



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

25 Alma Street
Dundas, Ontario
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Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Schools
150 years of Believing, Achieving, Serving

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PRINCIPAL: MR. M. TROTTA
ASSISTANT TO PRINCIPAL: MRS. E. HAROLD

SUPERINTENDENT: MR. M. HUCAL
TRUSTEE: MR. P. HOMERSKI

SEPTEMBER 2020

Beginning of School Year Prayer
Loving God, Our creator, our Saviour, our Companion,
Bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake today.
Refresh our souls and renew our spirits
as we embrace the beautiful ministry to which you have called us.
We welcome those who are new to this community and
ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them.
Lord, make our hearts pure as we prepare for the return of students to St. Augustine School,
and may You guide them to return with open hearts and minds eager to learn.
We ask this in Your name,
Amen

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to welcome back all our students as we begin the new school year. Whether you are learning here at school or learning from home you are all part of our community. A special welcome to those who are new to our school community, I look forward to meeting all of you over the course of the year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Father Whitfield as the spiritual leader of our community, we look forward to growing in faith together.

Please refer to the staggered entry message sent previously and a reminder that the online classes will begin on September 14. We are working to provide a safe and engaging place of learning for all our students and I thank you for your continued support and patience.

Please do not send your child with more than a lunch and pencil case on the first day, teachers will be communicating with parents about what students should be bringing to school. A reminder that students will bring home all belongings sent to school daily.

The following staff members have been added to St. Augustine School: Mr. Bratetic Gr. 5 (in for Mr. Hewitson), Ms. Mancini Gr. 6, Mme. Mirra core French and Ms. Beauregard our ECE.

We are committed to providing your children with a rich Catholic environment as well as a high quality curriculum in the safest environment possible. We will strive to do our best, and, as always, should you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Please take the time to read through the newsletter carefully as it contains important information which will help make the start of the school year an easy transition for all. Questions can be directed to stau@hwcdsb.ca

We are looking forward to a great year. Remember the St. Augustine Motto:

WISDOM FAITH LOYALTY

Please remember Masks are mandatory on buses and in school.

Information about mask exemptions was shared in an earlier message. If you require more information on exemptions please call the school.

STAGGERED ENTRY

MON SEPT 7 LABOUR DAY	TUES SEPT 8 No students on this day Staff Preparation and Professional Learning	WED SEPT 9 Grade 1 and 2 students <u>only</u> Kindergarten Year 2 (SK) (Last name A-L <u>only</u>)	THURS SEPT 10 Grade 3 and 4 students <u>only</u> Kindergarten Year 2 (SK) (Last name M-Z <u>only</u>)	FRI SEPT 11 Grades 5 and 6 students <u>only</u> Kindergarten Year 1 (JK) (Last name A-L <u>only</u>)
MON SEPT 14 Grade 7 and 8 students <u>only</u> Kindergarten Year 1 (JK) (Last name M-Z <u>only</u>) Online Instruction Begins	TUES SEPT 15 All students are at school.	WED SEPT 16	THURS SEPT 17	FRI SEPT 18

ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH INFORMATION



Welcome Father Whitfield.

If you have been away from the area, this is the time to reconnect with St. Augustine Parish.

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday at 5 p.m.; Sunday at 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Weekday Mass Times: beginning the week of September 13, Wednesdays at 8 a.m.; Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Children’s Liturgy: Suspended until further notice

The School and the Parish co-operate with each other, however, are separate entities. For example, registering at school does not automatically make you a member of St. Augustine Parish. If you are not registered as parishioners (or think you might not be registered), please call our Parish office at 905-628-2880 and register.

“Thank you” for sharing your faith with your children at home and for bringing them to Mass on Sundays.

“Thank you” for having your children attend a Catholic school, so that the home, school, and parish can support the spiritual life of your children.

