

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



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](https://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>

Safe Arrival

Thank you to all who use the safe arrival program. As a reminder, please call 1-833-582-6940 to report your child's absences. Calls home will be made by a computer-generated program. There are instructions attached to this email.

Doors open at 8:40 am and attendance is taken by 9:00 am sharp. Calls begin going home for all students who aren't in the classroom at this time. Students have 20 mins to arrive in class on time. To avoid the computer-generated calls, please ensure your children are at school for 9:00 am attendance. **Computer generated calls go home each day when your child comes in late.**

Newsletter #8-April 2025

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

Pre-Primary and Primary Registration for 2025 - 2026

It is imperative that parents of pre-primary children who will be 4 on or before December 31st, 2025 and primary children who will be 5 on or before December 31st, 2025 register their children now if they are not currently enrolled in pre-primary. Our staffing allocation is based on these numbers.

For more information or to access the online registration forms, please visit www.hrce.ca.

Grade 8 Grad Photos

**Grade 8 Grad Photos will be taken on
Tuesday May 13th, 2025.**

Bell Times

Morning Attendance – 8:55-9:00 am

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00 – gr P-6

Lunch – 1:00 – 2:00 – gr 7-8

Dismissal Pre P-8 – 3:00 pm

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

HRCE - Texts

Do you want to receive information from our school and HRCE by text message?

We now have the ability to send information to you by text message. **To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message.**

If you have already opted in – that's great! You don't have to read further.

If you haven't (and would like to), here's what you need to do:

- If you did not receive the opt-in text message on **November 16**, please call your child's school to update your contact information in PowerSchool. Any changes are uploaded nightly and reflected the following business day. When your number is added or changed in PowerSchool, you will automatically receive the opt-In message.
- If you decide you no longer wish to receive HRCE and school information via text, you can reply to the message with "STOP" or by clicking [here](#).
- Parents/guardians can opt-in at any time by texting "Y" or "YES" to 978338. The mobile number MUST also be in PowerSchool.
- This text message function WILL include school cancellation notifications.
- This text message function will NOT share bus delay information.

Anyone who is NOT a parent/guardian in our system who wishes to receive school cancellations due to inclement weather must opt in via the HRCE website: www.hrce.ca/notifications . This includes staff, students and members of the community.

Students must remember to bring their own water bottles and eating utensils!

HALIFAX HOOPERS

Halifax Hoopers is pleased to provide a limited special offer Adult-Child 2 ticket discount to the April 18th, 7:00 pm Home Opener against the Tri-State Admirals (USA): Total of \$20 plus fees.

Notices with the discount code will be sent home.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day

April 3 – Elem/Middle/Jr High Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day – No Classes PP-12

April 18 – Good Friday (no classes) PP-12

April 21 – Easter Monday (no classes) PP-12


April 23 – Administrative Professionals Day

April 27 to May 3 – National Volunteer Week

April 30 – Elem/Middle/Jr High Professional Development & High School Progress Conferences/Teacher Practice Day (no classes) PP-12

Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

UPCOMING EVENTS	APRIL 3	NO CLASSES Progress Conferences & Professional Practice PP-12
	APRIL 18	NO CLASSES Good Friday
	APRIL 21	NO CLASSES Easter Monday
	APRIL 30	NO CLASSES Progress Conferences & Professional Practice PP-12



DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Inclement Weather

Did you know? HRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the regular operations of schools and school busses 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:**

- Bused students will be picked up two hours earlier than their regular dismissal time; and
- Non-bused 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 [our 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.

Purple Tag Reminder Program

Just a friendly reminder that children in Pre-Primary to Grade 2 who use school transportation must have a purple tag on the left side of their backpack. This is to ensure they are not left alone at a bus stop. If your child doesn't have a purple tag or needs a new one, please reach out to the main office. Children who use special needs transportation do not require a purple tag.

To learn more about the Purple Tag Program, watch [this short video](#)

or visit HRCE's website [here](#) and click on *Purple Tag Program*

Supporting Literacy at Home

Did you know? Teachers use the [Six Pillars of Effective Reading Instruction \(Français\)](#) to support student's learning.

Reading is best learned when children get clear and structured support in key skills: listening, recognizing sounds in words, learning letter sounds, building vocabulary, reading smoothly and understanding what they read. These skills work together and when you strengthen one, it helps improve the others.

Good reading instruction includes learning how letters and words work and practicing reading in books. The goal is for children to understand what they read, enjoy reading and learn new things from books.

The links below may help you support your children with reading at home:

- [Ideas for parents to help children to practice their reading and writing skills](#)
- [10 Ideas to Raise A Reader](#)

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Grade 8 Grad Clothing

As in previous years, we are hoping to sell the Grade 8 Grad Hoodies. We are just confirming details but are hoping to offer black and grey hoodies that will have our school logo on the front and 2025 on the back with the grade 8 student signatures inside the numbers. More information will follow as to what exactly we can offer and the cost.

World Autism Awareness Day



Recognizing and celebrating World Autism Awareness Day in our schools fosters inclusion, understanding, and support for those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). On April 2 and every day, we strive to raise autism awareness among peers and educators, celebrate accomplishments and promote acceptance for those with ASD. Join us in creating a positive community where all students can thrive and learn about each other's diverse experiences.

Measles Prevention in Nova Scotia

We are sharing the following on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health:

Measles cases are rising in Canada. Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can cause serious complications. **The best way to prevent measles is vaccination.**

Nova Scotia offers free vaccines to eligible people. These can be given by primary care providers, pharmacists and Public Health.

Parents are encouraged to check their family's vaccine records and get the measles vaccine if missing doses. Check your vaccine records at vaxrecords.nshealth.ca.

Who should get vaccinated?

- Anyone born in or after 1970 should get **two doses** of vaccine, typically given at 12 and 18 months. If missed, children and adults can catch up for free.
- Adults born before 1970 are generally considered immune but can get a single dose if travelling.
- Infants 6-12 months old can get a single dose if travelling but still require two doses after their first birthday to complete the series.

Find out more about measles vaccination:
www.nshealth.ca/measles.

Provincial Lunch Program in Action

Last month was Nutrition Month, and what better way to celebrate healthy eating than to shine a spotlight on the Nova Scotia School Lunch Program!

[Click here](#) to see how students at one HRCE school are using the program to dish out some serious leadership skills. It's a feast of learning and fun!

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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.

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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.