



W.H. Ballard Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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March 25, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

As you may be aware, Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) is the student transportation consortium established between the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSD) to administer transportation services for both boards to eligible students residing in the City of Hamilton.

Over the past three years, the current school bus driver shortage has resulted in daily late pick-ups and drop-offs for approximately 25 to 35 routes, which impacts students' time learning in school.

In December 2019, both school boards approved the parameters of a School Bell Time Study. The study looked at all school bell times across the district in both Boards, with the possibility of adjusting school bell times to make the routes more efficient and reduce the number of buses on the road.

Our school was included in this review, and the findings result in no change to our start and end of day bell times.

Beginning in September 2021, our school will start at 8:50 a.m. and end at 3:10 p.m.

While the new bell times will change the pick-up and drop-off times for students on buses, the amount of time they are on the bus will mostly remain the same.

As with previous years, all students eligible for transportation services will receive a letter in early August, outlining the service details for the upcoming school year.

If you have any questions, please contact me through the school office at 905.547.1689.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Robertson-Heath
Principal