

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



Staff at DSA

We would like to give a warm welcome to new and returning staff to Dartmouth South Academy. New staff members are as follows:

- Linda Doove – Admin assistant
- Jillian Rowe – School Counsellor
- Mila Cherny – Grade ½
- Zachary Flaming – Grade 2/3
- Camille McFarlane – Grade 5/6
- Kim Sparks – Grade 6
- Olivia Pretty – Grade 7 Math/Science
- Kenzie Taylor – Grade 7/8 Tech Ed/Health/Science
- Yomna Abd Ed-Rahaman – Grade 7/8 FI Math
- Scott Stewart – Grade 7/8 Sciences Humaines/Sciences
- Kyle Vandertoorn – Grade 7/8 Core French/Mode de vie
- Stephen Carmichael – Learning Centre
- Lindsay Hatfield- Grade 7/8 French Language Arts
- Heidi Ruedy – Grade 7/8 Learning Support
- Alison Tweel – Daily Substitute teacher
- Jenelle Beals – EPA
- Cheryl Driscoll – EPA
- Julie Shields – EPA returning
- Michael McLeod – Grade 7/8 Literacy Support Teacher -
- Amy Snider – new role: Grade P-6 Math Support Teacher

Both new and former staff members are excited to get to know, learn and grow with your children! We look forward to a fantastic year!

Newsletter#1-Sept 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

Early Student Pick Up

Although students leaving early is discouraged due to missed instructional time, we realize that occasionally a student may have to. Should this happen, please inform the classroom teacher so that they can plan accordingly. Thank you for your co-operation.

Breakfast Club

We are looking for volunteers to help out with the breakfast program. Set up starts at 8:15am. Students enter building for the soft start at 8:40 and breakfast runs until 8:55. It is a grab and go style ranging from muffins, egg wraps, oatmeal, cereal, fruit, hashbrowns, pancakes etc. The variety is pending on volunteers. Please email Susan Aucoin at saucoin@hrce.ca if you are interested. We would appreciate all the help we can find.

We also are accepting nut free cereal donations at anytime.

School Pictures

Retakes will be done September 25th. Make your own packages!

See all your images online at photomasterstudios.ca

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Unexcused Lates- Gr. 7&8

Consequences for Repeated Lateness: If a student accumulates 3 lates in one week, they will be assigned lunchtime detention the next week, and parents will be notified.

[DSA Lates Policy Details](#)

NO STOPPING/PARKING SIGNS

You are encouraged to pay attention to the no stopping zones when entering and exiting the school. We need to keep the safety of the students in mind when we are coming onto the school grounds.

School Lunch

Nova Scotia School Lunch Program



The Nova Scotia School Lunch Program is a provincial lunch program that offers public school students across Nova Scotia nutritious lunch every school day.

Go to: nslunch.ca

School Office Info

Student demographic forms will be updated by parents online through the parent portal. It is very important that we have accurate information and working emails as that is how report cards, messages and communication is relayed. More information to follow. ***Parents must log into the parent portal of Powerschool to access their child's information.*** Instructions are attached to this newsletter.

Should items need to be dropped off at the office for students, please ensure the child's name is on them. We get several a day and without names, we can't ensure children get the proper item.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Safe Arrival

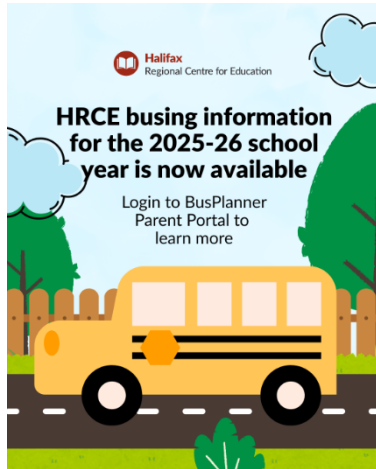
Please call 1-833-582-6940 to report your child's absences. Calls home will be made by a computer-generated program. There are instructions attached to this email.

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.

All students are reminded to bring a recess snack every day! We have fruit available through the morning but no packaged snacks.

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

Transportation



Using BusPlanner

Everything you need to know about student transportation including eligibility, stop times and stop locations can be found on BusPlanner. Once you register and subscribe, you may also receive email notifications on changes to routes, bus delays or cancellations.

To sign up, go to BusPlanner at hrce.mybusplanner.ca and click on Parent Portal. Follow the instructions to create an account.

Don't have a BusPlanner Parent Portal account? Need help logging in? Please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or call 902-431-4723.

Terry Fox Run

Friday, September 26th 2025, will be our Terry Fox Walk/Run.

Terry Fox Walk will be held on Friday, September 27th. We are going to hold 2 separate groups; east wing classes will do their Terry Fox Walk from 11:15-11:45 and the west wing classes will walk from 12:15-12:45.

At 10:30 the East Wing will go to the gym and West Wing will join virtually for our Terry Fox Assembly.

[DSA Terry Fox Donation Link](#)

Lunch Monitor

With our growing community, we are in the search for lunch monitors to help supervise the safety of all students over the lunch hour. Our lunch Supervision goes from 11:55-12:55. If you are interested, please contact Ashley Grant at granta@hrce.ca

SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

Just a reminder that DSA has moved to an online cash system. Parents will no longer be required to have cash on hand in order to purchase items from the school.

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 to register is:
<https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com/>



DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

School Surveillance System

Our school uses a video surveillance system as part of our continued efforts to support a safe, positive and effective learning environment. We recognize that the images recorded by this video surveillance system are personal information and, as with all other personal information, we take steps to balance privacy rights with safety and security concerns. The school has the legal authority to collect this personal information under Section 24 of Nova Scotia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Only designated staff has access to our video surveillance equipment and such access is restricted as required by law. The system is used to enhance school safety and to deter or take action in response to unlawful behaviours.

