

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

902-464-2081



DSA.HRCE.CA



DSA@HRCE.CA



111 Prince Arthur Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 0C5

Principal: Adrienne Blumenthal
(On short term leave)

Acting Principal: Susan Aucoin

100% Vice principal: Ashley Grant

50% Vice Principal- Kimberly Sparks

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Dec. 4 - Student progress Meetings - 1-3pm and 5-7pm. No School for Students all day**
- **Dec. 8-12th- Flouride program**
- **Dec. 10 -International Human Rights Day**
- **Dec.14 - First day of Hanukkah**
- **Dec 15 -6pm Band concert**
- **Dec 16 -Holiday Concert - 1:30pm Primary to Gr. 3/4**
- **Dec 17 -Holiday Concert - 2:00 pm Gr. 4 to 6**
- **Dec. 19 Last day for Students**
- **Dec. 22- Jan.- Winter Break**
- **Dec. 25 -Christmas Day**
- **Dec. 26 -Kwanzaa**
- **Jan. 5 - First Day for Students**



Holiday Concerts



Our holiday concerts will be held:

Dec 15th – 6:00 pm – Band Concert

Dec 16th – 1:30 pm – Primary to Grade 3 /4

Dec 17th – 2:00 pm – Grades 4 to 6

All welcome- No tickets required. Doors open 15 minutes before start time.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is 8:40- 9:00 Everyday

We need your help!

We are seeking volunteers to help us with the breakfast program.

There are two options for helping:

Option 1 - join us at 8:15am to help prepare the food and serve. You will be finished by 8:55am.

Option 2 - join us at 8:40am to help us serve food to students. You will be finished by 8:55am.

Please reach out to Sue Aucoin at saucoin@hrce.ca if you're available to help!





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.
Learn more about SchoolsPlus [here](#).



Student Council

Student Food Drive- Student Council is running our annual Holiday Food Drive from now until the morning of Friday, December 19. We're collecting nonperishable items for a local food bank to support families over the holiday season.

- Collection: Student Council members will collect and tally donations on the morning of Friday, December 19 so items can be delivered to the food bank that day.

Lost and Found

Lost and found will be donated on December 19th. There is a rack by the front door. Please check it out before then.

Happy Holidays!!

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



Progress Conferences



December 4th is Parent Conference day. 1-3pm and 5-7pm.
Book your appointment here:

<https://secure.parentinterviews.com/dartmouth-south-academy/login>

SCHOOLCASH – REMINDER

We have school fees due for sports events and class trips. 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.schoolcashonline.com/>



We're ALWAYS hiring!

Did you know that HRCE has more than 10,000 employees serving more than 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.

Planning for 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 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/families/cancellations.



Resources for Parents from Unplugged Canada

If you're concerned about your kids' screen time, smartphone use, or social media pressure, there are some wonderful resources below to help parents and caregivers navigate the challenges of raising kids in a digital world.

For parents: *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt highlights the research and evidence behind how early smartphone and social media exposure have shaped a generation over the last 10–15 years. *Ten Rules for Raising Kids in a High-Tech World* by Jean Twenge offers practical, actionable guidance to help parents set healthy boundaries and support their kids' digital wellbeing.

For kids: *The Amazing Generation*, written for pre-teens and teens and co-authored by Jonathan Haidt, will be released on December 30. It explains the impact of today's digital environment in an engaging, age-appropriate way. All of these books are available at your local library or bookstore.

Unplugged Canada is a parent-led, national movement advocating for healthier childhoods by delaying smartphones and social media until kids are more developmentally ready. Join thousands of Canadian families choosing to delay by taking the Unplugged Canada Pledge at unpluggedcanada.com/sign-pledge.



Brainworx Winter – Free Literacy Program for Students

Brainworx for students in grades 1-6, and the Junior Coach program for students in grades 7 & 8.

Both programs are run by live, trained volunteers and are at NO COST to anyone, it is FREE for families to register.

