



# SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

Dartmouth High's newsletter featuring the latest news, info and highlights.

## From the Principal's Desk:

Mes Chers Amis.

Je profite de cette première édition du Spartan Spotlight 2023-2024 de vous accueillir à la famille Spartan au nom du personnel et de la direction de l'École Dartmouth High! I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome (back) to all, and in particular, to our new families on behalf of the staff and the administrative team. I trust you have all had a safe and enjoyable summer in the company of family and friends despite the abundance of rain experienced by all over the summer months. The summer months flew by quickly! We have had a busy start getting students settled with course changes, but the students and staff seem genuinely happy to be back.

Classes are well underway, and teachers are reporting that students appear to be at ease and ready to work. We held our first formal grade level assemblies within the first week of school. During this time, the students were introduced to the new vice-principals as well as key support staff. The main focus of this meeting was to provide students with relevant information regarding classroom, school and behaviour expectations, intended to help them as they navigate their way through the school year. For many, the information shared may not have been necessarily new to them but serves as reminders to ensure we are all moving in the same direction with the same understanding and set of expectations.

Students are to be commended on their attentiveness and respect shown during the presentations. Moving forward, know that we have a dedicated team of teachers and support staff who are interested in the growth and development of the academic achievement of our students and their well-being continues to be our top priority.

We invite parents to make frequent visits to the parent portal on PowerSchool to monitor their child's academic progress and attendance.

Welcome to our new Vice-Principals, Ms. Andrea Doucette and Mr. Gary Gallant. Ms. Andrea Doucette (VP) works closely with School Counsellor, Mr. Colin MacDonald to serve students whose surname begin with A-L and Mr. Gary Gallant (VP) and School Counsellor, Mrs. Wendy Cameron works with students whose surnames begin with M-Z. Having said that, both teams are committed to working with all students in any capacity including Mme Monard who works with all students A-Z.

Eartha Monard, Principal



## Upcoming DATES

**September 21**  
**Curriculum Night**  
**6:30 -8:00**

**September 20**  
**Grade 12 Parent**  
**Night**

**October 2**  
**Truth and**  
**Reconciliation**  
**Day**  
**~No School~**

**October 9**  
**Thanksgiving Day**  
**~No Classes ~**

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## Curriculum Night

Our in-person Curriculum Night will take place from **6:30-8:00 p.m. on September 21st**. In an effort to increase parent/guardian turn out, we have changed the format slightly for Curriculum Night. We will meet first in Keating Hall at 6:30 p.m. for brief introductions before moving to specific locations for each department which was our practice pre-pandemic. The locations will be shared with you when we meet in Keating Hall. We are encouraging students to accompany their parents/guardians. You will not need to bring a copy of your child's schedule as in previous years.

**Please note that we are providing child care service between 6:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for families who may need this service in order to participate in Curriculum Night. Please email Mme Monard at [emonard@hrce.ca](mailto:emonard@hrce.ca) by Wednesday before the end of the school day to enable adequate time to make arrangements for this service.**

Communication Plans include the course outline, learning outcomes, and assessment and evaluation strategies as well expectations for each classroom environment. Please look it over, and if you have any questions or need further explanation, we will address them during the meet and greet portion of the evening. If you do not plan to attend but have questions or concerns; please do not hesitate to send an email to the teacher.

## Metro Transit Bus Pass

As part of a second-year pilot program, students at Dartmouth High (grade 9-12) received a free bus pass in December 2022. These passes are set to expire in December 2023, running from December to December as opposed to the regular school year. Unfortunately, our current grade 9 and 10 students as well as students new to Dartmouth High have not received a bus pass. I have initiated conversations and I am hoping we will receive additional bus passes for all students new at Dartmouth High. Having said that, it is anticipated that bus passes will be re-issued again once they expire in December, but I have not had the official word on this. The school will keep you posted.

