

DARTMOUTH SOUTH ACADEMY



Newsletter #5-Jan 2024

Dartmouth South Academy
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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

Thank you to all who use the safe arrival program. As a reminder, 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

Jan 25th – 7 – 8 Dance More info to follow

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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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.

Lunches Being Dropped Off in the Office

While we know that it is sometimes necessary to drop lunches off in the office, we’ve ran into problems several times with students receiving the wrong lunches. If dropping a lunch off is something that must be done, there will be a bin in the entry way of the building and you will be able to leave them in the bin, labelled. With a school of almost 700 students, monitoring lunches very often leaves us with unnecessary confusion and chaos in the main office.

Hats and Mitts

Our supply of hats and mitts is very limited. Please ensure your children have their belongings in the morning when they leave the house. Thank you.

Spectator Policy

This message is to inform you of our spectator policy as Basketball season is upon us. Games start next week and run until the end of February.

All games begin at 4:00pm. If your child would like to be a spectator and cannot be accompanied by a parent/guardian, they need to have an adult to supervise them in the gym. This adult will need to contact Susan Aucoin at saucoin@hrce.ca and/or Alison Birdsall at abirdsall@hrce.ca by 9:00am the morning of the game. Know that being the adult in charge you will need to make sure the student has a way home. Students will be allowed in the gym, once the supervising adult has arrived at school.

Thank-You for your support with this.

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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.

The screenshot shows the PowerSchool SIS interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the PowerSchool SIS logo. Below the header, the page title is 'Recover Account Sign In Information'. There are two tabs: 'Students' and 'Parents', with 'Parents' selected. Under the 'Parents' tab, there is a section titled 'Parents'. Within this section, there is a yellow highlighted box containing the text 'Forgot Password?' and a sub-instruction: 'To reset your password, enter your username and email address below, and click the 'Reset Password' button.' Below this instruction, there are two input fields: 'Parent Username' with the value 'myemailaddress@gmail.com' and 'Parent Email Address' which is empty. A blue 'Reset Password' button is located at the bottom right of the form area.

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.

SCHOOLCASH ONLINE SYSTEM

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.schoolcashonline.com/>