

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



Newsletter# 8-April 2023

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

Primary Registration for 2023-2024

There is still time to register your child for the 2023-2024 school year. Children for pre-primary must be 4 on or before December 31st and children for primary must be 5 on or before December 31st. Please do not wait to register as our staffing depends on student enrollment.

LOST AND FOUND

We set all the lost and found out for parents to go through at parent teacher with hopes that we would get rid of a lot of it. The items will now be donated as we just don't have the space to keep it.

Change of Clothes

To avoid phone calls home and a possible interruption to your workday, you may want to put a change of clothes in your child's backpack. It's very difficult to predict what the weather is going to bring!

Grade 8 Grad Photos

Grade 8 grad photos will be taken May 18th (retakes – May 25th). Boys are asked to wear a white shirt and tie. If they do not have a white shirt and tie, a white t-shirt will do. Girls are asked to wear a V-neck shirt and a necklace if they have one. Please do not wear hoodies.

Safe Arrival

THANK YOU to all who continue to use our safe arrival program! If your child will not be attending classes, please remember to call 1-833-582-6940. If your child is going to be late just enter AWN for the entire day and we will change it when the student arrives. **Instructions are attached.**

Early Pick up for Students

While we understand that early pick ups are necessary at times, it is important to advise the teachers of any changes in your child's dismissal. We've had parents come into the office close to dismissal time wanting their children ready and waiting and without advance notice this is sometimes just not possible. The office is extremely busy, we are on phone calls, have parents waiting or are already occupied with other students. With having almost 670 students and sometimes only 1 person in the office, patience is important and makes for a much more pleasant end of the day. Thanking you in advance for your co-operation and understanding.

NO PARKING ZONES

Please be mindful of the no parking zones/fire lanes on our school property. It is no secret that the parking lot is unsafe at the end of the school day. We need to be more aware for the safety of our students.

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Musical 2023 – Annie Jr.

Below please find a list of dates for upcoming after school practices:

April 3 – 3:15 – 4:15 pm

April 5 - 3:15 – 4:15 pm

April 6 - 3:15 – 4:15 pm

April 12 - 3:15 – 4:15 pm

April 13 - 3:15 – 4:15 pm

April 17 - 3:15 – 4:15 pm

April 19 - 3:15 – 4:15 pm

Any parent or community member that can offer assistance with tech, behind the scenes, costuming or supervision are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Grant at granta@hrce.ca.

COLD WEATHER

Just a reminder that the cold weather is still upon us. Our school is not open for students until 8:40 am. **Please ensure that your children do not arrive at the school too early as there is no supervision. Students are unable to come inside unless they are in the Excel Program.** The students need to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.



DATES TO REMEMBER

April 7th – Good Friday (no classes)

April 10th – Easter Monday (no classes)

Lunch News

A reminder to parents that we are not equipped to be able to heat up student's lunches. Students must bring a lunch that doesn't require a microwave or a kettle. Also, eating utensils are necessary ... the cafeteria is unable to provide cutlery.

Lunch Monitors

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.

PLEASE NOTE - Reminder

- We have a no cell phone expectation at our school. Cell phones are to be placed in lockers and not be seen or heard during the day. If they are seen or heard in a pocket/bag or being used in classrooms or hallways, phones will be kept in the office until lunch or the end of the day. The parent will be contacted.
- Lates – 7 & 8 students are especially encouraged to be on time for each period. Also, lates make additional work for our office and admin team. Students with 3 or less lates will be invited to the next dance.
- Students need to be in good academic and behavioral standing in order to play on sports teams.

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

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New Way to Report 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 will be implementing a new way to report absences through SchoolMessenger. As of **Thursday, September 1**, you will be able to report future absences using an app, website, or toll-free phone number. Starting on **Wednesday, September 7**, 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.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new tool. Please visit <https://www.hrce.ca/SafeArrival> for more information.

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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