## Department Heads, School Counsellors, Lead teacher coordinators and in-house support staff

**Ms. Tara Arseneau** – English & French Language Arts  
**Ms. Rosella Winship** – Fine Arts, Personal Development  
**Mr. Lesley Taylor** – Math and Business  
**Mr. Shane MacLeod** - Science  
**Ms. Robyn Brown** – Social Sciences & Computer Technology  
**Ms. Reagan McMeekin** – Student Services Dept. Head  
**Mr. Sandy Gillis** – Registrar  
**Ms. Cassie Arsenault** – Service Trades, AP Coordinator  
**Mr. Brice Abriel** – Coop Program, Skilled Trades  
**Mr. Colin MacDonald** – Guidance Counsellor (A-L)  
**Ms. Wendy Cameron** – Guidance Counsellor (M-Z)  
**Ms. Robyn Pennell** – Assessment & Evaluation Coordinator  
**Mr. Aaron Jackson** – EAL teacher  
**Ms. Maya Fry** – IWK Mental Health Clinician  
**Ms. Juliana Pontes** – Schools Plus  
**Ms. Natalie Pelley** – Athletic Director  
**Mr. Mike Bourque** - O2 lead teacher  
**Ms. Cassie Arsenault** – Breakfast Club  
**Mr. Ashley Taylor** – Student Support Worker (ANS)  
**Mr. Matt Watt** -Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal Support Worker  
**Ms. Allison Bolton** – Student Council Advisor  
**TBA** - YMCA (Immigrant Services)

## New Staff at DHS

**Mr. Lauren Allen** – Math  
**Ms. John Gallant** – Learning Centre  
**Mr. Lesley Taylor** – Math  
**Ms. Pam Foley** – Student Services Admin Assistant  
**Mr. Ian Alford-Archibald** – Math  
**Ms. Angela Jones** – Math (welcome back)  
**Mr. Chris Coculuzzi** – Drama & Law (welcome back)  
**Ms. Chris Faubert** - Social Studies  
**Ms. Kathryn Simms** – Language Arts  
**Mr. Mitch Miles** – English & Technology  
**Ms. Jessie Pothier** – Physical Education  
**Ms. Lauren Utter** – Math





## Visiting the school

As partners in your child's education, we recognize the value and importance of working together. To this end, there are times when it is necessary to have an in-person meeting with a member of the admin team or with a staff member. We strongly suggest that you call ahead of time to set up an appointment to alleviate the possibility of an extended wait time should the admin team or other staff members that you wish to see not be readily available.

A reminder that all visitors to the school are required to check in at the main office at the Victoria Rd. Entrance. We also request parents/guardians to avoid coming into the parking lot on Victoria Rd., to drop off or pick up your child at the door. This avoids blocking the way of our Special Needs buses as they manoeuvre around cars. We need to take every necessary precaution to avoid accidents with students/staff or a collision with parked vehicles in the parking lot. Thanks in advance for your support and cooperation in the interest of keeping everyone safe.



### SchoolCash Online

The HRCE online fee-paying system allows parents/guardians/students to make payments electronically for lockers, athletic fees, field trip costs etc. through SchoolCash Online. Visit <https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/> to register. For support, please connect with SchoolCash Online help desk at [schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support](https://hrce.schoolcashionline.com/Home/Support).

## Chromebooks

We continue to make Chromebooks available to students to facilitate and enhance in-person learning in the classroom. We welcome back unreturned Chromebooks from last year, no questions asked! We prefer not to send out invoices for unreturned Chromebooks. A new Chromebook may not be issued to individuals who did not return their Chromebook last year even if they were in a different school. For this year's Chromebook distribution, students are required to pick up a contract from the office which must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian. Upon receipt, your child will be assigned a Chromebook for the school year which must be returned at the end of the school year. Please note that online learning or at home remote learning is not permitted at this time.



## Library books and Textbooks

We are kindly asking parents/guardians of students who attended Dartmouth High last year to help us by checking at home for library books, classroom novels and textbooks. If you find any of these items, we kindly ask that you send them to the school with your child. We are in dire need of these resources back in the school to prevent depletion. These materials can be dropped off at the office at anytime as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your assistance.



