



Westmount Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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PRINCIPAL: Geeta Malhotra
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www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount

June 14, 2021

Dear Wildcat Families,

Happy June! We hope that you are doing well.

As you know, our last few weeks of semester 2 will continue to be virtual and remote. We wanted to outline for you what you can expect as we wrap up our final semester and what this might look like for our students.

School Year Changes

We have had many changes to our school year calendar. These changes have been initiated by the current circumstances of the pandemic. Our last day of class instruction has been changed to Thursday, June 16th. Students are encouraged to communicate with their teachers about when any outstanding evaluations are due. Another change to the school calendar, similar to last semester, includes the cancellation of final exams.

Student Success Days

In place of our exam days, the week of June 17th to June 24th have been repurposed as Student Success Days. These days are intended for students not on track to complete their courses, for students working towards course carry-over or on a reach ahead, and for students who are on track but have not yet successfully demonstrated their learning of an Overall Expectation(s). Students and teachers should negotiate a learning plan to submit evidence of their learning that has not yet been demonstrated.

Student Success Days are structured to run from 8:40-3:15 pm each day and will follow our regular school bell times with five 75 minute periods. Please see schedule below:

Student Success Bell Day Schedule

Period 1:	8:40 am – 9:55 am
Period 2:	10:03 am – 11:18 am
Period 3/Sr. Lunch:	11:23 am – 12:38 pm
Period 4/Jr. Lunch:	12:40 pm – 1:55 pm
Period 5:	2:00 pm – 3:15 pm



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Communication with teachers during this week will be virtual/remote via MS Teams, email or phone calls. If it is necessary to come in the building, teacher and student should discuss an appropriate time to come to Westmount.

Students who are participating in Student Success Days in collaboration with their teachers will have a final submission of work deadline of Thursday, June 24th at noon.

Students who are on track to earn their credit and have successfully demonstrated their learning are not required to participate during Student Success days.

Carry-Over Process

Carry-over (CO) is a structure at Westmount that allow students to continue a course from semester 1 into semester 2 or from semester 2 into the following semester 1 in the new school year. Carry-overs are granted if students meet the unit count submission and if COs are agreed upon as the purposeful next step by teacher and student in their learning plan. Teachers will be completing carry-over forms over the next two weeks and contacting students/parents and guidance counsellors as to who is eligible. Students are to contact their guidance counsellor to make necessary timetable changes to schedule a carry-over into semester 1. Class spots are limited so please do so as soon as possible.

Next Steps

As we wrap up our semester please remember:

- Students on track are to ensure they have connected with their teachers to confirm there are no outstanding evaluations that need to be submitted to demonstrate student learning.
- Students not on track who are working towards a credit, carry-over, reach ahead or looking to repeat a course next year in credit recovery are to ensure they have connected with their teacher to create a learning plan outlining expectations for participation during Student Success Days. This includes time/method they will connect with their teacher(s) as well as what work needs to be completed for evaluation. Final deadline for work submission is June 24th at noon.
- Students should also connect with Guidance and/or Learning Resource for any timetable changes or supports that may be needed.
- As caregivers, connect with your students to celebrate their successes and support the areas where your child may need additional assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with your student's teachers, guidance counsellor, student success teacher or learning resource teacher.



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Outdoor Class of 2021 Celebrations—June 17th & 18th (1:00-6:00 pm)

Although we cannot have a formal graduation celebration again this year due to the pandemic, we have been given permission to celebrate all our Grade 12 students and graduating Grade 11 students in an outdoor celebration. This celebration is referred to a Commencement as all Grade 12 students are welcome to participate regardless of their graduation date officially falling this June or next year. Students are asked to pre-book their visit time to Westmount to pick up their grad gowns, caps, stoles and gift on either June 17 or June 18. They may bring up to 4 close contacts with them. During this time, they will have the opportunity to take an individual picture with a professional photographer. Outdoor stations will also be set up for family and friends to take their group pictures as well.

On these dates, we also ask that all students attending return their ipads as well as any other school resources that were borrowed over the semester. (e.g. uniforms, texts, novels, instruments). An email was sent to all of our students. Screening, booking times and registering guest protocols are outlined in the previous message.

Virtual Commencement Celebration---June 24th at 4:00 pm

A virtual Commencement Celebration will be streamed on June 24th at 4:00 pm. All Grade 12s and graduating Grade 11s are invited to this celebration. Because this celebration is pre-recorded the link will be available to students after the date to watch with family and friends. The link will be shared with students next week.

Resource Return—June 23rd & June 24th (9:00-2:30 pm)

Students in Grades 9-11 who will not be returning to Westmount in September, are asked to please drop off their ipad, cube, cord and case to the school. Items should be placed in a plastic bag and labelled with the student name/grade so that it can be recorded as returned.

Students returning to Westmount next year may hold on to their ipads for use in September.

All students in Grades 9-11, are asked to return all textbooks, novels, uniforms, instruments and any other school resources that have been borrowed for the semester. Materials should be placed in a plastic bag and clearly labelled with student name/grade.

September 2021 School Year Start Up

Based on what we currently know our Board will be offering on-site all day learning next year as well as remote learning in the form of e-learning delivery. The on-site learning model has not yet been finalized at the time of writing this communication. We hope to learn more in the next few weeks and will continue to communicate with our families over the summer months via school messenger, email and school website. If you have any questions, please reach out to the school via email or leave a phone message. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.



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Thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we navigated yet another challenging school year. We wish our graduates and non-returning students much success in their future endeavors and look forward to seeing our returning students in September.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy summer!

Sincerely,

Ms. Geeta Malhotra
Principal