



Dartmouth South Academy

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Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Vice Principals: Susan Aucoin & Ashley Grant

Administrative Assistants: Amanda Drake & Doug Jarvis



Dear Dartmouth South Academy Families,

We are thrilled to kick off the 2026–2027 school year with you! Dartmouth South is a wonderful community where staff, students, and families come together to make amazing things happen. Whether you're returning for another year or joining us for the first time, we hope you feel very much at home as we settle into what promises to be a great school year.

For those I haven't had the chance to meet yet, my name is Jacquelyn Reid, and I am honoured to be your new principal. This is my 21st year in education and my 9th year in school leadership. After 4 years as principal of Hillside Park, I'm looking forward to getting back to my Dartmouth roots and beginning this next chapter at DSA. Thank you everyone for the warm welcome!

I would like to congratulate Ms. Blumenthal as she begins her retirement. She has shared a wealth of knowledge, history and wisdom with me over the past few months, and I am grateful for the time she has taken to help me step into this role. Her years of dedication to Dartmouth South Academy have made a lasting impact and we wish her a retirement full of relaxation, travel and time spent with family and friends.

A heartfelt thank you to our custodial team for their hard work over the summer to get our school sparkling and ready. Our incredible teachers and staff members have been busy creating engaging, welcoming spaces that set the stage for a year of learning and growth. Together, we are committed to creating a school culture where every student feels a sense of belonging and where curiosity, kindness and a love of learning are celebrated.

We are looking for family members who would like to be part of our School Advisory Council (SAC) and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22 at 6:00 PM in the library. If you're interested in attending, I'd love to hear from you at jacquelyn.reid@hrce.ca. Your voice is important, and we'd be glad to have you join us.

There is something amazing about the energy that fills a school in those first days: new classrooms, friendships old and new, and possibilities for the year ahead. Once we've settled into our routines, we will send a mid-September newsletter. For now, welcome to all our new and returning families and staff! Here's to a great year filled with Royals pride.

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Aucoin, Ms. Grant & Your DSA Team



Important Dates

Date	Event
September 2	Curriculum Night (6:00-7:00 PM)
September 3	First Day of Classes for Students
September 7	Labour Day (no school)
September 10	Stand Up Against Bullying Day- wear pink
September 14	School Picture Day (Grades P-8)
September 21	School Picture Day (Pre-Primary)
September 22	SAC/PTO Meeting in the Library 6:00 PM- all are welcome!
September 25	Professional Learning Day (no school for students)
September 29	Orange Shirt Day Observed
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (no school)
October 12	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 22	Halloween Dance (Grades PP-6)
October 23	Provincial Conference Day (no school for students)
October 26	School Picture Retakes (all grades PP-8)

[Click here for the 2026-27 HRCE School Calendar](#)

Stand Up Against Bullying Day

On the second Thursday of September, we recognize Stand Up Against Bullying Day. This day is an opportunity for us to start the school year off right, by celebrating inclusivity, kindness and friendship. All schools in HRCE are focused on ensuring all students have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and thrive. Please join us and wear pink if you're able on Thursday, September 10 to take a stand against bullying.



Breakfast Program

The breakfast program will start on Tuesday, September 8 with continental items until we get our hot breakfast underway.

Curriculum Night



We're excited to welcome our students and families to **Curriculum Night (Wednesday, September 2 from 6:00–7:00 PM)** This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher, drop off school supplies, visit their classroom and get a little peek at what the year ahead will bring.

Your child's homeroom teacher will share details earlier that day about where to go when you arrive. Please enter through the front doors and proceed to the designated areas below:

- Room 148-155: turn left and make your way down the hallway to the appropriate classroom
- Room 113-120: turn right past the cafeteria and make your way down the hallway to the appropriate classroom
- Room 240-251: go up the main staircase, turn right past the art room, and make your way down the hallway to the appropriate classroom
- Room 215-222: go up the main staircase, turn left, and make your way down the hallway to the appropriate classroom
- Room 300: proceed to the portable classroom at the back of the school.

For students in grade 7-8 and for specialist teachers in P-6, you will be able to view your child's schedule on Powerschool when it opens to parents next week. You will be able to view the names of other teachers that your child will have this year and their room numbers. Please feel free to visit them on curriculum night as well.



