on the Parent Portal otherwise you will be sent home until this is completed. Make sure to complete the afternoon study declaration to indicate if you are attending study hall or not for the afternoons. See the “FORMS” tab once in the Parent Portal.

What does the day look like for adaptive?	Students are divided in half Cohort A and Cohort B, each student will attend in the morning for 150 min of face to face learning and then go home or stay in school for study hall to engage in synchronous online distance learning
Where is the parent portal?	<b><u><a href="https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/parent/">https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/parent/</a></u></b>
What does synchronous mean?	Synchronous means learning is happening in the moment, live. So in terms of distance learning your teacher will set an exact time you are to be online for a set period of time (40 min teacher time each distance learning class in the afternoon). You are expected to attend this class online just as you would if you showed up live in person to a class.
Is attendance mandatory?	Yes attendance will be taken for all classes online and face to face and is mandatory.
What is a rotation?	The High School semester which runs from September to the end of January is divided into four rotations. The first rotation starts in early September and whatever is on your timetable as period 1 is your face to face class you attend every other day for the morning 150 mins (M,W every other Friday for Cohort A) and (T, R, every other Friday for Cohort B). In the second rotation during the second quarter of the semester (starting in October) your period 2 class will have the face to face in the morning (your period 1 goes online in the afternoon) and so on.
What time does school start if it is my day to be in school?	8:35 AM to 11:05 AM (150 min with 5 min in class break)
Do I have to stay in the one class all morning?	Yes except for a washroom break or if teacher takes the class outside on school property. There is little to no time for student gathering in school on purpose to minimize contact of Covid 19.
Can I leave the school for lunch?	Yes you can leave the school and will only be allowed back in for the afternoon study at 12:25 pm when afternoon distance learning starts.
Can I do my distance learning in the afternoon at home?	Yes for sure. Just get your parents to go to the Parent Portal and choose the option in the Forms tab that indicates your study hall preference (home or in school)
If I choose to study in the afternoon at home can I leave for home after my morning class?	Yes you have approximately 80 min to get home, have lunch and get ready for afternoon online classes.
Can I opt out of the morning sessions but still stay in my classes at Westdale and work online?	Yes you can and your parent /guardian will have to communicate with your guidance counsellor regarding this issue.
Do I have to wear a mask?	Yes non-medical grade mask (cloth mask is ok) is required at all times by all individuals in the school. Bandanas and scarves and other similar type coverings are not permitted.

Do students need to wear face shields?	No
Will there be exams at the end of the semester?	Yes more details to follow.
Will there be tests and assignments during the year?	Yes , we are working out those details for each class and your teacher will talk more about this with you as the semester begins.
Is study hall available for students on spare ?	Yes you would have to request.
What does the day schedule look like?	Rotation 1:  P1 8:35 AM to 11:05 AM  Lunch/travel time/ 11:05 -12:25 PM  Afternoon online 12:25 PM – 3:05 PM
Will there be fire drills?	Yes much as we did before. With Code Lock Down and Hold and Secure drills.
When I come to school which door do I enter and when?	Depending on your class we have assigned entry door around the school. Your teacher will direct you to which door you must enter and leave. You are also only to use certain washrooms and again your teacher will inform you ahead of time. This is to minimize needless travel inside the school as much as possible.
When does school actually start?	Monday Sept 14 <sup>th</sup> for everyone online  Mon Sept 14 .... Grade 9,10 cohort A  Tues Sept 15 ... Grade 9,10 Cohort B  Wed Sep 16 <sup>th</sup> .... All grades Cohort A  Thur Sept 17 <sup>th</sup> .... All grades Cohort B  Friday Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> ... All grades Cohort B
Where can I find information about school start up?	Check the HWDSB website ( <a href="https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/">https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/</a> ) and the news feed on the Westdale website ( <a href="https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westdale/">https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westdale/</a> ).  Also check your HWDSB email account daily for updates from your teachers.
Who will be supervising during lunch and study hall?	If you choose to stay for lunch you will be assigned a room and desk and you are restricted to this this area only. Same for study hall. There will be teachers moving up and down the halls and checking in on classrooms to ensure all protocols of staying in seats and wearing masks (when not eating).

Can I eat in my classroom?	You can only eat in your designated lunch room which may or may not be your classroom. During your morning face to face sessions from 8:35 AM to 11:05 AM you are allowed to drink water but no eating.
How do I get textbooks and materials for my classes?	More to come on this but we will most likely be designating certain pick up days in parking lot as we did last spring.
If I have a spare period but signed up for study hall, may I stay home for the month or so that my spare period is in the morning and then start attending study hall again when I actually have a class to go to in the morning again?	Yes just make sure your parent excuses you on the Parent Portal by clicking on the file in the FORMS tab regarding Study Hall. You will then have to contact a VP regarding intention to attend Study Hall next rotation.
If I'm not attending in-person how do I get my iPad?	We are working on this more to come. We will most likely designate certain pick up days in the parking lot as we did last spring. More to come.
Can I drink water in the classroom?	Yes.
Do I have to be online for the full period of the morning class when my cohort is not in class (if it's a cohort A day and I'm cohort B)?	You are expected to be working on your period 1 material but not necessarily online.
Can I just check in to each of my afternoon classes on the HUB to get my daily work, or do I have to stay online for the full 40 minutes?	Need to stay for the full 40 mins and pay attention to teacher instructions as if you were in school live.
Why does cohort B have so many Fridays?	Cohorts A and B alternate every other Friday.
Will the fitness room/weight room be open?	No
Can I change cohorts for the AM?	No