

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



## Newsletter#1-Sept 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/Alison Birdsall

### 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:

- Gr Primary – Kristyn Dileo
- Gr 4 – Meghan MacDonald
- Grade 4/5 – Dilini Fernando
- Gr 7 – Lindsey Cameron
- Gr 8 – Jenn Bragg
- Gr 7/8 – Emilie Jean-Jean
- Gr 7/8 Phys Ed/Health – Emma Martin
- P-8 Music/Band – Daniel Jack
- 4-6 Core French – Jamie-Lee Berends
- Resource – Alexander Hebb
- Learning Center – Charity Buchanan
- Pre-Primary Support – Odutope Macauley-Okoro
- Pre-Primary Support – Melanie Arenburg
- Pre-Primary Support – Angela Findlay
- Pre-Primary Lead – Alexandra Elgie
- EPA – Donna Decoste
- EPA – Taylor Serieys
- Library – Lawren Livingston

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!

### Early Student Pick Up

Although students leaving early is discouraged due to missed instructional time, we realize that occasionally a student may have to. Should this happen, please inform the classroom teacher so that they can plan accordingly. With 680 students, it becomes a little chaotic when several children are picked up unannounced before the 3 o'clock bell. Thanks for your co-operation.

### DSA Picture Day

Picture Day is September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for Primary – Gr 8 and September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for PrePrimary. New this year ... Proofs Online!!! Make your own packages! See all your images online at [photomasterstudios.ca](http://photomasterstudios.ca) - see attached

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## Breakfast Program

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

Students are welcome to come in the front door from 8:40 – 9:00. Breakfast items include: cereal, fruit, cheese, yogurt and crackers.

## NO STOPPING/PARKING SIGNS

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.

## Cafeteria

When you're placing your child's lunch order please be sure to use the following website: When ordering, please remember your child's teacher.

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

## 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**

## School Office Info

Student demographic forms will be updated by parents online. It is very important that we have accurate information and working emails as that is how report cards, messages and communication is relayed. More information to follow.

We are also encouraging parents to log into the parent portal of Powerschool to access their child's information. Instructions are attached to this newsletter.

Should items need to be dropped off at the office for students, please ensure the child's name is on them. We get several a day and without names, we can't ensure children get the proper item.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## Safe Arrival

As of this school year we have a new Safe Arrival Program in place. Please call 1-833-582-6940 to report your child's absences. Calls home will be made by a computer-generated program. There are instructions attached to this email.

Doors open at 8:40 am and attendance is taken by 9:00 am sharp. Calls begin going home for all students who aren't in the classroom at this time. Students have 20 mins to arrive in class on time. To avoid the computer generated calls, please ensure your children are at school for 9:00 am attendance.

# 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

Curriculum night will be held at Dartmouth South Academy on Thursday, September 28 at 6:00 PM. Please come out and meet your child/children's teachers and staff. We look forward to welcoming you in person!

## Cell Phones @ DSA

Dartmouth South Academy is personal device tech free. This includes any device (phone, gaming device, etc.) that can connect to the internet and/or access social media. Over the past number of years, we have noticed an increase in student distraction from personal devices in classrooms. Many of the conflicts that occur with students are communicated and exacerbated throughout the day by means of personal devices. This may lead to situations that negatively impact the safety and security of our students. The expectation is that cell phones/devices will be kept in lockers when students arrive at school and that they will not be seen or heard during class time or in the hallways. During class time, you will always be able to get a message to your child through the office. Exceptions will be made for students who rely on their personal device for health reasons (i.e., monitoring blood glucose), after consultation with parents. Students will be able to use their devices at lunch.

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

Just a Reminder the DSA moved to an online cash system last year. Parents will no longer be required to have cash on hand in order to purchase items from the school.

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 to register is:  
<https://hrce.schoolcashonline.com/>

## Terry Fox Run



**Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, will be our Terry Fox Walk/Run.**

Terry Fox Walk will be held on Wednesday, September 20th. We are going to hold 2 separate groups; east wing classes will do their Terry Fox Walk from 11:00-11:45 and the west wing classes will walk from 12:00-12:45.

We will have a very brief talk to discuss Terry and what he was able to accomplish, then our students will walk laps of the field for 20-30 minutes (depending on timing).



Make online payments with  
**SchoolCashOnline**

- ✓ Field Trips
- ✓ Sports Events
- ✓ Activity Fees

**KEVGROUP**  
School Cash Simplified

## 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.



## Dates to Remember

**Sept 14<sup>th</sup>** – Pink Shirt Day

**Sept 19<sup>th</sup>** – School Photos

**Sept 20<sup>th</sup>** – Terry Fox Walk

**Sept 28<sup>th</sup>** – Curriculum Night 6 – 7 pm

**Sept 29<sup>th</sup>** – Orange Shirt Day

**Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Truth & Reconciliation Day (no classes)

# 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.



# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## School Messenger SafeArrival: A New Way to Report Student Absences

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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. 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.

*Picture Day*  
*Dartmouth South Academy*  
*Sept 19TH!      PrePrimary Sept 18th*



*New this year, Proofs online!*  
*Pick your backgrounds online!*  
*Make your own Packages!*

*See all your images online at*  
[Photomasterstudios.ca](http://Photomasterstudios.ca)

