

Back to School Update 2023-24

September 11, 2023

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- Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills
- Preparation of Students for Future Success
- Student Engagement & Well-Being

- Summer Learning
- Supports for Students
- Re-imagining Wellness
- New and Updated Curricula
- Destreaming and Graduation
- Remote Learning 2023-24
- Reading
- Math
- Communication to Families
- Public Health
- PPE
- Transportation
- Facility Services
- Director's Update

Summer Learning

- 3 sites (Hillcrest, Lawfield, Queen Mary).
- Reading and Mathematics focus.
- Served 298 students.

Continuing Education

- 5000 students participated in either Credit or Non-Credit programs this summer.
- BCSS and NHSS - host sites for a portion of summer programming.

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)

- Board resource for all educators that builds positive and inclusive cultures supporting belonging and safety.
- Helps create student-centred learning environments where identity, voice and lived experience are affirmed and honoured.
- Prioritizes healthy relationships as part of bullying prevention.
- Schools had time on PA day to review and learn more.
- To be used in the first 30 days of school and throughout the year to support Mental Health Literacy.

Elementary

- Grade 1-8 Language (revised) and PPM 168 (new)
- Grade 1-6 Social Studies (revised)
 - New grades 1 to 3 Indigenous Education learning
 - New grade 6 Holocaust learning

Secondary

- Grade 9 English (ENL1W) (new)
 - De-streamed
 - Aligns with 1-8 Language

Destreaming

- New curriculum for English (ENL1W).
- Existing destreamed curricula for Math and Science.
- Grade Nine French and Geography are destreamed but with the academic curricula.
- Grade Nine Support Teachers in each school.

Graduation

- Inclusive classroom practices.
- Extensive selection of programs to engage students.
- e.g., ArtSmart/Program of the Arts, Co-Op, Dual Credits, OYAP, SHSM.

A remote learning option for 2023-24 is no longer a Ministry requirement.

Elementary

- A Parent Portal Survey was open to indicate interest from August 28th to September 6.
- More than 50 students will join remote from in-person bringing enrollment above 200 students.

Secondary

- HWDSB is not formally offering remote learning in secondary.
- eLearning continues to be an option, but students should have some in-person learning.

- New Grade 1-8 Language curriculum for 2023-24.
- New PPM 168 Reading Instruction and Early Reading Screening.
- Revised Reading Strategy under development.
- Reading Specialists will have a K-3 scope and provide reading intervention.
- Language will be reported on as one mark not strands.

Priority schools have been selected by the Ministry where Math Facilitators are working directly with students and teachers.

The Math Achievement Action Plan will focus on three key areas:

- Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation and use of instruction and assessment practices.
- Engaging in ongoing learning to strengthen mathematics content knowledge for teaching.
- Knowing the mathematics learner, and ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions and supports are relevant and responsive.

Multiplatform Back-to-School Communication Strategy

- Back-to-School page
- Direct mail to families
- Social media campaign
- Blog Posts to support school start-up and student well-being
- Back-to-School Q&A Submissions

Director's Message to Families for the Start of the Year

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Regional Respiratory Illness Rates

- Influenza transmission status (low and stable)
- COVID-19 transmission status (sporadic and stable)

COVID/Respiratory Recommendations

- Hamilton Public Health Services is recommending that all individuals aged 5 and older receive a COVID-19 dose in the fall along with their influenza vaccines

Advocacy

- Working with our Public Health partners in support of the Smoke-Free campaign messaging for schools this Fall

- The Board has Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Rapid Antigen Tests on hand to support staff and students.
- We will continue to receive PPE this school year from the Ministry of Education.
- We will continue to receive Rapid Antigen Tests until December 31, 2023, from the Ministry of Education. They will be delivered to schools upon request.

- 472 school bus routes in total.
- Approximately 16,200 students transported for a total of 38,000 kms daily.
- Current driver status - one carrier with 6 open routes. The other 2 operators have a driver for each route and are working on building a spare driver pool.
- Families are encouraged to sign up for delay and cancellation notifications through our [Parent Portal](#)
- We would be thrilled to have those interested in becoming a School Bus driver visit our website to obtain further details: <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/driveaschoolbusinhamilton.aspx>

- Over \$30 million of capital construction completed over the summer months.
- Projects include HVAC renovations, ceiling renovations, paving projects, gymnasiums, window replacements, and washroom renovations.
- Facility Operations focused on these activities this summer:
 - Summer cleaning (high dusting, stripping and waxing floors) where possible. Summer programs and staffing may have impacted this work.
 - Filter changes, where required, on HEPA units.
 - 18 portable moves across the system.

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
- Dr. ABC keynote

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Planning a new
Path Forward.

- GENERATE
- VALIDATE
- ELEVATE
- CELEBRATE

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