



# Westmount Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

39 Montcalm Drive  
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 4B1  
**Phone:** 905.385.5395  
**Fax:** 905.574.6020

EMAIL: [westmount@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:westmount@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: Geeta Malhotra  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Lisa Farrugia / Dan Stepaniuk  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount)

August 23, 2024

Dear Westmount Students and Families,

Welcome to a new school year at Westmount Secondary School! We hope you had a relaxing and healthy summer. A special welcome to our Grade 9 students, our newest Wildcats to our school community.

In this letter, you will find some helpful information for the start up in September. Please take the time to review it as it provides a summary of many operational procedures we will be following this year. You will also find attached the secondary school calendar that outlines how the school year is set up as well as highlighting key dates of importance.

A few reminders we wanted to share with you:

## **Grade 9 Orientation**

All Grade 9 students are welcome to participate in our one-day on-site Grade 9 Orientation on **Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am-1:30 pm**. Caregivers are invited to drop off their child and then pick them up afterwards. A variety of team-building, wellness and goal-setting activities will be incorporated throughout the day as students gain a better understanding of the Westmount program. Timetables, photo ID cards, T-shirts and agendas will be distributed during the day. Participation is encouraged but not mandatory. Details have been shared via email to Grade 9 parents/caregivers. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school or Ms. Gauley, [mgauley@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:mgauley@hwdsb.on.ca) our Student Success Teacher.

## **September Start-Up**

Please note that the first day of school for students is **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We will be following a special bell schedule allowing students to connect with their advisor teachers first. Please see schedule below.

**HWDSB**  
**BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.**



# Westmount Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

39 Montcalm Drive  
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 4B1  
**Phone:** 905.385.5395  
**Fax:** 905.574.6020

EMAIL: [westmount@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:westmount@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: Geeta Malhotra  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Lisa Farrugia / Dan Stepaniuk  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount)

## **September 3--Bell Schedule (Break/Travel Time between periods):**

8:40 am -- 9:15 am	<b>Advisor</b>
9:22 am -- 10:27 am	Period 1
10:34 am -- 11:39 am	Period 2
11:46 am -- 12:51 pm	Period 3 (Senior Lunch)
12:58 pm -- 2:03 pm	Period 4 (Junior Lunch)
2:10 pm -- 3:15 pm	Period 5

## **Student Drop-Off/Building Access**

A reminder to parents/caregivers that once school begins, student drop off/pick up is at the Westmount Recreation Centre. Please do not drop off students in the parking lots or on residential streets as this has the potential to create safety issues for pedestrians and residents. Students cannot enter the building before 8:00 am unless involved in a teacher-supervised activity.

## **Ipad/Laptop Distribution**

Grade 9 students will receive laptops this year. Permission forms will need to be completed and signed before computers are issued to students. These forms should be accessible on the Parent Portal but hard copies will also be available for students to take home. Students in Grades 10-12 are already in possession of their assigned technology from last year. They are encouraged to bring their technology on the first day of school. Please reach out to the school if you have any questions.

## **Student Timetables**

Semester 1 timetables are tentatively scheduled to be emailed to students on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Timetables will also be visible on the Parent Portal on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Please note that elearning courses will not appear on the Parent Portal. If you have not received your student timetable by August 29<sup>th</sup> please contact the school.

Guidance counsellors will be available in the building for timetable changes from **August 26-28 (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)** on a walk-in basis. Priority will be given to students with incomplete timetables or timetables that need to be changed due to summer school

**HWDSB**  
**BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.**



# Westmount Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

39 Montcalm Drive  
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 4B1  
**Phone:** 905.385.5395  
**Fax:** 905.574.6020

EMAIL: [westmount@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:westmount@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: Geeta Malhotra  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Lisa Farrugia / Dan Stepaniuk  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount)

issues. Please note that timetables will not be changed based on requests for specific teachers or classes with friends as many classes are already at capacity. Some requests may not be accommodated until spaces open up. Please reach out early in case wait listing is required.

Please understand that this is a busy time of year for Student Services so your patience is appreciated. Please see below for a listing of guidance counsellors and the student alphas they serve.

## Guidance Counsellors in Student Services-- Students with last names:

A-F: Ms. Currie- [jcurrie@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:jcurrie@hwdsb.on.ca)  
G-H: Mr. Vermeer- [jvermeer@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:jvermeer@hwdsb.on.ca)  
I-O: Ms. Keating- [mkeating@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:mkeating@hwdsb.on.ca)  
P-Z: Ms. Rex- [hrex@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:hrex@hwdsb.on.ca)

## Student Success Teacher:

Ms. Gauley- [mgauley@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:mgauley@hwdsb.on.ca)

## Learning Resource

Students who have an individual education plan (IEP) are encouraged to connect with their Learning Resource teacher during the first week of school. Parents/Caregivers who have questions can contact their child's resource teacher via email. Please see contact information below.

## Learning Resource—Students with last names:

A-E & Q-Z: Mrs. Meyers- [ngarzia@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:ngarzia@hwdsb.on.ca)  
F-L: Ms. Papalia-Potvin- [mpapalia@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:mpapalia@hwdsb.on.ca)  
M-P: Mr. Potvin- [apotvin@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:apotvin@hwdsb.on.ca)



# Westmount Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

39 Montcalm Drive  
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 4B1  
**Phone:** 905.385.5395  
**Fax:** 905.574.6020

EMAIL: [westmount@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:westmount@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: Geeta Malhotra  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Lisa Farrugia / Dan Stepaniuk  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount)

## **Program Delivery**

The school day is broken up into five timeframes where students can attend up to four classes with a designated lunch period. Please note that our start and end time remains the same. Please see below our regular school day bell schedule.

## **Regular School Bell Schedule**

8:40 am – 9:55 am	Period 1
10:00 am -- 11:15 am	Period 2
11:20 am --12:35 pm	Period 3 (Senior Lunch)
12: 40 pm -1:55 pm	Period 4 (Junior Lunch)
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Period 5

## **Student Agendas**

Distribution of agendas to students will take place during the first week of school. Be sure to review the agenda for key timelines, protocols and tools to support student success at Westmount. Please remember that your agendas are your passports when flexing in and out of learning spaces so they should always be on hand.

## **Lunchtime Protocols**

Students are encouraged to bring a lunch or purchase food from our cafeteria services. Lunch should be eaten in the cafeteria/designated lunchrooms during student assigned lunch period. Students may leave the building during their lunch to go offsite.

## **PPM 128 (Vaping and Cell Phones)**

As a school, we will be reviewing responsibilities and expectations with our students during our welcome back grade assemblies. Board communication on PPM 128 will be sent out to students, families and staff next week.



# Westmount Secondary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

39 Montcalm Drive  
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 4B1  
**Phone:** 905.385.5395  
**Fax:** 905.574.6020

EMAIL: [westmount@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:westmount@hwdsb.on.ca)  
PRINCIPAL: Geeta Malhotra  
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Lisa Farrugia / Dan Stepaniuk  
[www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/westmount)

---

## **School Council**

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to join School Council to learn more about school life and provide feedback to school staff. We usually meet monthly on the third Monday of each month. Our first School Council meeting is scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. More details with respect to format and elections will be provided in a separate communication.

We look forward to another exciting year of learning with our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school. Enjoy the last few days of summer break!

Sincerely,

Ms. Geeta Malhotra  
Principal