

HWDSB

February 14, 2020

Dear Elementary and Secondary School Families,

As you are aware, Provincial Collective bargaining is still proceeding with the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF). There is an urgent need for all parties to reach a deal that is both fair to our staff and maintains our strong public education system for our students.

Both ETFO and OSSTF are scheduled to take part in a walkout that affects Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) on Friday, February 21. **As a result, all HWDSB schools will be closed to students on Friday, February 21.** Parents/guardians are required to make alternate childcare arrangements for their children.

Families and community members should be aware of the following notices:

- Licensed child care centres in all elementary and secondary schools will be open.
- Before- and after-school programs in elementary schools may be open. Parents/guardians are asked to contact their child's program operator for details.
- EarlyON Child and Family Centres will be open.
- Schools will remain accessible to rental permit holders for community use.
- The child care fee subsidies for families who currently receive them will increase to cover extended hours. Child care subsidies will not be available for new families at this time. Programs will have a limited ability to accept new families on this day. Learn more at www.hamilton.ca/childcare.
- Parents and community members may experience picket lines at some school locations. Information is available on the HWDSB website to help you should you encounter one.

Should there be any changes to the planned walkout, we will communicate directly with parents/guardians in a timely manner.

For more details, please visit the Labour Update section on our website at www.hwdsb.on.ca and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

Sincerely,



Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board



Manny Figueiredo
Director of Education