## Communication Protocol

We strongly encourage two-way communication with our school community. If you have a concern or a question about your child's assessments, evaluation or program of study, we ask that you make contact with the classroom teacher first. The classroom teacher is the main person and first line of communication in your child's education. Contact information for subject teachers is listed on your child's class schedule in Power School. The department head would be the next level of contact if you are not able to resolve the issue with the teacher. The school administration should be the last point of contact if issues stated above remain unresolved. Thank you in advance for respecting our communication protocol. We feel strongly that the key to resolving issues when they arise is to identify them early and take the necessary steps to find positive and timely solutions.



## Executive Council Student Council Members:

- **Staff Advisor :** Ms. Allison Bolton (teacher)
- **Co-presidents:** Rohen Hayne, William McVicar
- **Vice President:** Gabriel Lynch
- **Heads of social media:** Dalma Botos, Sailor Moore
- **Heads of AAA:** Jade Grimes, Edie Schrieder
- **Heads of Finance:** Jimmy Tia, Jane Coady
- **Heads of Spirit:** Kiley Deveau, Yimmi Jenna Avendano
- **Heads of Spirit:** Emily Anne Jreige & Cierrah Smith-Sparks
- **Heads of Events:** Alexey Skitikov, Izzy Scott
- **General:** Ryley Sheehan
- **General :** Ross Moore
- **General :** Kayleigh Garrison

The admin team works closely with Student Council to initiate and plan activities outside of the classroom setting to engage the student body! To provide students with a sense of the types of sports and clubs available to them, an Extracurricular Activities Fair was held on September 15. During this time, students were given a glimpse of activities being offered and an opportunity to sign up for activities of interest. We strongly encourage students to get involved outside of the classroom setting to provide them with a sense of community and fulfillment to enrich their high school experiences. Student Council is planning its first Spirit Week - Themed Days. Students and staff alike always look forward to participating in this activity.

As well, the annual Terry Fox Walk had to be re-scheduled due to the onset of the rainstorm. We are looking forward to this worthy cause to contribute to the Terry Fox Foundation. Staff will accompany students on a few lapses around the perimeter of the school and everyone is encouraged to drop a loonie or more in the container provided. We have been doing this activity for a number of years and look forward to interacting with our student body during this worthwhile endeavour.

## French Immersion (FI) students

To obtain the French Immersion certificate, students enrolled in the FI Program are required to take core courses offered in the French Immersion program to meet requirements for the FI Certificate and must take a minimum of nine (9) courses in French Language Instruction. We encourage students to plan ahead and put a lot of thought into the courses they will need to fulfil their post secondary requirements. FI students must work with their school counsellor to ensure that they are registered in the appropriate courses well in advance to avoid disappointments.

Please note that we will not be able to accommodate "Out of Area" FI students wanting to switch from the FI program to the English program at Dartmouth High. Students enrolled in the FI program who do not live within Dartmouth High's catchment area and wish to switch to the English program will be required to enrol in the English program in their neighbourhood school. Most often, the neighbourhood school is Woodlawn High School.



## School Cafeteria

The school cafeteria is under new management and has been opened since the first day of school. Items and meals are reasonably priced and so far, students seem to be enjoying their lunch purchases. We are delighted to see an increase in the number of students staying for lunch to enjoy a nutritious and hearty lunch meal.





# Breakfast Program

Ms. Cassie Arsenault continues to champion our Breakfast program. We are pleased to inform that the breakfast club is already up and running. Students are able to help themselves to a grab-and-go breakfast from the breakfast stations strategically located in the foyer. Thanks to our team of dedicated teachers and support staff who come in early to set up and organize these stations. In partnership with the Dartmouth North Boys and Girls Club, Lillian and Sylvia continue to prepare a weekly grocery list, shopping and delivering breakfast food items to Dartmouth High. We appreciate their dedication, time and effort in ensuring that our students get a great start to their day!

