

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



## Newsletter#1-Sept 2021

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/Wendy Brackett Hill

### 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:

- P-8 Music/Band – Morgan Banfield
- Gr 6 Band – Patrick Forde
- Gr 7/8 MdV/SciHum/Sci – Kristin Soosaar
- Gr 7/8 Soc/Health – Ryan Bucci
- Gr 8 Math/Science – Tyson Wagley
- Gr 7/8 Art/Fam Studies/Health – Rhiannon Fielding
- P- 8 Phys Ed – Ryan Sanderson
- Phys Ed/Health – Chris Devries
- School Psychologist – Emily Atkinson
- Speech/Language – Erin Pottie
- EPA – Sarah Day
- Pre-Primary Lead – Kristen Margeson
- Pre-Primary Lead – Lisa Downey
- Pre-Primary Support – Sonya Dalton
- Pre-Primary Support – Valerie Martel

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!

Nourish Your Roots, the farm-to-school healthy fundraiser, is coming to Dartmouth South Academy. The selling period is until Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. Customers who are interested in ordering a box for Thanksgiving are encouraged to order early.

Boxes contain farm-fresh Nova Scotia grown produce and they are \$35 each. The money raised will directly support and sustain our school's healthy food programs, such as (school breakfast program, healthy food initiatives) Schools receive \$10.00 from each box sold.

The Nourish Your Roots store is now open at [shop.nourishns.ca](http://shop.nourishns.ca). Orders can be picked up between September 28 and October 30, 2021. Buy or donate a Nourish Your Roots box today to make a difference in our school.

To order a box go to the following site [shop.nourishns.ca](http://shop.nourishns.ca)

For more information please contact us at ([debby.macdonald@hrce.ca](mailto:debby.macdonald@hrce.ca)).

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## SCHOOLS PLUS

Hello! And welcome to Schools Plus! My name is Laura McAvoy- your Community Outreach Worker.

I will be here at DSA every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to support our student's families and community!

You might see me in the mornings at the front door welcoming students & sanitizing hands :) Students call me Ms.Laura

You can find out all about Schools Plus through the following link:  
<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/schoolsplus/>

My contact information is on the DSA staff directory along with our Assistant Lead.

Please reach out if you have any questions! Have a successful September

## Breakfast Program

Each morning breakfast is served to our students in the school cafeteria.

Students are welcome to come in from 8:40 – 9:00.

Breakfast items include: cereal, fruit, cheese, yogurt and crackers.

## School Safety

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 Office Info

Student registration forms are being sent home to be updated. Please edit/add any information that applies so that we can keep accurate records for your child. It is important that we have phone numbers that will allow us to reach you at any point in the day.

On the back of the registration form we have attached a sheet where you can indicate your consent for publication of student work.

We are also encouraging parents to log into the parent portal of Powerschool to access their child's information. To request your login information and password, please call Ms. Lake at 902-464-2081 or email at [klake@hrce.ca](mailto:klake@hrce.ca).

Thank you for your co-operation.

## Cafeteria

When you're placing your child's lunch order please be sure to use the following website:

[www.nutrislice.com](http://www.nutrislice.com)

## Safe Arrival

We do have a safe arrival program. If your child will not be attending classes, please call 902-464-2081. If there is no answer, please leave a message as these are retrieved before the bell rings. It is most helpful and appreciated when parents phone in. **This is for all grade levels PP – Grade 8.**

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Transportation

The BusPlanner Parent Portal has recently been upgraded and is now mobile friendly and easy to use! The Parent Portal allows parents/guardians to review all busing information, including bus schedules and locations and keeps families informed of transportation updates with email notifications.

We have carefully reviewed and planned bus routes and timing for the new school year so it is very important to check your busing information.

### How to activate your new Parent Portal account

Once you've received your email, families are encouraged to follow the instructions below to activate their new Parent Portal account and review their routing for September.

### Please follow these 5 simple steps to get started.

Click the *Activate* link in the email we sent you and you will be sent to the BusPlanner Parent Portal website.

Next, click *Create Password* (blue button). [Please do not change or remove your email address as shown.]

Check your email inbox again (that we've just emailed you at) and click on the *Activate* link to create your password.

Enter a *New Password* and *Confirm New Password* and click *Create Password*.

You will now be prompted to *Log In* with your *email* and *password*.

**You're done!** You will now be able to access your child(ren)'s busing information and receive automatic email notifications about transportation updates.

