



Dartmouth South Academy

111 Prince Arthur Avenue - Dartmouth, NS - B2Y 0C5

Tel # (902) 464-2081 Website: hpe.hrce.ca Email: dsa@hrce.ca

Principal: Jacquelyn Reid Vice Principals: Ashley Grant & Sarah Petrie

Administrative Assistants: Amanda Drake & Doug Jarvis

Dear Dartmouth South Academy Families,

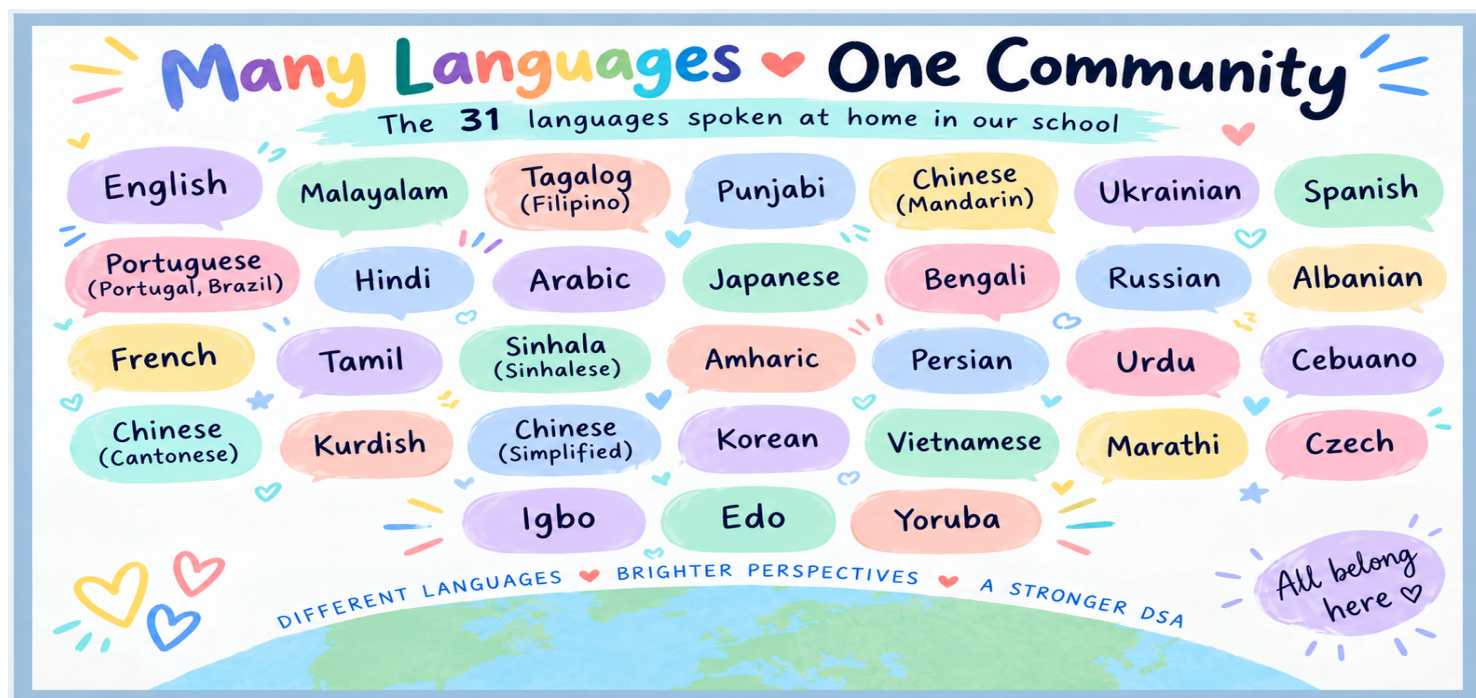
We're off to a fantastic start! It has been wonderful seeing students settle in, reconnect with friends, and dive into their classroom routines. The excitement and positive energy throughout the school is contagious! A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our staff, students, and families; your support makes all the difference. As we continue to welcome new Royals to our school, please note that class groupings may be adjusted up until September 30.

As you know, Ms. Aucoin is taking on a new adventure as the Principal of Bel Ayr Elementary. She has been central to the success and well-being of our students and staff over the course of her 6 years at DSA. Congratulations, Ms. Aucoin~ there are no words to express how much we will miss you. We will be cheering you on every step of the way! We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Sarah Petrie to the DSA administrative team. Ms. Petrie brings 26 years of experience as a junior high teacher, mathematics coach, and school administrator. She is elated to join this incredible community.

One of the things that makes DSA such a special place is the diversity within our school. We are lucky to have students and families who bring many different languages, cultures, stories, and perspectives to our school. This year, we're celebrating 31 languages spoken at home by members of our DSA community! If your language isn't represented here, please let us know! We'd love to add it and celebrate it with you.

Yours in Education,

Mrs. Reid, Ms. Grant & Your DSA Team





Date	Event
September 8-11	Fire Drill #1
September 10	Stand Up Against Bullying Day- wear pink
September 14	School Picture Day (Grades P-8)
September 14-18	Lockdown Drill #1
September 18	Terry Fox Run (rain date Sept 21)
September 21	School Picture Day (Pre-Primary)
September 21-24	Hold & Secure Drill #1
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



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30, we honour the children who did not return home from residential schools, and the survivors, families and communities who continue to live with their lasting impacts.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led movement that reminds us that Every Child Matters and encourages all of us to learn, reflect and support truth and reconciliation.

