

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. DAVID CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Schools
150 years of 'Believing, Achieving, Serving'



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SUPERINTENDENT: MRS. T. KOVACH

VICE-PRINCIPAL: MR. J. TERSIGNI

TRUSTEE: MR. A. D'INTINO

September 15, 2020;

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of St. David CES;

We welcome all of our St. David Catholic Elementary School families to our 2020/2021 school year!

The staff and administration have been busy at school preparing a safe and inviting learning environment considering the current situation of Covid 19.

We would like to welcome back past members of our St. David CES staff as well as new members of staff. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our **Superintendent of Education, Mrs. A. Kovach and our Trustee, Mr. A. D'Intino**. We would like to welcome both of them into our St. David Catholic Elementary School for another successful year!

I personally would like to start by welcoming **Mr. J. Tersigni**, our Vice Principal to St. David. Mr. Tersigni has been a great asset to the community thus far and we continue to look forward to working together with him.

I would like to welcome new staff members to St. David CES. I welcome new Educational Assistants, Mr. M. Bennie, Ms. D. Kaur and Mr. M. Boonstra. I would also like to welcome Mrs. L. Burton who will be assisting our secretarial staff. To the teaching staff, I welcome Mrs. L. Biagetti, Mr. A. Culina and Mr. C. Ciapanna, Ms. C. Santos, Mrs. C. Lenjosek, Mr. D. Luciani, Mr. A. Lech and Mr. M. Defazio.

It has been a true pleasure to welcome back our students and unite again as the St. David Catholic Elementary School community. **School will begin on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 for ALL students who have opted for Face to Face instruction.**

We wish our online students well as they continue to learn and our hope is that we can all be together again in future.

Communication has been delivered to parents via school messenger, St. David website, HWCDSB website and Twitter. Please continue to ensure that you stay connected to the various sources of information.

The following information is a snapshot of what our return to school will look like for all students and parents.

Classroom Assignments

Classroom assignments is a fluid process and hence the shifts in these assignments with new directions from the board. Consequently, the current lists with corresponding educators are subject to change again. Please note changes to these placements will be very challenging given the various criteria the staff followed for these placements and in such a short period of time. Thank you for your patience and understanding with respect to the uncertainty.

For those students who are learning from home until at least October, please note your child(ren) is/are assured a placement at St. David CES on their return. However, we cannot assure the class placement given possible changes required at the various entry return points (Thanksgiving, Christmas, March Break) and given potential increased class sizes.

Staff Professional Development

Thank you to all our staff who participated in the four days of professional development prior to the start of the school re-entry plan for receiving students. Topics included COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols, Mental Health, Equity and Inclusion, new Mathematics Curriculum and Faith Formation. All of these topics and the subsequent learning will indirectly benefit your child(ren)'s learning and growth. The staff also prepared their classrooms for the return of the students, especially keeping your child(ren)'s health and safety in mind by preparing posters, decals and routines related to ensuring a safe environment for the return to school.

Cohort Consistency

All children will remain with their homeroom students throughout the day. The students will continue to stay with their cohorts during outdoor time as well. Quadrant areas for each cohort have been established on the playground to ensure adherence to this model. Staff has practiced with their classes to ensure that students are aware of the rules when going outside to their individual designated areas. Students will be instructed to respect these separated zones and maintain social distancing. When social distancing is not possible during outdoor play, masks will be mandatory for students to wear in order to ensure the safety of all. A separate area will also be created for outdoor physical education classes and for DPA (Daily Physical Activity). Schedules for staff have been created with these designated cohort quadrant areas.

Medical Forms

A reminder that all medical forms regarding medical peril and authorization for the administration of medicine can be attained through **Mrs. L. Sienna, Special Education Resource Teacher**. Please call the office at 905-560-3533 should you require these forms as Parents are not able to come into the school. Please review these forms carefully if they apply to your child and return to school. Physicians are required for the completion of some forms along with official signatures.

Dropping off/Picking up your child(ren)

This is of critical importance. Your collaboration is vital with respect to the dropping-off and picking-up of your child(ren). You are asked to ensure safety when entering the parking lot(s) and be extremely mindful of pedestrian traffic in the parking lot. We ask that you **DRIVE SLOWLY and SAFELY at ALL TIMES.**

We ask that students do not arrive to school any earlier than 8:55 a.m. Upon arrival to the school, students in Grades 1-8 may go directly in the playground using the open gates along the fence line that separates the parking lot with the playground. Parents of students in Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten will continue to drop off their child at the door adjacent to the Early ON Centre, however, in a physically distanced manner. Please be patient if there is a lineup of parents during drop off and pick up. Staff will be present to assist the students. **As of Tuesday, September 15, 2020, we ask that parents of students in Grades 1-8 do not enter the playground with the students.** As well, please understand, we are unable to allow parents into the building at drop off and pick up times. **We hope this will help keep your kids safe, ensuring they are social distancing when being dropped off/picked up, while also diminishing congestion and crowding in the typical parking areas.**

Screening of Your Child(ren):

Ensuring the safety and well- being of staff and students that enter our school is of utmost importance. You must assess your child daily for symptoms and inform the school if they are experiencing any signs of illness. Parents must keep their child(ren) home if they are ill and must report the absence to the school. Please visit <https://www.hwcdsb.ca/files/?fileID=456946> for the list of screening questions for you to use on a daily basis.

Please Note: All staff will be required to complete a self-assessment on a daily basis and any staff member failing the self-assessment must stay home, self- isolate and contact the HWCDSB for further direction.

Electronic Device Loans

Thank you to all parents/guardians who have already returned the electronic devices that were loaned during the remote learning experience from March to June. We ask that if you have not already done so, please return this device to school on the first day. Please ‘buzz’ the office at the front door and announce yourself, indicate that you are returning the loaned device and leave the device/charging cord/mouse on the ground. A staff member will retrieve these items. Thank you.

Visitors to the school

Parental/Guest/Guardian entry into the school will not be permitted as stated by the HWCDSB. If there is an absolute need (i.e. child is sick) to pick up your child from the school prior to dismissal, please let the office know and a staff member will escort them outside to you. If you must pick up your child before dismissal, we ask that you use the Cromwell Crescent front door entrance. Please make sure that lunches come to school each day and are not left at home. We also strongly recommend children not leave the building for lunch.

We understand there may continue to be as many questions as there are answers and we know this uncertainty contributes to a general sense of concern as we begin the start to school. As we become aware of any new or changing information, we will let you know. Please continue to be patient and understanding.

Please follow us on **Twitter @stdvces**

As always, we thank you for your continued partnership and remind you never to hesitate to reach out with questions and concerns.

Stay safe and healthy!

Mrs. A. Boyle
Principal
St. David CES

Mr. J. Tersigni
Vice Principal
St. David CES

‘Be joyful brothers and sisters, keep your faith and do the little things.....’ St. David