

HWDSB

June 22, 2020

Dear families,

The final days of school are here. It is hard to believe that we are ending the 2019-20 school year without saying goodbye to staff and students in person.

We committed to families that we would be with you every step of the way. We are grateful that you have been receptive towards these weekly updates and found the information helpful. While these updates will no longer be weekly, we will communicate with you as necessary, and more frequently starting in August as we prepare for school reopening.

September School Reopening

On Friday, the Ministry of Education outlined its [Approach to reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year](#). At HWDSB, we have been working on local plans and exploring many scenarios to reopening our schools. With the provincial guidance, we can now move forward to finalize these plans. We will communicate our approved school reopening plan with our community after August 4, the date when school boards are required to submit plans to the Ministry.

To further assist and inform our plans, we will be reaching out to gather your thoughts about planning for September. We want to ensure that all students and families are well prepared and know what to expect when returning to school. Your input will help finalize our plan.

Report Cards

Elementary report cards are being sent out to parents, guardians, and caregivers by the end of this week. Secondary report cards are being sent to parents, guardians, and caregivers and/or to students 18 years next week. If you are unsure if the school has your email, please submit your email address through the [contact form](#) on your child's school website. If you need a paper copy of the report card, please contact your school in the fall.

A [Report Card Frequently Asked Question](#) is available to help families understand how teachers are providing marks or grades to students during this school closure period.

#HWDSBArts2020

Staff and students are celebrating their artistic side in Dance, Drama, Music, Media Arts, and Visual Arts this week. Be sure to visit #HWDSBArts2020 on Twitter and Instagram throughout the week to see a few highlights from the virtual gallery.

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Summer Opportunities to Support Mental Well-being

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase of supports to help students maintain positive mental health. [Mental Well-being during COVID-19](#) resources are available to help during this difficult time. Several programs have also been planned for the summer to help students and their parents, guardians, and caregivers on topics that promote social-emotional care. Learn about our supportive programs [here](#).

Our social workers will be available throughout the summer for students and parents, guardians, and caregivers Monday-Friday, 9:00am - 3:30pm. Therapeutic groups will be offered to support students who are struggling with anxious thinking and low mood.

- Call 905-527-5092, ext. 2038
- Text 365-366-7721
- Use the [HWDSB Helps app](#) for iOS and Android and located on the [We Help website](#).

Have a safe and wonderful summer. We look forward to connecting with you prior to our return to school in September.



Alex Johnstone
Chair of the Board



Manny Figueiredo
Director of Education