



# Westdale Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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[www.hwdsb.on.ca/westdale](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westdale)  
Principal: Mr. B. Goodram  
Vice-Principals: Mr. T. Fisher, Ms. S. Beauchamp

September 2, 2022

Dear families,

We are excited to welcome students back to class for the 2022-23 school year.

We know that the past two years have been challenging, and we are thrilled to see students, staff and families again. Each new year is a great new opportunity.

A friendly reminder that the first day of school will be **Tuesday, September 6, 2022**. The bell times at Westdale are 8:00am to 2:30pm.

We know that many families remain concerned about safety, and we are too. We continue to take COVID-19 precautions, such as doing daily [COVID-19 school and child care screening](#) and staying home when sick or instructed within the screening tool.

As we move through the pandemic, we will continue to update families on important developments. We know that families may have a lot of questions.

We also invite families to keep up with communications from HWDSB by [subscribing to email updates](#) or following HWDSB on social media. For school specific information, please visit our website [Westdale Secondary School \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](#). Additionally, Westdale has active social media accounts: @WestdaleSS (Twitter) @whatsupwestdalewarriors (Instagram) with important school announcements, news, and celebrations.

Please reach out to our school if you have any questions.

Here are some important points to remember as students prepare for the start of the school year:

### Supporting a Positive Return to School

HWDSB will continue to offer a wide variety of mental health supports for students, knowing that the pandemic has impacted student well-being. This is especially important during the return to school, which can be stressful for some students. See some supportive tips on our [recent web post](#). Explore our [We Help web page](#) for more evidence-based and timely school-based mental health services and supports.



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Across HWDSB, we are also reintroducing a welcoming, inclusive initiative to help students as they return to school. Reimagining Wellness 2.0 is a series of activities and lessons which address needs arising during the pandemic. Watch for details in the days ahead.

## Secondary eLearning

For secondary students, eLearning continues to be the remote option. Students should contact Student Services at their school if they are interested in participating in eLearning for the 2022-2023 school year.

## Addressing a Concern

Students and families with classroom concerns are encouraged to contact their student's classroom teacher. School-wide concerns can be addressed by the principal. [Addressing a Concern \(PDF\)](#).

## Right to Disconnect

Healthy work-life boundaries, including the ability for all employees to disconnect from work after hours, is an important part of maintaining one's health and well-being. HWDSB has implemented a [Right to Disconnect Procedure](#) to support educators, administrators and other HWDSB staff. While all urgent communication will continue to be shared after hours, please note that families communicating with educators and administrators may receive a delay in response to all non-emergency inquiries received after hours.

We know the return to school, especially for those who had been learning remotely, can be stressful for some students. We are here to support every student. If you think your child might struggle with school, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Brian Goodram  
Principal  
Westdale Secondary School