BRAINWORX!
START2FINISH

LIVE,
ONLINE AFTER SCHOOL
LEARNING PROGRAM

- ☆ Gr. 1-6
- ☆ January to May
- ☆ Twice a week, Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday
- ☆ 40 minutes each session
- ☆ Improve literacy, fitness, and character strengths
- ☆ Make friends
- ☆ Win prizes

REGISTER AT:
[BRAINWORX.START2FINISHONLINE.ORG](https://brainworx.start2finishonline.org)

SIGN UP FOR FREE

JUNIOR COACH
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS
IN GRADES 7 & 8 | JANUARY - MAY

- Explore what it means to be a leader and how you can be one in your community.
- Meet like-minded students. Learn from & encourage each other.
- Live online sessions. 1-hour on Mondays, led by trained volunteers.
- Discover new stories and how they connect to us, while also getting active.

📌 Who are these programs for?

- Students in grades 1-8
- Those looking for extra literacy support
- Families seeking fun, free after-school learning opportunities

🌟 What can families expect?

- Live volunteer storytelling to spark engagement
- Vocabulary-building activities to support language development
- A dynamic approach of movement, games, reading, and discussion
- Mentorship and meaningful connections
- Support for student growth through social-emotional learning (SEL)

👉 Families can register here: brainworx.start2finishonline.org/student/signup

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:
website: <http://christmasdaddies.org/christmashelp/>

The program closes on December 8, 2025. Applications are available online and they prefer that families apply online. The website contains all the information and what documents to upload to support the application.

2. 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>

Lice Reminder

Families are encouraged to check your child's hair regularly as it is the time of year we encounter lice. There have been recent cases of lice in our P-5 wing.

Flouride Varnish Program

NS Health- [Flouride Varnish Program](#) for Pre-Primary to grade 6 students will begin December 8th and continue on the 9th, 10th and 12th.

Lates Policy

Consequences for Repeated Lateness: If a Grade 7 or 8 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](#)

DARTMOUTH FOOD CALENDAR: December 2025

Food Banks

St. James United Food Bank
Tues. Dec. 9 & 16 / 8:30 -11 am
181 Portland St. (902) 464-8852

Cole Harbour Woodside United Church Food Bank
Tues. Dec. 2 & 16/ 1 -3 pm
15 Bissett Rd (902) 434-7714

Encounter Church Food Bank
(once per month per household)
Tuesdays / 1-3 pm
345 Pleasant St (St.Alban's)
(902) 466-6176

Demetreous Lane Food Bank
Wed. Dec. 10 / 9 -10 am
12 Canso Lane (902) 407-5557

Christ Church Food Bank
Wednesdays / 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Thursdays / 8 -9 am
61 Dundas St (902) 466-4354
Closed Dec 24, 25, 31 & Jan 1

North Dartmouth Outreach Resource Centre (NDORC)
Wednesdays / 8:30 – 10 am
44 Hester St. (902) 469-2188
Closed Dec 18-Jan 6

Gluten Free Food Share: Encounter Church of the Salvation Army
Wed. Dec. 17 / 5-7 pm
345 Pleasant St (St Alban's)
(902) 880-0264
encounter.info@salvationarmy.ca
Registration required

East Dartmouth Christian Food Bank
Thursdays / 8 – 11 am
51 Woodlawn Rd. (902) 434-5819
Closed Dec 25 & Jan 1

Dartmouth North Christian Food Bank
Thursdays / 9:30 am -12 pm
27 Farrell St. (902) 466-2475
Closed Dec 25 & Jan 1

Victoria Road Food Bank
Thursdays / 11 am-12 pm
36 Victoria Rd (902) 469-8576
Closed Dec 25 & Jan 1

St Clement's SVDP Food Bank (by appointment)
Monday-Friday/ 9:30 am - 12 pm
16 Gaston Rd (902) 469-1203

St. John XXIII's SVDP Food Bank (by appointment)
35 Colby Drive (902) 440-7399

St. Vincent De Paul Emergency Food (emergency situations only)
Phone: (902) 434-4190 x228 (leave a message)

