

# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



## Newsletter#2-Oct 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

### School Closure for Inclement Weather

The Halifax Regional Centre for Education takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools in the event of severe or inclement weather. Decisions on school closures and/or bus cancellations are posted on the board's website at [www.hrce.ns.ca](http://www.hrce.ns.ca), on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE\\_Official](https://www.twitter.com/HRCE_Official), recorded on 464-INFO (4636) and communicated to all local radio stations. You can also receive notice of school bus cancellations by e-mail or text message by following the link on the front page (left side) of the HRCE website. If you are interested in learning more on how decisions regarding closures and cancellations are made, visit

<http://www.hrce.ns.ca/content/id/1137.html>

### 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.

### 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. Computer generated calls go home when your child comes in late.



### Dates to Remember

**Oct 4, 5, 11, 12<sup>th</sup>** – Grade 6 Provincial Assessments

**Oct 9<sup>th</sup>** – Thanksgiving Day (no classes)

**Oct 27<sup>th</sup>** – Conference Day (no classes)

**REMINDER – Students must bring their own water bottles and eating utensils.**

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## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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)

## SCHOOLCASH - ONLINE

Big News! DSA has moved to an online cash system. 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 is:

<https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/>



Make online payments with  
**SchoolCashOnline**

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

Registration is open!

**KEVGROUP**  
School Cash Simplified

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## 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.

## Special THANK YOU!!

On behalf of the students and staff here at Dartmouth South Academy we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and thanks for any donations of food/school supplies that have been made by parents, community members and local organizations. Your kindness is much appreciated.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Findlay Community Centre is running youth drop-in nights every Friday from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. We offer a safe space for youth ages 12-17 to home hang out with access to video games, board games, art supplies, and sports equipment.

## News from HRCE

### *Emergency Management Plans*

All HRCE schools have Emergency Management Plans, which are reviewed, updated and practiced every year. These plans have three responses to an emergency situation: *Shelter in Place*, *Evacuation*, and *Relocation*.

- *Shelter in Place* involves either a *Hold and Secure* (where no one enters or exits the building, but those inside may be able to move around) or a *Lockdown* (where no one enters or exits the building and all students and staff are concealed in a secure location, away from doors and windows).
- *Evacuation* involves all students and staff exiting the building but remaining on the property.
- *Relocation* involves all students and staff moving from the school property to another nearby site.
- It is also important to note that HRCE can respond to an emergency evacuation using our large network of school buses. There are more than 400 school buses on the road every day.

### **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, WE'RE READY!**

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 Halifax  
Regional Centre for Education



# DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY

## News from HRCE

### *School Bus Safety Week*

HRCE has more than 30,000 students who ride the school bus every day?

School Bus Safety Week is a great time to remind students, families and schools, of a few daily safety tips that everyone can follow to ensure all students get to school safely.

#### *Bus Stop Safety*

- Be on time for the bus and please don't run to/from the bus.
- Stand back off the road and don't push or shove when waiting at a stop.
- Always cross in front of the bus. Walk three metres (10 feet) in front of the bus to a point where you can see the driver and wait for the driver's signal to cross. Proceed to the centre of the road, STOP, LOOK & LISTEN and cross the road when it is safe.
- Never crawl under a school bus or cross the road behind the bus.
- Know the danger zones around the bus.

#### *School Bus Safety*

- Please respect and listen to the driver and avoid distracting them.
- Please keep noise levels to a minimum.
- Do not stand or move seats while the bus is in motion.
- Never put your hands, arms, feet or head out of the bus window.
- Ask the driver for permission before you open the bus windows.
- Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the windows.
- Keep the aisle clear at all times when the bus is in motion.

You can find out more information about School Bus Safety Week, including more safety tips, [here](#)



### *Joint Accessibility Plan*

HRCE, along with Nova Scotia's six other regional centres for education and Conseil scolaire provincial have been developing a multi-year plan to ensure accessibility in public education. This is part of a bigger goal for an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Last February, Nova Scotian families and staff across the province were invited to review the draft plan and submit feedback. We sincerely appreciate everyone who contributed and shared their voice. Your thoughts, ideas and feedback during the consultation were invaluable.

HRCE is excited to let you know that with your input, the Joint Accessibility Plan has been finalized. [Click here](#) to see the plan.

Next, HRCE will start to develop an implementation plan for our region. You can expect more updates as we continue the important work of creating accessible public education in Nova Scotia.



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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

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## 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.

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## 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.