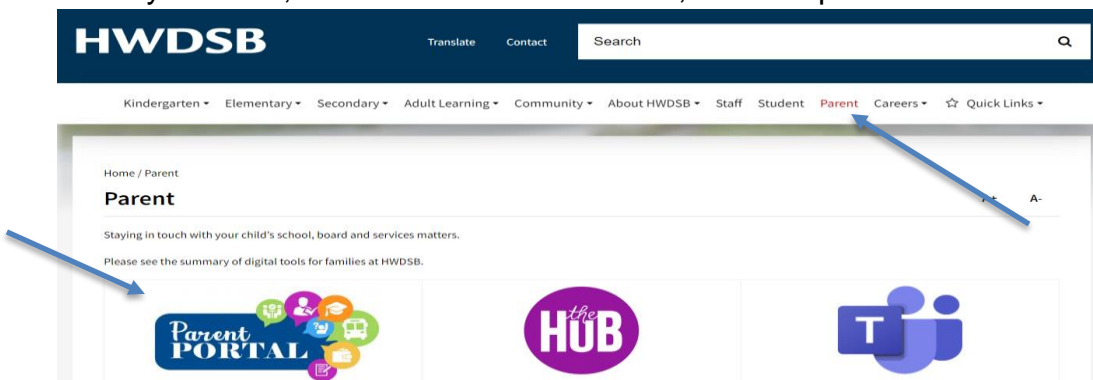


HWDSB School Tips for Newcomer Parents:

1. YMCA School Settlement Workers (SWIS worker) can assist families with orientation to school and school procedures. Ask your school to connect you with a settlement worker for help.
2. It is very important to maintain your child's first language through speaking, reading, and writing; this will help them learn English more quickly and prevent first language loss. Try HWDSB International Language Classes or dual language books at the Hamilton Public Library.



3. Create a "School Messenger" app and use it to report child absences or lates.
4. Create a "Parent Portal" account on the HWDSB web site to access information about your child, see attendance and marks, and complete on-line forms.



5. All ELEMENTARY schools (JK to grade 8) are peanut free and nut sensitive. Please make sure that your child's lunch does not contain any food or products with peanuts or any other types of nuts.
6. Teachers will communicate with parents at different times throughout the year. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher please call the school or send a note. If you would like an interpreter, the school will arrange one.
7. Your child's teacher may send home your child's agenda every night if they are in elementary school; please sign the agenda daily.
8. Return to the school any books sent home by the school for your child to read.

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9. Send enough food for your child (K-8) to eat during two nutritional breaks. Some schools offer special lunches (e.g. pizza, milk, sub sandwiches). These are optional.
10. Your child will need a pair of clean shoes to wear inside the school.
11. Sign in at the office immediately when visiting the school. It is important for school safety to know who is in the building.
12. Many schools will go on school trips throughout the school year (e.g., farmer's market, museums, art gallery, library) and permission forms will be sent home (sign on the highlighted line). These trips are incredible learning experiences for children, but they are optional. If you do not want your child to attend please let the teacher know.
13. Talk to school staff about transportation to or from school. Secondary school students that live more than 3.2 km from the school are eligible for a city bus pass or a school bus pick up and drop. Elementary students in grades 1-8 who live more than 1.6 km from the school and Kindergarten students who live more than 1.2 km from the school will have school bus pick up and drop off.
14. If your child requires any kind of religious or creed-based accommodation speak to the school Principal.
15. Let school staff know if your child has any allergies or medical concerns.
16. If your child has any special education learning needs, discuss these needs along with your child's strengths and interests with the classroom teacher so they may take all things into considerations when planning accommodations and/or modifications to your child's program.