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL STAFF

Principal	Mr. Trotta
Secretary	Mrs. Fortino
FDK A (7 SK /10 JK)	Mrs. Ferrara and Mrs. Ms. Beauregard
FDK B (11 SK /5 JK)	Mrs. Bacik and Mrs. Miss Macfarlane
Grade 1/2 (16 1s / 4 2s)	Mrs. MacEachern
Grade 2/3 (11 2s / 9 3s)	Mr. Havers
Grade 3/4 (8 3s / 10 4s)	Mrs. Harold
Grade 4/5 (15 4s / 6 5s)	Ms. Cornale
Grade 5 (20 5s)	Mr. Bratetic
Grade 6 (25 6s)	Ms. Mancini
Grade 7 (24 7s)	Mrs. Stayshyn
Grade 8 (21 8s)	Mrs. Grice
French	Mme. Mirra
RR	Mrs. Ammendolia
PPT	TBA
Special Education	Mrs. Medeiros
Educational Assistants	Mrs. Castelli, Ms. Benalick, Mrs. DeLuca, Mr. Byres, Mrs. Pecchia

Custodians	Mr. Castellino Mr. Flaming
Assistant Custodians	TBA

SCHOOL HOURS



Morning Entry	8:35 a.m.
A.M. Recess	9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Lunch	JK – 3 : 11:20 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. 4 – 8: 12:00 – 12:40
P.M. Recess	1:25 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Dismissal	2:55 p.m.



A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR JK STUDENTS

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. During this week it is understood that it will be a difficult transition, for both students and parents. Our team will be out to meet students at the bus or in the yard when you drop them off. Please them that school is a wonderful place full of learning – even though it can be scary at first. Because the groups will be small for the first few days it will give all of us a chance to get to know each other. You should have received a bus tag – please fill this out and attach it to your child backpack, it is another layer of protection for our kindergarten students. Please note the fence to the Kindergarten yard is not installed yet. We anticipate this to be done early next week and will take every precaution to ensure the safety of our students while providing them with some much-needed outdoor time.

SAFETY & STUDENTS ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Please school entry begins at 8:15 a.m. We strongly encourage students to arrive at school between 8:20 – 8:35 a.m. We cannot provide supervision before 8:15 a.m. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation. Please use designated areas for parking, there is additional parking on the side streets on the other side of Sydenham Road. Please do not stop in the bus lane or block driveways on the street. Please use the Cross Walks on Sydenham Road to cross as there is a crossing guard there daily. Together we can ensure a safe trip to and from school for all our students

ENTRANCE TO SCHOOL/EXIT FROM SCHOOL

Students will be entering school upon arrival. We ask that student's who are old enough enter the school yard without parents to limit the numbers in the school yard. **IMPOTANT: The fences in the parking lot and playground will not be completed until early next week.** During this time, we will extra vigilant, your cooperation by not using the school parking lot at pick up and dismissal during this time is appreciated.

PARKING: The area on Alma Street along the front of the school is designated as a bus pick up/drop off area. Please note that the City Parking Bylaw Officer has signs installed along the front of the school on Alma Street. Our Special Needs bus also stops there. You may be ticketed if you park in this area. If parents need to park to come into the school yard, please use the available parking on Alma St. across from the school parking lot as well as Alma St. On the other side of Sydenham Rd.



ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is expected from each student. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each morning session at 8:35 a.m. and again at the beginning of the afternoon session 12:10 p.m. All students who are late **MUST** report to the office to pick up a late slip.

SAFE ARRIVAL

1. Parents please use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. Sign up to create your account using your email address. Select Attendance to Report an Absence. **NOTE:** Once you are logged in, please ensure that you update your message preferences.
2. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app  From the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store [or from the links at <https://go.messenger.ca>] Use your new login information to access your account. Select Attendance to Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 833-275-6703 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

When Visiting the School: Due to Covid 19 protocols we are not encouraging visitors to the school without an appointment. We will be working to have meetings virtually to limit the need for face to face visits. If a face to face visit is needed with the school it will be arranged through the main office.

Leaving for an Appointment: Please call the school to make arrangements for pick up during the school day.