Community Fridges

Cole Harbour Community Fridge
915 Cole Harbour Road
(parking lot of the Forest Hills Fellowship Baptist Church)

Dartmouth Community Fridge
61 Dundas St (Christ Church outdoors by food bank hall)

Eastern Passage Community Fridge
1807 Caldwell Road (Fire Station 16)

Meals & Snacks

Margaret's House /Feeding Others of Dartmouth (Take-away meals)
Monday – Friday / 11:30 am -12:30 pm
42 Wentworth St. (902) 464-2919
Closed Dec 25 & 26 & Jan 1

Souls Harbour Dartmouth Drop In (hot meals)
Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays / 12-2 pm
(Tues. Dec 23 will be a Christmas dinner)
27 Farrell Street (902) 405-4663
Closed December 25, 26, 31 & Jan 1

The North Grove Family Supper
(families with children ages 18 & under)
Monday Dec. 1, 8, & 22 / 5:30 - 6:30 pm
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234

Diamonds Bring Excellence Community Hub Tea & Chat
Tuesdays 11:30– 1 pm
17 Alderney Drive
Closed Dec 23- Jan 5

The North Grove Community Lunch
Tues. Dec. 2, 9 & 23. / 11:30 am -12:30pm
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234

Diamonds Bring Excellence Community Hub Tea & Chat
Wednesdays & Thursdays/ 11:30-1 pm
17 Alderney Drive
Closed Dec 23-Jan 5

Dartmouth Seventh Day Adventist Church Supper and Dessert
(while supplies last)
Wednesdays / 5:30 - 6:30 pm
35 Lakecrest Dr (902) 434-1562
Closed Dec 25 & Jan 1

The North Grove Drop-in Breakfast
Wed. Dec. 3, 10 & 17 / 9 – 10:30 am
6 Primrose St (902) 464-8234

Veterans Coffee Social
open to veterans & family (Army, Navy, Airforce)
Wednesdays / 9:30-11 am
134 Main St (parking at back)

Salvation Army Food Truck
(for people who are unhoused/at risk of homelessness)
Wednesdays /arrives approx. 6:15 pm
Green Rd Park Tent Encampment

The North Grove Café Drop-in
Thurs. Dec. 4, 11 & 18 / 11:30 am-12:30pm
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234

The Open Door, St Alban's Church
Tea/coffee/ juice and snacks
Thursday, Dec. 4/ 2– 3:30 pm
345 Pleasant St. (902) 463-2493

Community Café
Alderney Gate Public Library
Fridays / 10:30 – 11:30 am
60 Alderney Dr. (902) 490-5745

Christ Church Sunday Suppers
Sundays / 3 pm tea & coffee / 4 -5 pm Supper
61 Dundas St (902) 466-4270
No supper Sun. Dec. 28

Preston Area Food Network: Community Shelves (Open to residents of Preston Area)

North Preston Residents
Thursday, December 4 & 18/ 10 am – 1:30 pm
35 Simmonds Road, North Preston (Church basement)

Cherry Brook & Lake Loon residents
Thursday, December 4 & 18/ 10 am – 11:45 am
292 Cherry Brook Road, Cherry Brook

East Preston Residents
Thursday, December 4 & 18/ 11:35 – 1:30 pm
292 Cherry Brook Road, Cherry Brook
(902) 434-7155

Food Programs & Events

Dartmouth Square Roots
Registration begins: Mon. Dec 15
Pick up: Sat. Dec 20 / 9-11 am
(East Dartmouth Community Centre , 50 Caledonia Rd)
To register visit Councilor Tony Mancini's political Facebook page
Registration required

Mobile Food Market Affordable Produce (free coffee/tea, etc.)
Tuesdays /3:30-6:30 pm
27 Courtney Rd

Food Demo at The North Grove
Wed. Dec 3, 10 & 17 / 11- 12 pm
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234
Registration required

1-2-3 Cook with Me at The North Grove
(Caregivers & their children ages 2+)
Thursday. Dec. 11 / 10 -11:30 am
6 Primrose St. (902) 464-8234
Registration required