

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



Newsletter #10-June 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

Registration for 2025-2026

There is still time to register your child for the 2025-2026 school year. Children for pre-primary must be 4 on or before December 31st and children for primary must be 5 on or before December 31st. Please do not wait to register as our staffing depends on student enrollment.

The link below will give you more information regarding the online registration process

Breakfast Program

The Breakfast Program will run until June 26th. We would like to extend a special thank you to all those who have helped with our program in regard to donations, as well as their time. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

***June is a hot month inside the school
...students must remember to bring their
own water bottles and still require eating
utensils!***

Grade 8 Ceremony

This is just a reminder of the grade 8 closing ceremony will take place the afternoon of June 19th at 2:00 pm in our school gym. Doors will open at 1:30 pm for guests.

The celebration dance will be the same evening from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. This will be for grade 8's only. The dance will be free of charge for the 8th grade DSA student and their guest will need to purchase a ticket for \$5.00 one week in advance. The guests will need to sign a form and be in good standing at their current Jr. High school. Student ID will be required.

Library

We are asking that all parents return their child's library books by June 20th at the latest. Thank you for your co-operation!

Grade 8 Hoodies

The grade 8 hoodies should be here the week of June 23rd, 2025.

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Ice Cream Social

The Parent-Teacher Organization is excited to host an Ice Cream Social, Tuesday June 10th from 6pm-7pm. Open to students and their immediate families, come and enjoy a free ice cream sandwich or popsicle, while supplies last! Please note this will be an outdoor event, located at the back of the school. There will be no access to washrooms inside the school.

Rain date, Tuesday June 17th, from 6pm-7pm

DATES TO REMEMBER

National Indigenous History Month

Italian Heritage Month

Filipino Heritage Month

Portuguese Heritage Month

Pride Month

June 5th – Grade 7 Orientation and Social – 5:30 – 6:15 pm. Social dance will be held from 6:15 – 7:30 pm.

June 10th – Ice Cream Social 6 – 7pm – rain date will be **June 17th, 2025**

June 12th – Band Concert – 6:00 pm

June 16th – Athletic Banquet – 6:00 pm

June 19th – Grade 8 Closing Ceremony at 2:00 pm. The celebration dance will be held the same evening from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

June 20th – All library books should be returned

June 21st – National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 26th – last day for Breakfast Program

June 27th – Assessment and Evaluation Day – no classes for students

June 30th – last day of school

**Be Tick
Aware**



Sharing on behalf of Nova Scotia Public Health

In summer and fall, people spend time at Nova Scotia's many beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. These small insects are found across Nova Scotia and can cause tick-borne diseases (TBDs), including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis.

Ticks like moist and humid environments and can be found in or near woods, shrubs, leaf litter, long grass, urban parks and gardens. They can be very small, which makes them hard to spot and their bites don't hurt, which makes it difficult to know when you've been bitten.

Visit NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety and learn:

- How to protect yourself - especially in grassy, wooded, or shrub-covered areas
- What to do if you find a tick on yourself/your child
- The signs and symptoms of tick-borne illnesses

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2025-2026 EXCEL Registration

The EXCEL Before and After Program is a recreation based, fee-for-service before and after school program run by Halifax Regional Centre for Education. At each school site where EXCEL is offered, the dedicated staffing teams plan games and activities that suit the needs and interests of all registered students. Since EXCEL began more than 25 years ago, staff have continually enhanced the program based on experiences and feedback. Today, with more than 4,000 participating students, EXCEL is one of the largest programs of its kind in the Maritimes, providing inclusive and engaging programming for participants.

For more information about registration, fees and programing, please [click here](#).

If you have additional questions, please contact the EXCEL Before and After Program Registrar's Office: Kimberly Lozon at 902-464-2000 ext. 2787 or excelregistrar@hrce.ca and Gail Hartling at 902-464-2000 ext. 2236 or excel@hrce.ca.

Gr 6/7 Orientation & Social

On June 5th, DSA will be having an orientation for parents of our current grade 6 feeder schools commencing at 5:30 pm.

We would like to have a welcome social dance from 6:15-7:30 for the future grade 7 incoming students and our current grade 6 and 7 students. We ask that parents leave the building and come back to pick their child up at 7:30pm. This social/dance will be free of cost. Our current grade 6 and 7 students at DSA must be in good standing to receive an invite.

ESL Summer Camp 2025

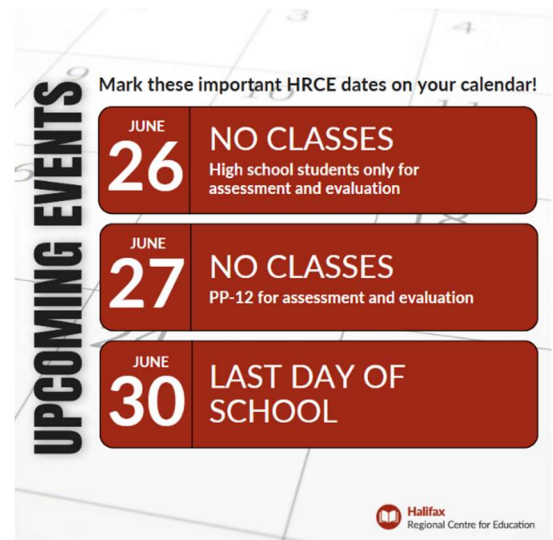
Running from **July 7 to August 22, 2025**, our camp provides students with 15 hours of weekly ESL instruction focused on improving reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, and vocabulary. In addition to language learning, students will participate in daily afternoon activities and field trips, including visits to local museums, the waterfront, arcades, beaches, and more—making for a rich and memorable summer experience.

