



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
29 JOHN MURRY STREET
STONEY CREEK, ONTARIO, L8J 1C5
TELEPHONE #: 905-560-2700
FAX#: 905-560-6364
WEBSITE: <http://www.stja.hwcdsb.ca>



Principal: Mrs. E. Minicucci

Superintendent of Education: Mr. C. Ciapanna
Trustee: Mr. L. Agro

February 5, 2021

Parents/Guardians,

We are so excited to welcome everyone back after the Government announced the re-opening of schools on Wednesday. It has been quite the journey we've been on. Each of us have a unique story to share! Our return to school will continue to require the collaboration and co-operation of everyone in order to ensure the health, well-being and safety of each of us.

You have received a letter from the Board regarding the selection of the learning modality for your child(ren). If you intend to switch your child(ren)'s learning modality (remote or in-person) please contact the school from **Friday, February 5 - Monday, February 8th**. This change will not take effect until **Monday, February 22**. You will be contacted if you choose the online modality. This is the final opportunity to change learning modality. **Only contact the school if you wish to change your child's learning modality.**



Some Friendly Reminders for a Safe Return.

Ensuring that students and staff are symptom free before entering any of our schools is of critical importance to us. Parents must assess their child(ren) daily and inform the school if they are experiencing any signs of illness. Parents must keep their child(ren) home if sick and report any absences to the school. Parents have been provided with a checklist to perform daily screening of their children before arriving at school.

If your child has a cold or cough not related to allergies, please keep them home. If someone in your household is awaiting a Covid test result, it is advisable that you keep your child(ren) home until you receive and verify a negative test result.

Please be advised that the following two web pages were updated to include the new provincial direction re: masking and enhanced screening.

- <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/school-planning-covid-19>
- <https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/school-covid-19-resources-parents>

An Attestation Form must be completed when your child returns to school.
<https://www.hwcdsb.ca/files/?fileID=462169>

School Messenger

Please report your child's absence on School Messenger, <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>
Please do not contact the school directly.

1. The **first time** you use the website, **select 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.schoolmessenger.ca>).
Use your new login information to access your account.
Select Attendance to Report an Absence.
3. You can also **call the toll-free number 833-275-6703** to report an absence using the automated phone system.
This version is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

Masks

All students, from Kindergarten to Grade 12, must wear a non-medical or cloth mask while at school and on the school bus. All students will receive another cloth mask provided by the Board.

Please pack additional masks for your child(ren) as we not only change our masks at the end of each morning, but sometimes masks become moist and/or damp. Please label your child(ren)'s masks with their names.

Labelling a 'clean' ziploc bag and a 'dirty or used' ziploc bag helps the children put their masks in the right bag and prevents masks from being left exposed.

We encourage our families to please wear masks when dropping off and picking up your children and please respect the social distancing. Wearing a mask is an additional measure we can take to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and keep each other safe.

Recess is a vital component to a child's well being. As we know recess allows a child to recharge, release and prepare to return back to class. We have staggered recess breaks to support cohorting. A new mandate from Public Health is to wear masks outdoors when physical distancing is not possible. We are blessed at St. James with a lot of outdoor space. We've allowed students to enjoy their outdoor breaks unmasked and it is my intention to continue to do so however, if the students choose not to adhere to the safety protocols outside, they will be required to wear their mask outdoors as well.

We will continue with free entry for all students.

We will be having free entry in the morning from 8:20 am – 8:35 am. Students will enter through the assigned doors, sanitize their hands and make their way to their classroom.

- ◆Our **JK and SK** students will enter through their own doors.
- ◆The Grade **1s & 2s** will enter through the Main Doors.
- ◆The Grade **3, 4, 5, 7 & 8s** will enter through the Junior/Intermediate Doors.
- ◆The students in portables will enter through their respective portable door.

It is our hope to decrease the congestion in the hallway.

Please ensure that your child(ren) arrive to school on time.

At the end of the day, students will be exiting from the same doors.

Please respect the traffic signs indicating the **NO Parking, NO Stopping zones**. Please avoid driving through the Bus Lane. The School Parking lot is closed to the public daily between 7:30 to 8:35 am and between 2:00 to 3:00 pm.

The **Main Office will be closed over lunch from 11:20 am to 12:10 pm**. Please discuss with your child(ren) if you will be picking them up for an appointment or for other reasons during this time, they are to meet you at the front doors.

Please send your children to school with a reusable water bottle that can be re-filled at the Hydration Stations. Please avoid sending glass bottles to school. We also encourage 'Boomerang lunches' which means that students bring home all uneaten food and peels, wrappers etc. You may want to provide your child with separate bags or containers for this.



As we return to school let's keep in mind and practice the Health & Safety Protocols and Protective Strategies.

Frequent hand washing using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer is essential.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; and,
- If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) can be used to clean your hands as long as they are not visibly soiled.
- Maintain your physical distance. Wear a mask when this is not possible.

Borrowed Devices

If your child(ren) has a device on loan from the school, we ask that it is returned to the school as soon as possible.

Peanut/Nut Free School



This is just a reminder that we are a peanut, nut and allergen sensitive school. We have students and staff with severe, life threatening allergies. Please do not send snack and lunch products that contain nuts. Please inform the school of any changes or new medical conditions so we can update our records.

Thank you for helping to keep all students and staff affected by allergies safe.

Transportation



Staff at the Board and at HWSTS have been working hard to ensure that your children will be transported to school in a safe manner.

If you have any questions you may call Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services at 905-523-2318.

As a reminder, student bus stop information is available on the Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) website, Bus Stop Finder portal, at: <https://www.hamiltonschoolbus.ca/service-stopfinder.aspx>

Lunch Supervisors



We are in need of lunch supervisors to assist with supervision from 11:20 am to 12:20 pm.

If you are interested, please contact the office at 905-560-2700.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we return to school.



We are confident that 'We Can Do This Together!' and look forward to an rest of the year!

Mrs. Minicucci
Principal