

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



Newsletter #4-December 2024

Dartmouth South Academy
111 Prince Arthur Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 0C5
<http://dsa.hrce.ca>

Phone: (902) 464-2081/Fax: (902) 461-0199
Principal: Adrienne Blumenthal
Vice Principal: Susan Aucoin/Ashley Grant

School Closure for Inclement Weather

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board's website at www.hrce.ns.ca, on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HRCE_Official, recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website. If you are interested in learning more on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit

<http://www.hrce.ns.ca/content/id/1137.html>

SchoolsPlus is here to support you

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus 12 months a year! Just contact the SchoolsPlus Facilitator at your school. Call 902-464-2000, ext. 2331 or email schoolsplus@hrce.ca.

Holiday Concerts

Our Holiday Concerts will be held next week:

Dec 9th – 6:00 pm – Band Concert

Dec 10th – 1:30 pm – Primary to Grade 3 /4

Dec 11th – 2:00 pm – Grades 4 to 6

Cold Weather

Just a reminder that the cold weather is upon us. **Our school is not open for students until 8:40 am. Please ensure that your children do not arrive at the school too early as there is no supervision. We have some students who are arriving at 8:00 am ... this is far too early as our mornings are cold. Students should be dressed for the weather and bring a change of clothes in their backpack to save from phone calls home.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

DECEMBER 5	NO CLASSES Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day - PP-12
DECEMBER 23	NO CLASSES Holiday break starts on Mon., Dec. 23 Classes will resume on Fri., Jan. 3

 Halifax
Regional Centre for Education

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Dates to Remember

Dec 3rd – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Dec 5th – Professional Learning Day (no classes)

Dec 9th – 6:00 pm Band Concert

Dec 10th – Holiday Concert - 1:30 pm Primary to Grade 3 /4 and International Human Rights Day

Dec 11th – Holiday Concert - 2:00 pm Grades 4 to 6

Dec 20th – Last Day of 2024 Classes Before Break

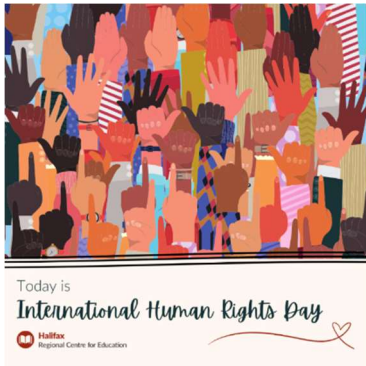
Dec 25th – Christmas Day

Dec 25th – First day of Hanukkah

Dec 26th - Kwanzaa

Jan 2nd – Teacher Professional Practice Day

Jan 3rd – First Day for Students



Students must remember to bring their own water bottles!

SCHOOLCASH – REMINDER

**We have school fees due for sports events.
Please be sure to register for updates.**

When items get posted, parents that are registered will be sent an email notification from the system advising that there is now an item available for purchase.

The URL to the site is:

<https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/>

Safe Arrival

We have a safe arrival program in place. Please call 1-833-582-6940 to report your child's absences. If your child is going to be late, please enter AWN for the day and we will change it once they arrive at school. There are instructions attached to this email.

Doors open for students at 8:40 am and attendance is taken by 9:00 am sharp. Calls begin going home for students who aren't in the class at this time. To avoid computer generated calls going home, please ensure your children are at school for 9:00 am attendance. If your child is late, you will probably receive a computer-generated call.

Bell Times

Morning Attendance – 8:55-9:00 am

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00– grades P-6

Lunch – 1:00 – 2:00 – grades 7-8

Dismissal Pre-P-8 – 3:00 pm

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

We're Always Hiring!!

Did you know that HRCE has roughly 10,000 employees serving nearly 60,000 students?

Our job postings are updated every Wednesday at noon and feature a wide variety of career opportunities!

As HRCE grows, so does our staff. Check out new opportunities weekly at www.myhrce.ca/jobs



Winter/Holiday Assistance

Families can access the following organizations/resources when seeking support for Christmas/Winter Break/Holiday support:

1. The Salvation Army Christmas Assistance Program: 902.422.1598 website: <http://hrmchristmas.ca/> The program opens on October 21, 2024 and closes on December 6, 2024. Applications are available online and they prefer that families apply online.
2. Parker Street Christmas Hamper Program: 902.425.2125 ext. 1 <https://parkerstreet.org/christmas-programs>. The program opened on October 7 and is for only those who are registered clients of Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank prior to October 1, 2024.
3. Families can contact 211 to inquire whether there are any community programs that are offering support. Resources can also be accessed through the website <https://ns.211.ca>
4. Families can also access the local food banks in their communities for support; the list of food banks in the Dartmouth area is attached, but can also be accessed through the Feed Nova Scotia website <https://www.feednovascotia.ca/find-food>



DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Happy Holidays!!

To all who celebrate, we wish you a joyful holiday season! Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Blessed Kwanzaa!!



Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school buses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

It is HRCE's goal to communicate any changes to the regular operations of schools and/or buses as close to 6:00 a.m. as possible. **A 6:00 a.m. announcement could be:**

- All schools are delayed in opening by two hours and bus pickups are delayed by two hours; or
- All schools are open, but some or all busses are not operating for the day; or
- Some schools (either individually or by family) are closed for the day; or
- All schools are closed for the day.

If weather deteriorates, or is forecasted to worsen throughout the morning, **an 11:00 a.m.**

announcement could be:

- Bussed students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Walking students will be dismissed at their regularly scheduled lunch hour.