Classroom teachers will be reaching out to all families through email to introduce themselves prior to the first day of school. Please make sure you let them know your child's plan for after school dismissal (eg. bus, Excel, walker, childcare). This year our arrival and dismissal time have changed by 10 minutes (Instructional day begins at 9:10 AM and dismissal is at 3:10 PM).

As students arrive at school on **Thursday, September 3**, they should proceed to their designated door. They will be greeted by a staff member who will let them into the building between 8:50-9:10. Students in P-2 in rooms 148-155 and students in grades 5-8 in rooms 113-120 and 215-222 will all come in the front doors. Students in Grades 2-5 in rooms 240-251 will come in the door closest to the parking lot. We know the first day of school is exciting!

To keep arrival smooth, we kindly ask families to say their goodbyes outside. Our staff will be there to welcome students and guide them safely inside to their classrooms.

Classroom Assignments

[PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) will be open for families to view on **September 2nd at 3:00**. Please wait to hear from homeroom teachers to confirm your child's class for the first day of school. We also continue to monitor new registrations and students moving out of our area throughout the month of September.

Please remember that HRCE continues to grow, and class placements can change throughout September as enrollment numbers are finalized. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to make the best possible arrangements for all students.

School Lunch Program

Our school lunch program will begin serving meals on Tuesday, September 8. Families can place lunch orders for the first two weeks between August 29-September 3 at noon by visiting [NSLunch.ca](#). Please wait until you have received your child's class placement in PowerSchool to submit the order.

To order:

- ★ Create an account by clicking "Order Now" and selecting your Regional Centre for Education.
- ★ Log in using a My NS Account or a student GNSPES account.
- ★ The system will guide you through the process if you need to create an account.

Lunch Monitor Positions~ Join Us For Lunch!

We're looking for paid lunch monitors. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of our school community, build relationships with students, and help ensure a fun and safe lunch hour. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact Ms. Aucoin at saucoin@hrce.ca for more information.



School Transportation

Everything you need to know about student transportation, including eligibility, bus stops, and schedules can be found by clicking the Parent Portal in [BusPlanner](#). Once you register and subscribe, you can receive email and/or text notifications about route changes, delays, and cancellations. If you need assistance with your account, please contact the HRCE Student Transportation Team at transportation@hrce.ca or 902-431-4723.

Parents/guardians or a designated person must accompany Pre-Primary-Grade 2 students to their designated bus stop, remain with them until they board safely, and be present at the stop when they return home. HRCE uses a Purple Tag Program for Pre-Primary-Grade 2 students. Purple tags should be attached to the left side of the child's backpack or another easily visible location. Families should write the school name and morning/afternoon route numbers on the tag, but should not include personal information such as the child's name, address, or phone number.

School Supplies

As you prepare for the year ahead, we want to make sure everyone feels ready and excited for September. School supply lists can be found directly on our [website](#), and if you require support, please don't hesitate to reach out to our school team. We're always happy to help. Feel free to drop school supplies off on Curriculum Night!

Family Handbook

We've created a Dartmouth South Academy Family Handbook, which is your go-to resource for school procedures, policies, routines, and general information. We hope this is helpful information as we settle into the new school year. You can find it linked on our website [here](#).

Water Bottles

We encourage students to bring a water bottle to school each day. Bottle-filling stations are available throughout the school, so students can refill as needed. Sending your child with a full water bottle each morning is greatly appreciated, as we are unable to provide cups during the school day.

Cell Phone Policy

As a reminder, Nova Scotia has a provincial cell phone policy for schools. For students in Primary–8, cell phones are expected to be kept in their lockers or backpacks from the time students arrive at school until the end of the school day. Exceptions may be made for students who require a personal device for health-related reasons (e.g., blood glucose monitoring) in consultation with the school and family. Students in Grades 7–8 will have the opportunity to use their devices during lunch. A reminder that for students in grades 7-8, backpacks remain in their lockers. They carry only needed supplies to each class.



Dartmouth South Academy

Vision Statement

At Dartmouth South Academy, we are committed to fostering an inclusive, safe, and supportive environment where students and staff feel valued, respected, and empowered. Together we embrace diversity, take pride in our identities, and cultivate connection, collaboration, resiliency, and growth. We believe lifelong learning, emotional well-being, and social responsibility are fundamental building blocks for our community to thrive.