As there are no classes on Wednesday, September 30, we invite students and staff to wear orange on **Tuesday, September 29**.



Terry Fox Run

Terry Fox's courage and determination has inspired Canadians for more than 40 years. We will be holding our annual Terry Fox Run on **Friday, September 18**. As we learn about Terry and his Marathon of Hope, our students will explore the impact of his incredible journey and the importance of carrying his legacy forward.

If you wish to donate online, go to www.terryfox.org.



HRM Student Transit Pass Program

The Student Transit Pass Program continues for the 2026–27 school year! All eligible Grade 7–8 students can receive a free Halifax Transit pass, valid from September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027.

New this year: Student passes are moving from physical cards to the HFXGO mobile app. Students should download HFXGO and create an account using their student email address before the first day of school. Once their account is verified, Halifax Transit will issue their pass (please allow up to one week).

Students who do not have a smartphone or prefer a physical card can opt out of HFXGO by September 10, 2026 and request a physical pass. For more information about the program and HFXGO, please visit halifax.ca/StudentTransitPass.

Fantastic Friday Phone Calls!

We love celebrating our students at DSA. If you get a call from the school on a Friday, there is a good chance it is Mrs. Reid, Ms. Grant or Ms. Petrie calling to tell you your child has been recognized by one of our staff members for doing something “fantastic” that week. We will leave a message if the call goes to voicemail.



Volunteering at Dartmouth South Academy

We would love to welcome volunteers into our school this year. If you are interested, please reach out to Mrs. Reid (jacquelyn.reid@hrce.ca). Prior to volunteering with the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, all volunteers must provide:

1. A completed Child Abuse Register - Request for Search Form, which can be found [here](#)
2. A certified and true copy of a Criminal Records Check with Vulnerable Sector Check available [here](#), from your local Police or RCMP detachment or through online organizations endorsed by Nova Scotia law enforcement agencies.



We can provide you with a letter that states you are volunteering with us which reduces the cost of the checks. Please note: the Child Abuse Register Search and Criminal Records Check must be updated every three years. If you completed yours last year, we still have them on file!

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. Grant at granta@hrce.ca for more information.



Breakfast Club

We are looking for volunteers to help with our DSA Breakfast Program! Volunteers are welcome to join us at 8:25 AM to help with set-up. Students enter the building for our soft start at 8:50 AM and breakfast runs until 9:05 AM. Breakfast is a grab-and-go program, with a variety of options such as muffins, egg wraps, oatmeal, cereal, and fruit. The variety we're able to offer depends on the volunteers who help make it happen!

If you are able to lend a hand, please email Ms. Petrie at sarah.petrie@hrce.ca. We would be so grateful for any time you can give. We are also happy to accept nut-free cereal donations at any time.

Medication at School

Students requiring medications at school must have proper documentation on file in the school office. Forms must be completed on a yearly basis so we have current information in the office. Over the counter drugs must also follow this procedure. All medication is kept in a secure location in the office and is given to the student by appropriate school personnel when required. Please contact Mrs. Reid if your child requires medication during school hours.

Life Threatening Allergies

We have students and staff at our school with severe life threatening allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, kiwi, and eggs. Please do not send foods containing peanuts/tree nuts to school. This includes Nutella and treats like Ferrero Rocher. If your child has an allergy, please drop into the office to fill out the required forms. Please check the labels of food if you are unsure.

Arrival and Departure Safety Reminder

- ★ Please be mindful of students who are walking home and keep our driveway and walkways clear as students make their way out of the building. The end of the day can get very busy, and we need to ensure that students are able to dismiss safely
- ★ Follow signs posted for 'no stopping zones' when entering and exiting the school.
- ★ Follow signs for 'no parking' when entering and exiting the school grounds



Fire Drill & Lockdown Drill

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Dartmouth South Academy and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn. *Our first fire drill will take place the week of Sept 8-11.*

One of the procedures our school will be practicing is a lockdown drill. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building. Students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate.

Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills. Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the lockdown drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills. Please take the time to speak with your child about this procedure and reinforce its importance. *Our first lockdown drill will be during the week of September 14-18.*

Dogs on Property

We are reminding families not to bring dogs onto school property. We realize that combining a dog walk with your child's trip to and from school is convenient. Although these pets are usually playful and harmless, the presence of dogs on the school grounds represents a potential safety issue. Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe environment by not bringing your dog onto school property.

Safe Arrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day. You are able to report future absences using an app, website, or toll-free phone number. If a student is going to be absent from school for any reason, you have 3 options to report the absence:

- 1) Call Safe Arrival toll free at: 1-833-582-6940
- 2) Report via [SchoolMessenger](#)
- 3) Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices and use your username and password for the PowerSchool Portal.

All three methods are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Up to five consecutive absences can be recorded at once. 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 School Messenger.

If SchoolMessenger cannot reach you, office staff will follow up. Please make sure you contact Safe Arrival before 8:00 am as teachers will be completing their attendance at that time. *Students arriving late must check in at the office.*

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 reach out.

Provincial Student Attendance and Engagement Policy

Regular school attendance plays a key role in setting students up for success. We understand that sometimes special circumstances arise and we work collaboratively with our families to navigate these challenges. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support regular, consistent attendance for your child. You can also read more about the provincial policy [here](#).

