

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



Newsletter #4-Dec 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, on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/HRCE_Official](https://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>

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!

COLD WEATHER

Just a reminder that the cold weather is 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. We have some students who are arriving at 8:00 am ... this is far too early as our mornings are cold. Students should be dressed for the weather.**



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 each day when your child comes in late.**



Dates to Remember

Dec 11th – 6:00 pm Band Concert

Dec 12th – 1:30 pm P-3 Concert

Dec 13th – 2:00 pm 4-6 Concert

Dec 20th – Last Day of Classes Before Holiday Break

Jan 2nd – Classes Resume after Holiday Break

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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CAFETERIA NOTES

The last day for the cafeteria for Christmas Break is December 20th, 2023

HRCE - Texts

Do you want to receive information from our school and HRCE by text message?

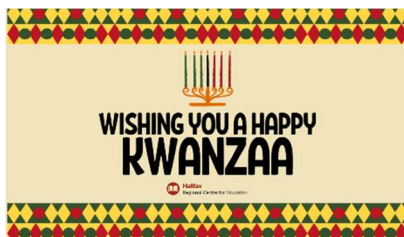
We now have the ability to send information to you by text message. **To ensure compliance with Canadian Anti-Spam laws, you must opt-in to receive information by text message.**

If you have already opted in – that’s great! You don’t have to read further.

If you haven’t (and would like to), here’s what you need to do:

- If you did not receive the opt-in text message on **November 16**, please call your child’s school to update your contact information in PowerSchool. Any changes are uploaded nightly and reflected the following business day. When your number is added or changed in PowerSchool, you will automatically receive the opt-In message.
- If you decide you no longer wish to receive HRCE and school information via text, you can reply to the message with “STOP” or by clicking [here](#).
- Parents/guardians can opt-in at any time by texting “Y” or “YES” to 978338. The mobile number **MUST** also be in PowerSchool.
- This text message function **WILL** include school cancellation notifications.
- This text message function will **NOT** share bus delay information.

Anyone who is NOT a parent/guardian in our system who wishes to receive school cancellations due to inclement weather must opt in via the HRCE website: www.hrce.ca/notifications . This includes staff, students and members of the community.



School Office Info

There are still people who have not updated their demographic forms online. If this happens to be you, please take a few minutes and log into your powerschool and do so. It is crucial that we have updated student information. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

Holiday Concerts

Our Holiday Concerts will be held next week:

Mon Dec 11 – 6:00 pm – Band and Strings Concert.
Students are asked to arrive at 5:30 pm.

Tues Dec 12 – 1:30 pm – P-3 Concert

Wed Dec 13 – 2:00 pm – 4-6 Concert

Up to 3 guests can attend for each student. Doors will open half an hour before the concert. A video version of the P-3 and 4-6 concerts will be available by Sun Dec 17th.

Cafeteria News

The cafeteria will be offering a Holiday Dinner on December 19th and December 20th. A hot turkey sandwich with gravy, mashed potatoes, and peas. This can be ordered online for \$7.75.

SCHOOLCASH - ONLINE

If you’re not already registered for schoolcash online, please take the time to do so. It is important when it comes time to purchase items related to school such as field trips, water bottles, sports fees, etc. **Instructions are attached.**

The URL to the site is:

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

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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.

News from HRCE

SchoolsPlus

SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help students with what they need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again! For more information, email schoolsplus@hrce.ca.

What is SchoolsPlus?
SchoolsPlus is a confidential, free service available in every school in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to build positive relationships between families, schools, and communities. We can help students with what they need to succeed – from home, to school, and back again!

Connect with us!
Parents, guardians and students (12+) can self-refer to SchoolsPlus – 12 months a year!

902-464-2081
info@schoolsplus.ca
info@schoolsplus.ca

Resources & support

Recreation
Help finding and applying for job programs or funding.

Tutoring
Help understanding and accessing tutoring supports.

Food supports
Help accessing food banks and other local food supports.

Health & wellness
Help navigating healthcare systems.

General support
Help completing paperwork and applications, as well as transportation and accompaniment to appointments.

Schools Plus
Ecoles Plus

News from HRCE

The Holiday Break will begin on **December 21st**. The first day of school in the new year will be **January 2nd**.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Mark these Important HRCE dates on your calendar!
Visit [hrcenova.ca](https://www.hrcenova.ca) calendars to view & download the 2023-24 calendar.

DECEMBER 4	NO CLASSES Professional Learning Day
DECEMBER 21	NO CLASSES First day of holiday break
JANUARY 2	CLASSES RESUME First day of school for 2024

SchoolMessenger App

Did you know you can report your child's absence through the SchoolMessenger app?

SchoolMessenger's SafeArrival is an absence-management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence.

- Download the SchoolMessenger app for Android and iOS devices
- Sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address) that the school has on record for you
- Click on Attendance
- Follow the prompts

Did you know?

You can report your child's absence through the SchoolMessenger app!

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- Sign up using your PowerSchool username (full email address) that the school has on record for you
- Click on Attendance
- Follow the prompts

Halifax Regional Centre for Education | SCHOOLMESSENGER

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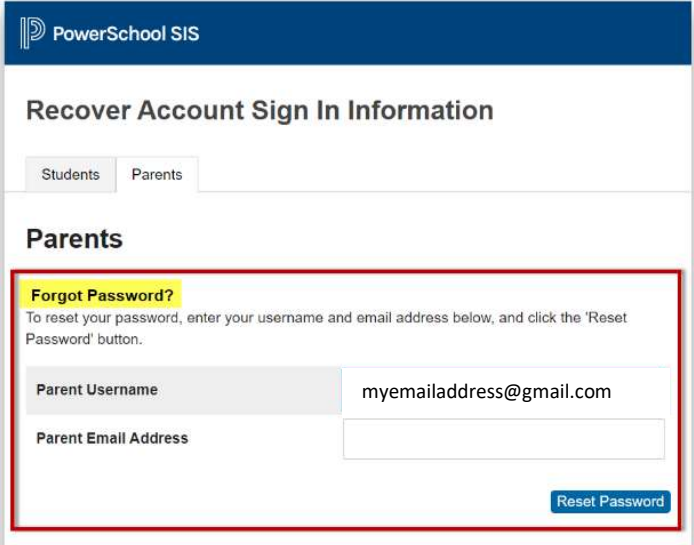
Dear Parent/Guardian,

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.



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 Safe Arrival: A 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. 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.

