

Back to School Update 2022-23

September 12, 2022

curiosity

creativity

possibility

GOALS (WIGs)

1. Safety – 80% ↑ identify
2. Reading – 75% ↑ K-6 cohorts
3. Graduation – 80% ↑ 7-12 cohorts

* Close the gap for current and historically underserved *

* Anti-oppression, Anti-Colonial, Anti-Racism *

Equity and Inclusion

Commitments

We acknowledge the impact of the pandemic and its disproportionate impact on marginalized communities.

- *We commit to learning and to creating safe and inclusive work and learning environments for all.*
- *We commit to supportive learning environments that demonstrate excellent instruction and the interrelationship between achievement, well-being and equity.*
- *We commit to recovery and to the co-construction of new practices and processes that reflect our post pandemic community and learning environments.*
- *We commit to supporting opportunities including existing and new partnerships to respond to the evolving needs of the students, caregivers and community members as we engage diverse voices.*
- *We commit to continued engagement with staff and acknowledge and value the contributions of all employees in supporting pandemic recovery.*

- Health and Safety Measures
- Public Health Supports
- Transportation
- Tutoring Supports
- Remote Learning
- Social Work Services
- Re-imaging Wellness
- Grade 9 Program

- Self-reporting of cases in schools
- Public Health process in place should a school's absence rate increase above what the school would typically experience
- Voluntary screening by staff and students
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette encouraged
- Provision of PPE for staff and students upon request
- Provision of Rapid Antigen Tests to students and staff upon request

Number of School Website Posts (Voluntary Self -Reporting)

Week Of	Number of School Website Posts	Week Of	Number of School Website Posts
January 24	157	April 18	109
January 31	107	April 25	79
February 7	103	May 2	65
February 14	92	May 9	60
February 21	81	May 16	37
February 28	85	May 23	23
March 7	91	May 30	13
March 21	65	June 6	8
March 28	115	June 13	19
April 4	173	June 20	15
April 11	137	June 27	5

HWDSB Schools and Facilities are mask friendly environments.
We will provide medical masks to staff and students on request.



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The provincial [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) was updated **August 31 (version 5.0)** to match guidance from the Ministry of Health.

- While you have symptoms as outlined in the screening tool, stay home (self-isolate) and do not attend school or childcare until you do not have a fever and your symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours if you had nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).
- Anyone who is sick or has any symptoms of illness, including those not listed in this screening tool, should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

- The Board has **PPE and Rapid Antigen Tests** on hand to support staff/students for this year.
- We continue to receive PPE and Rapid Antigen Tests this school year from the Ministry of Education. We will deliver them to schools on request.

Public Health continues to work with school board partners to address the impacts of COVID-19, with the following:

- School Program
- School Focused Nursing Initiative
- Dental & Vision Screening
- Tobacco Enforcement & Prevention
- Vaccine Program
- Child and Adolescent Services

School-based clinics for Grade 7 and 8 students will resume at the end of September for routine vaccines for this age group (Hepatitis B, HPV and Meningitis). Parental consent is required.

- **\$14 million in CVRIS projects** are complete or in process and will be completed by the Ministry deadline.
- Approximately **2400 stand-alone HEPA units** have been provided in accordance with Ministry direction (all Kindergarten spaces, schools without mechanical ventilation (Tier 3), and where there are active ventilation projects underway). HWDSB has also included gyms, special education rooms, portables and areas not fed by MERV13 filtration.
- All HEPA units were serviced over the summer months and filters were replaced.
- “Air flushing” continues daily before staff and students enter the building by operating mechanical systems two hours prior to, and two hours after leaving.

- 472 school bus routes
- 22 drivers short; not including use of spare/occasional drivers
- Families can visit the HWSTS website to view current delays at <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/delays.aspx>
- Families are encouraged to sign up for delay and cancellation notifications through our [Parent Portal](#)
- Anyone interested in becoming a school bus driver may visit our website to get further details: <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/driveaschoolbusinhamilton.aspx>

ELEMENTARY PHASE 3 (September – December 2022)

- Tutoring will continue in elementary schools for this fall.

SECONDARY PHASE 2 (September – December 2022)

- Tutoring funds will be used to support secondary students in schools this fall.

Further information will be shared with schools and communities this month.

Community partners/tutoring organizations will continue to be a vital part of Phase 3 support opportunities for students.

Tier One Supports:

- Parent/Caregiver Workshops
- *We Help* Newsletter

Tier Two Supports:

- School-based social workers assigned to every school, providing support regarding mental health, re-engagement, personal challenges, family stressors and identity-based discrimination
- System social workers cultivating and nurturing conditions that support systemic change and close the gap for those current and historically under-served and/or under-represented
- Student Treatment Groups for Anxiety and Low Mood (Grades 4-12)

Tier Three Supports:

- Urgent response for students in mental health crisis
- Critical Incident Response (CIRT) and Violent Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)

- In September 2021, HWDSB introduced the Reimagining Wellness initiative.
- The goal was for students and staff across HWDSB to feel safe, supported and included and to begin the school year with a successful focus on positive relationships and a sense of belonging
- Reimagining Wellness 2.0 has been released, incorporating changes based on staff feedback and the inclusion of staff-developed activities, as well as links to learning skills and curriculum expectations for elementary schools.
- Attention to supporting the transition for students returning to face-to-face learning
- Reimagining Wellness 2.0 considers the connection between Equity, Human Rights, Mental Health, Program, Specialized Services, Indigenous Cultural Safety, and Safe Schools.

A remote learning option for 2022-23 is a Ministry requirement.

Elementary

- A Parent Portal Survey was open to indicate interest from August 29 to September 7 and the remote population grew by 200 students
- Approx. 330 students will be learning remotely in 2022-23
- Students will transition during re-organization

Secondary

- eLearning continues to be the secondary remote option
- Students should contact Student Services if they are interested

2022-23 is the first year of a de-streamed (single stream) Grade Nine Program

- English ENG1D through the academic curriculum
- French FSF1D through the academic curriculum
- Geography CGC21D through the academic curriculum
- Math MTH1W new curriculum from 2021-23
- Science SNC1W new curriculum in 2022-23
- Open courses remain Open
- Locally Developed courses in English, Math, or Science

Supports Include:

- *An Inclusive Classroom Resource* was developed over the summer to support the creation inclusive learning environments and delivering responsive instruction
- Additional student success staffing is in place to support students in the transition to grade nine

System Leaders' Meeting (August 29)

- Introduction by Chair Danko to System Leaders
- Theme: We Are HWDSB! (Reflected on building trust in a changing team and changing times)
- Director's Corner Video introduced by Student Trustees
- Shared Pandemic Recovery Plan as media release to community

Facebook Live (August 31)

- Chair Danko, Vice-Chair Buck, Associate Director Dunlop, Facilities Management Sr. Manager Anderson

First Day of School in HWDSB (September 6)

- Greenville Elementary School with CH Morning Live
- Food 4 Kids (Community Partner)
- Orchard Park Secondary School
- Eastdale Elementary School

Twitter Account

Follow @Director_HWDSB