BUS INFORMATION



Bus schedules should be sent to you by email today.

Please be patient during these first few days while routes get sorted and pickup/drop-off times are worked out. We will do our utmost to notify you in writing of any changes.

FDK Students: Parents will be required to fill in a form identifying 4 individuals to whom their child will be released to and parents must communicate changes in this form to the Board Transportation Department as per the transportation policy: “All FDK students must be accompanied to and from the bus stop by an adult. If there is no adult present at the stop, the student will be returned to the school. If there is no one available to receive the child at the school, the Children’s Aid Society will be notified. Any other bussing arrangements must be requested in writing and sent to the Transportation Department for approval.”

Bus Students: Parents are asked to ensure that their child is on time at the appropriate bus stop. Please stress with your child the importance of proper behaviour while riding the bus. Riding the bus is a privilege. Repeated misbehaviour may result in losing this privilege. Please remember that bus students are not allowed to switch buses at any time. (Insurance, security reasons and over-crowding problems, etc.) Students may not request to be dropped off at stops other than their regular drop-off point. One Child, One Bus, One Stop.

FAMILY INFORMATION/EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

It is imperative that school records are kept up-to-date. Many changes occur during the summer for some students. Your child will bring home their “Information Sheet.” Please read it over carefully and fill in any information that is missing or needs to be changed. The sheet needs to be returned to the school immediately. Please remember to inform Mrs. Fortino of any changes that occur during the school year (telephone, work number, etc.)

MEDICATION

Regulations state that school personnel cannot administer any drug, including aspirin, without written permission from the parent/guardian and a doctor. If there is need for such medication, please see the school website or contact the school to obtain the forms that **MUST BE FILLED OUT BY THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND A DOCTOR**. This record is a School Board Regulation and must be kept on file. Please notify the school if medication distribution stops so that all medication can be returned to the parent/guardian as soon as possible.

SCHOOL I PADS

If you have an I Pad that was lent to you from the school and you are returning face to face we ask that you please bring it to school and give it to the classroom teacher. If you have a device lent to you by the school and need it because of online learning than please keep and use the device.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The monthly newsletter contains important information that affects your child. Often this will be the only source of information that you will receive regarding certain events, so it is important that you go to our school website. Please be aware that, due to limited space in the newsletter, some events, trips, etc. will be shown on the calendar. The calendar is populated regularly, and the entire school year is available for viewing.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The Catholic School Council is an important advisory body to the Principal. It consists of members who represent the school community to make suggestions. As a member of the School Council you can influence decisions that are made and that affect the life of your child at school.

More information will be sent about Catholic School Council soon.

VIRTUES

Creating a safe, caring and inclusive school community.

Each month at school we will focus and be learning about a different Catholic virtue. We know that this will aid all of us in growing as people of faith and create positive conversations in and around our school. We look forward to continue this initiative as a safe, caring and inclusive school community.

SEPTEMBER~**FAITH**
NOVEMBER~**CONSCIENCE**
JANUARY~**SELF-CONTROL**
MARCH~**KINDNESS**
MAY~**ACCEPTANCE**

OCTOBER~**EMPATHY**
DECEMBER~**HOPE**
FEBRUARY~**RESPECT**
APRIL~**LOVE**
JUNE~**FAIRNESS**

FOOD ALLERGIES/SEVERE REACTIONS

As you are aware, there are a number of young children who endure very severe allergic reactions to a variety of different foods. Unfortunately, these reactions are frequently triggered not only by the ingestion of a product, but by the mere molecular particles or smell of something in the air (commonly referred to as an “air-borne” allergic reaction). For the above-mentioned reason, we do not permit students to share snacks, treats, lunches, etc. with each other at any time. Each teacher will notify the class and parents if there are any students in their class with food allergies. We ask for your assistance in not sending these food items to school. We are concerned for the health and well being of all our students. Thank you in advance for your co-operation and support in this regard.



SCHOOL YEAR CALANDER

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