Key highlights:

- Open to students entering grades 7–11
- 2–7 week registration options available
- Fun and educational local trips every afternoon
- Inclusive pricing (learning materials, transit, insurance, and more)

If you or any families have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@alcc.ca or (902) 446-1818. More information is also available at www.alcc.ca.

Thank you for helping us provide meaningful summer learning opportunities to ESL students in our community.



Mark these important HRCE dates on your calendar!

JUNE	
26	NO CLASSES High school students only for assessment and evaluation
27	NO CLASSES PP-12 for assessment and evaluation
30	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halifax Regional Centre for Education

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SchoolsPlus Supports for Summer

Did you know? SchoolsPlus operates 12 months of the year?

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available to every school in Nova Scotia. Families and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus by contacting the SchoolsPlus facilitator for your school,

Juliana Pontes, jpontes@hrce.ca

SchoolsPlus Facilitator

Learn more [here](#).

Lost and Found

We are not equipped to hang onto the lost and found here at DSA; we simply do not have the space to keep it and it's very unhealthy as the clothes are often wet and dirty. Please take the time to look for your child/children's belongings over the next bit of time. Come the end of June, the clothing will be donated.

2025-2026 Bus Information

Information about student transportation for the 2025-26 school year will be available to view online through the BusPlanner Parent Portal later in July.

- Families eligible for transportation will receive an email to access the Parent Portal to view their child's bus information once it is available.
- Once you receive the email, you must follow the instructions to activate your new Parent Portal account and create a password. Using previous Parent Portal login information will not work.
- If you can't find the email, please contact transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723 for assistance.

Over the summer, the HRCE Student Transportation team will also reach out to new HRCE families and those families who may require special needs transportation for their children with more information about busing.

Reminder: The Student Transportation team is available to assist you and answer questions about busing all summer at transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723. When contacting the team, please ensure you have your child's name, grade, school name and student ID number ready. Your child's student ID number can be found in PowerSchool or on the top of your child's report card.

Bell Times

Morning Attendance – 8:55-9:00 am

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00 – gr P-5

Lunch – 1:00 – 2:00 – gr 5-8

Dismissal Pre P-8 – 3:00 pm

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Tips to Support Reading and Writing at Home

As parents and caregivers, you play one of the most important roles in helping your child become a strong, confident reader and writer. What you do at home can make a big difference in your child's success in school and beyond. When reading and writing become part of family routines — like bedtime stories, writing notes to each other, or making shopping lists together — children see them as enjoyable and meaningful activities.

Here are some ideas and tips:

1. Create a dedicated writing space

Set up a quiet, well-lit area where your child can focus. Stock your writing center with essentials like paper, pencils, crayons, and even fun extras like family photos and old magazines to spark creativity.

2. Read often

Reading is one of the best ways to become a better writer. When children read a variety of books, they naturally absorb vocabulary, grammar, and different writing styles. Encourage daily reading to build their language skills and inspire their own writing.

3. Encourage reflective journaling

A journal is a great outlet for expressing thoughts and feelings. Prompt your child to write about everyday events at home and school. Suggest using sensory details — what they saw, heard, or felt. This helps develop descriptive writing. Provide real-life experiences that they can later write about. Remember, only read their journal if invited — and always respond with encouragement and thoughtful feedback.

Tips to Support Reading and Writing at Home - continued

4. Offer real-world writing opportunities

Help your child see writing as a practical skill. Let them write thank-you notes, grocery lists, birthday invitations or letters to family. Consider finding a pen pal to make writing feel more authentic and fun.

5. Be a writing role model

Let your child see you writing too! Whether it's a grocery list, an email or a note to a friend, show how writing fits into everyday life. Talk about the purpose of different types of writing and their audiences. Try having a "family writing night" where everyone writes and shares together.

6. Start a vocabulary notebook

Introduce a few new words each week and encourage your child to use them in writing and conversation. Turn it into a game for using words creatively.

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MAJESTIC SPORTS CLUB PRESENTS

WINTER YOUTH DODGEBALL LEAGUE DARTMOUTH DIVISION





**NEW DIVISION
ADDED!**

- ✓ Co-ed 14U Gr.6-8
- ✓ Adult v Kids Night
- ✓ Playoffs
- ✓ Team Jersey
- ✓ Tons of FUN

WHEN: TUESDAYS | NOV - MARCH | 6 PM/7 PM
WHERE: SOUTH WOODSIDE COMMUNITY CENTRE, DARTMOUTH
COST: \$110 - INCLUDES OWN TEAM JERSEY

REGISTER ONLINE
www.majesticsportsclub.ca
kellen@majesticsportsclub.ca



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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.