## Spartan Swag

Spartans have a longstanding tradition of proudly displaying our Black and Yellow/Gold colours. Our Brand - proudly worn at games; on Spirit days; or worn simply because we are proud Spartans. At games, opposing teams know who we are; we are loud and proud as we cheer on our teams! You may purchase Spartan gears directly from our online Spartan store. To locate our Spartan Swag store, go to <https://dhs.hrce.ca>, under "Our School", click on either "For Parents" or "For Students". Parents/Guardians, a Spartan T-shirt makes a lovely celebratory present, (e.g. birthday or Christmas gift) – something to consider! "We've got each other's back"! Owning a T-shirt puts a smile on a students' face.

## Announcements

Morning announcements are brought to the student body by Student Council at the start of the second block of the day. Anyone who may have missed the morning announcements may check the office binder with the daily announcements during the lunch hour or on off block. Information regarding clubs and sports teams is also disseminated as necessary via our D-APP, Student Council Instagram page or individual team sports social media of choice. The calendar on the school website is another place to find information. Student Council also attempt to post important announcements on the large bulletin board half way above the landing the stairs by the office. Students are encouraged to contact someone in the office if they would like more detailed information or confirmation about an event, etc.

## School Advisory Council (SAC)

This is a legislated advisory body made up of staff, parents and students. Stay tuned for our first meeting of the year. Meetings take place once a month for approximately an hour and we have a minimum of 6 monthly meetings. SAC meetings are open to our school community and will provide first-hand information about programs, events, and school operations while providing you with the opportunity to input on policies. This is a great opportunity to stay current and engaged and in partnership with the school. Please consult information about the SAC and their role and responsibilities on the school's website. Your presence and input are welcome. Contact Mme Monard if interested at [emonard@hrce.ca](mailto:emonard@hrce.ca). If you do not wish to become a member, but would like to drop in from time to time, feel free to join us.



## Student Engagement Guidelines

Students attending Dartmouth High are expected to be enrolled on a full-time basis. A student may be scheduled for a maximum of 8 credits in any academic year, however the minimum course load at each grade level for a full-time student is as follows:

- **Grade 10** - Eight courses yearlong (every other day)  
Seven courses with full year Grade 10 Math Acad.
- **Grade 11** - Seven courses – This may include some yearlong courses.  
(For semestered courses, generally, three courses one semester/four the next semester or vice versa)
- **Grade 12** - Six courses (three each semester)

Students who do not follow the aforementioned required guidelines may not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. These guidelines serve to optimize student achievement and preparation for post-secondary options and opportunities.

## Student Success Plan (SSP)

### School goals:

**Goal 1:** To improve student achievement in math and literacy by strengthening communication, comprehension and interpretation skills.

**Goal 2:** To improve student achievement through continued development of skills related to social and emotional learning.

We are in year- 4 of our Student Success Plan as we continue to collaborate, discuss and explore strategies to meet the educational needs of our student population. Our leadership team (curriculum leaders) and the admin team with Math and Lang Arts dept. heads as co-chairs are planning to work closely to deliver targeted Professional Learning over the course of this school year. We are tasked with working together to analyze and employ assessment data with teachers in their respective departments to improve student learning. Of note, we were encouraged to have seen increases in math levels in Math 10 Academic having employed intentional strategies.

Guided by educational experts in professional learning sessions, we are implementing strategies to address social and emotional learning. We continue to work on expanding our knowledge base to support students through on going professional learning.

## Student success and attendance

In the event, a student drops a course by refusing to attend the class or complete assigned work, the accumulated mark to that point may be reflected on the transcript as a final mark and may affect the student's overall average. This will also apply to students who are enrolled in courses but refuse to attend classes. We do not encourage students to drop courses in which they are enrolled as reducing course schedule may limit post-secondary options and may affect their ability to graduate on schedule. It is important to note that students risk losing a credit for a course in which they have missed 18 classes (20% of the course material).

Proactively, we keep a close eye on students' attendance and will have regular conversations with students and parents so we are all on the same page. If students are disengaged, we encourage students and parents to bring this to the attention of the school. We also encourage self-advocacy on the part of the students to articulate their learning needs as academic supports are available.