How will I find out?

- By email to the addresses in PowerSchool
- By text message, **if you have opted-in**. If you aren't sure if you have opted-in, text Y to the following number: **978338**
- [On the HRCE website](#)
- [On X \(formerly Twitter\)](#)
- [On Instagram](#)

It's important to always have a plan in place for childcare in the event of any cancellation.

For more information on how HRCE manages during inclement weather, visit hrce.ca/weather.

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Dear Parent/Guardian,

During the summer, your PowerSchool Parent Portal account was recreated as part of an update. Your previous username and password no longer exist. Student access to the Portal is unchanged. Students who know their username and password will continue to use the information they have always used.

Your new username is *your full email address that is receiving this message*. For example, if your email address is myemailaddress@gmail.com your **Parent Username** is now myemailaddress@gmail.com.

When the PowerSchool Parent Portal reopens on **Thursday, September 2**, please follow these steps to activate your new parent account:

1. Open a web browser and navigate to the Portal Sign In page at:
<https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca>
2. Click on the link: **Forgot Username or Password?**
3. Click on the **Parents** tab.
4. Under the **Forgot Password?** section, enter your **Parent Username**. Your **Parent Username** is the full email address that received this message.
5. Enter your **Parent Email Address** (use same email address entered in Step 4).
6. Click the **Reset Password** button.
7. A Password Reset Request email will be sent to you. Click the link in the email to reset your password.
8. Navigate back to the Portal Sign In page at: **<https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca>**
9. Enter your **Parent Username**. Your **Parent Username** is the full email address that received this message.
10. Enter the password you set via the Password Reset Request.
11. Once logged in, review your account details.

PowerSchool SIS

Recover Account Sign In Information

Students Parents

Parents

Forgot Password?
To reset your password, enter your username and email address below, and click the 'Reset Password' button.

Parent Username: myemailaddress@gmail.com

Parent Email Address:

Reset Password

Only the school where the student is currently enrolled can troubleshoot and make changes. Contact the school if you encounter any difficulty, such as a student no longer linked to your account.

Thank you for your cooperation and support through this parent account update.

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Reporting Student Absences

Dear Parents/Guardians

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day. Our school will be implementing a new way to report absences through SchoolMessenger. If your student is absent and the absence has not been reported in advance, you will receive notifications via email, text, and phone calls from SchoolMessenger.

To report your student absent, you can use any of the following methods:

- **PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal**
Parents/guardians can log into <https://sishrsb.ednet.ns.ca/public/> to access the link to the SchoolMessenger website to report future absences.
- **SchoolMessenger App**
Parents/guardians can download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices, create an account and use their email that the school has on record for them as their username.
- **Toll-Free Number**
Parents/guardians can call **1-833-582-6940** to report future absences using an automated system.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Absences can be reported at any time before the start of school on the day the student will be absent. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. If you have students attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Food Banks

CORP OF CHRIST CHURCH – 61 Dundas Street,
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4H5

Phone (902) 466-4270

Hours

Monday – closed

Tuesday – closed

Wednesday – 5:30 – 6:30 (please call to make your
appointment at 902-466-4354)

Thursday – 8:00 am – 9:30 am

Friday – closed

Saturday – closed

Sunday - closed

DARTMOUTH NORTH CHRISTIAN FOOD BANK – 29
Farrell St, Dartmouth NS B3A 4B2

Phone (902) 466-2475

Hours

Monday – closed

Tuesday – closed

Wednesday – closed

Thursday – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Friday – closed

Saturday – closed

Sunday - closed

**EAST DARTMOUTH CHRISTIAN FOOD BANK
ASSOCIATION** – 51 Woodlawn Rd., Dartmouth, NS
B2W 2S1

Phone (902) 434-5819

Hours

Monday – closed

Tuesday – closed

Wednesday – closed

Thursday – 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Friday – closed

Saturday – closed

Sunday - closed

DEMETREOUS LANE FOOD BANK – 12 Canso Lane,
Dartmouth, NS B3A 2Z5

Phone (902) 407-5557

Hours

The food bank will be open from 9am – 10 am on the
following day for the remainder of 2024

Dec 11

**NORTH DARTMOUTH OUTREACH RESOURCE CENTRE
SOCIETY** – 44 Hester St, Dartmouth, NS B3A 1K2

Phone (902) 469-2188

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - closed

Wednesday – 8:30 am – 10:00 am

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Food Banks

ENCOUNTER COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE SALVATION ARMY – 345 Pleasant St, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3S4

Phone (902) 466-6176

Monday – closed

Tuesday – 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Wednesday – closed

Thursday – closed

Friday – closed

Saturday – closed

Sunday - closed

ST. CLEMENT'S SVDP – 16 Gaston Rd., Dartmouth, NS B2W 2G5

Phone (902) 469-1203

Service at this location is by appointment only.
Please call ahead.

Monday – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Tuesday – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Wednesday – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Thursday – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Friday – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Saturday – closed

Sunday - closed

ST JAMES UNITED CHURCH – 181 Portland St, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1J5

Phone (902) 464-8852

Monday – closed

Tuesday – 8:30 am – 11:00 am (alternate weeks, call ahead)

Wednesday – closed

Thursday – closed

Friday – closed

Saturday – closed

Sunday - closed

VICTORIA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH – 36 Victoria Rd., Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2V9

Phone (902) 469-8576

Monday – closed

Tuesday – closed

Wednesday – closed

Thursday – 11 am – 12 pm

Friday – closed

Saturday – closed

Sunday - closed