## Lunch Monitor

We are in need of lunch monitors at Dartmouth South Academy. The times would be from 12:00 – 1:00 pm and/ or 1:00 - 2:00 pm. A criminal record check and child abuse registry form are required to work as a lunch monitor. Please phone the school office at 902-464-2081 if interested and we will be more than happy to help you.

## Curriculum Night

This year our curriculum night will once again be held virtually. Teachers will send home links for Zoom or Google meetings that you will be able to join on Sept 23 between 6 and 7 PM. You are welcome to pop in to as many presentations as you would like. Curriculum information will also be sent home to parents. Teachers will be repeating their sessions at 6:00, 6:20 and 6:40 PM for parents who wish to attend different presentations.



## Dates to Remember

**Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Curriculum Night 6 – 7 pm

**Sept 24<sup>th</sup>** – PD Day – Pre-Primary – Grade 12 (no classes)

**Sept 30<sup>th</sup>**- Truth & Reconciliation Day (no classes)

**Oct 1<sup>st</sup>** – Orange Shirt Day

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Nova Scotia Homework Hub

The Nova Scotia Homework Hub is now open for tutoring. Grade 7-12 students will have access to tutoring every week, on school nights (Sunday to Thursday), from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Grade 4-6 students will have access to tutoring every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Homework Hub also provides students with video tutorials, practice exercises, vocabulary flash cards, digital math textbooks and an online graphing calculator.

Students and teachers are automatically enrolled in the NS Homework Hub. Tutors are Nova Scotia qualified mathematics teachers, and this is a free service.

## 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**

## Powerschool Parent Portal

During the summer, your Powerschool Parent Portal account was recreated as part of an update. Your previous username and password no longer exist. Student access to the Portal is unchanged. Students who know their username and password will continue to use the information they have always used. Please see attached instructions on how to access your parent portal.

## 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.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## School Safety and Security

As you are likely aware, our school practices lockdowns as part of our emergency planning/preparedness cycle. Staff and students are familiar with lockdowns, but we wish to increase your knowledge of our procedures.

It is important to understand that school staff will implement a lockdown and call police if and when there is any reason to believe that imminent danger to students and staff may exist. At this stage, everyone in the school will move to a secure location, safe from harm. Police will respond to the school and no one will enter or leave, until the situation is resolved.

The first instinct of parents/guardians is to either phone the school directly or your child, or to attend directly to the school. You are asked not to do any of these, but instead to understand and follow the procedures outlined in this letter.

Experience has shown that roadways need to be kept clear for responding emergency vehicles, and parents and others attempting to drive to the school can slow police and other emergency responders from getting to and securing the area as quickly as possible. Therefore, if you hear that a lockdown is occurring at your child's school, do not attend to the school. Instead, you may attend to your schools' designated Parent location to receive information which will be provided by police and school representatives.

## School Safety and Security – cont'd

Please be assured that every effort will be made to keep you informed as to what is happening during the event. Experience has shown that incorrect information often circulates during an event when it does not come directly from the police or school board. After the lockdown, you may be asked to go to the school or to wait where you are until your child is brought to your location.

We also ask that you not attempt to phone your child. In a lockdown, everyone must remain quiet, and a ringing cell phone may draw undue attention to the secure location where your child and his/her classmates are.

Aside from lockdown procedures, your child's school may also implement a precautionary "Hold and Secure" if there is an unrelated emergency situation occurring outside the building or in the neighborhood that could potentially present a danger to the school. In this situation all doors to the school are locked and monitored to allow any students from outside entry into the school. Classes will generally continue but no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building until the situation is resolved. We also ask that you do **NOT** attend to the school unless asked to do so by school board staff.

We encourage you to discuss school safety with your child and to address any concerns they may have and we welcome any questions you may have about this or any other issue related to the safety and security of our school.

SCHOOL	PRIMARY PARENT STAGING AREA	SECONDARY PARENT STAGING AREA
Dartmouth South Academy	North Woodside Community Centre 230 Pleasant Street 902-463-9276	Grace Baptist Church 51 Athorpe Drive 902-434-3047

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Powerschool Parent Portal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

During the summer, your PowerSchool Parent Portal account was recreated as part of an update. Your previous username and password no longer exist. Student access to the Portal is unchanged. Students who know their username and password will continue to use the information they have always used.

Your new username is *your full email address that is receiving this message*. For example, if your email address is myemailaddress@gmail.com your **Parent Username** is now myemailaddress@gmail.com.

When the PowerSchool Parent Portal reopens on **Thursday, September 2**, please follow these steps to activate your new parent account:

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.