



Winona Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

301 Lewis Road
Winona, Ontario L8E 5H1
Phone: 905.643.4141
Fax: 905.643.4666

EMAIL: winona@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Mr. T. Ilman
VICE-PRINCIPAL: Mrs. J. Adler
www.hwdsb.on.ca/winona

September 24, 2021

Dear Families,

Each year, in September, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board goes through an important process whereby student numbers in schools are examined and determinations are made as to whether schools require additional staff or whether schools must declare staff surplus. This year, the fall reorganization is more widespread across the entire school board due to the in-person/remote option for students, as well as the ongoing need to meet provincial class size requirements.

Our enrollment at Winona Elementary School is such that we have been given a slight decrease in staffing allocation and many combined classes have now been mandated in order to balance class numbers across our very large school. As a result, we must reorganize most classes in the school due to a ripple effect. These steps will help us optimize the learning opportunities for all our students. These changes will take effect on Monday, October 4, 2021.

We would ask that you trust our staff as they will be working together to coordinate these classroom changes; paying close attention to the specific learning needs of each child. Like our area schools, we do not take specific class or teacher requests nor can we take requests for straight grade classes rather than combined classes. It is not possible to start switching classes, by specific parent requests, as this undermines the entire class make-up. Please do not call or email your child's teacher or the school office to request a specific teacher or a specific type of class.

As you know, the teaching staff at Winona Elementary is a talented and committed team of professionals who have been planning collaboratively since the beginning of the school year. It is our expectation that this collaboration will continue so that program changes will be minimal. Any specific information regarding your child that has been shared with their current teacher by parents will also be passed on to the new teachers.

While we appreciate that change can be a difficult thing for some, it is what we make it. **Our children take their cues from their adult role models and so we encourage you, when you receive your child's class placement, to be positive with them about the change and encourage them to have a positive mindset.**

If your child is affected by this reorganization of the school, we will communicate changes to you before September 30th. Should you have any questions about the re-organization practices of the HWDSB, please feel free to contact us directly. Thank you for your patience, understanding and continued support of our students.

Sincerely,

T. Ilman
Principal

J. Adler
Vice Principal