If you have any questions about video surveillance at our school, please contact Adrienne Blumenthal, Principal, at 902-464-2081.

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



Dates to Remember

Sept. 18th - Lockdown Drill

Sept 25th – Picture retakes

Sept. 25th - Hold and Secure Drill

Sept 26th – Terry Fox Walk

Sept. 26th – Orange Shirt Day

Sept. 29th - Professional development Day- no classes

Sept 30th – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (no classes)

Fourth Week of September – Gender Equality Week

Literacy

Acadience Reading

In September, classroom teachers spend time getting to know their students and who they are as learners.

Schools will be using *Universal Screening in Reading* for Grade 1 and 2 students. *This is one of the many ways teachers will assess learning.*

What is Universal Screening in Reading?

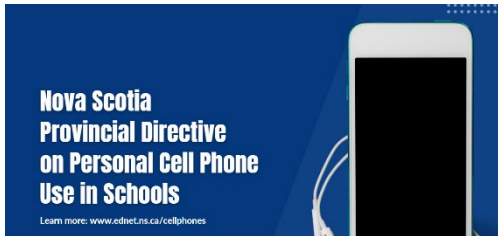
It's a short (1–5 minute) activity that helps us see how your child is developing key reading skills. Think of it as a quick check-in on their reading journey, like looking at a map to see where they are and what might help them move forward.

Why do we do it?

The screening helps teachers understand children's strengths and where they may need extra support. This allows us to plan instruction, so students get what they need to succeed in reading.

Important to know:

This is *not* a test. There's no "pass" or "fail." It's a way for teachers to ensure students are supported in their learning.



The expectation is that cell phones/devices for all students P-8 will be kept in lockers or backpacks when students arrive at school and for the duration of the school day. During class time, parents will always be able to get a message to your child through the office. Exceptions will be made for students who rely on their personal device for health reasons, (eg. blood glucose) after consultation with parents. Students in grade 7-8 will be able to use their devices at lunch, no recording. No Cell phones are allowed in washrooms at anytime.

NS School Code of Conduct

This year the EECD has made improvements to the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy.

The Code of Conduct establishes standards of behaviour for all Nova Scotia public schools and sets expectations around response to unacceptable behaviours. The Code of Conduct was updated in 2025.

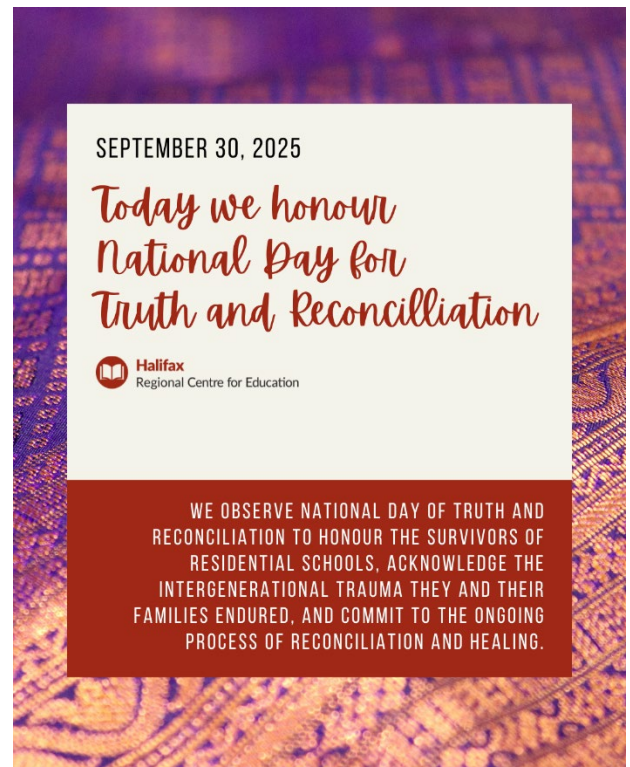
Please see an outline of those changes [here](#).

Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Each year on September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours the children who didn't return from residential schools, as well as survivors, their families, and communities.

Orange Shirt Day, led by Indigenous communities, aims to raise awareness about the inter-generational impacts of residential schools and allows us all to show our support for the Every Child Matters movement.

As there are no classes on Monday, September 30, we welcome staff and students to wear orange on Friday, September 26.

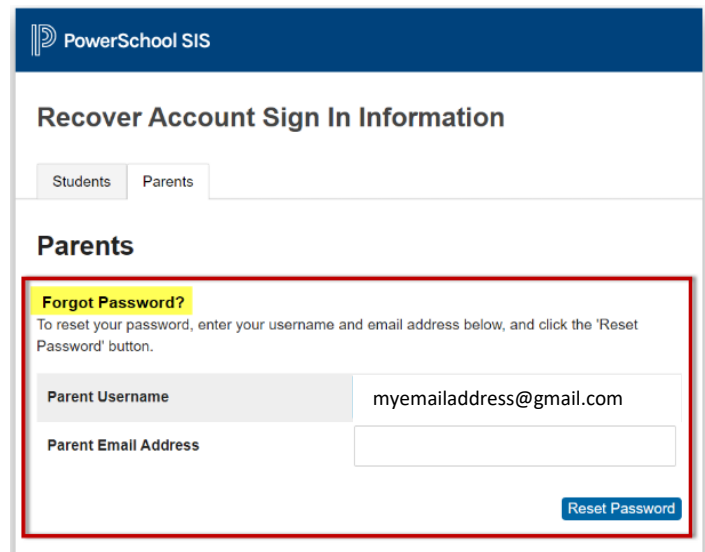


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Powerschool Parent Portal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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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School Messenger SafeArrival: 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 has implemented reporting 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.