

# HD STAFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

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August 26, 2019

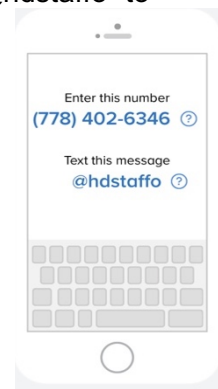
## WELCOME BACK SKYHAWKS NATION!

Where does the time go!!!! I hope everyone has had an awesome, relaxing summer with family and friends. It really is precious time to reconnect with loved ones while re-energizing. And while we are always a little sad to see summer come to an end, we are very excited about another successful year at HD Stafford Middle School. Many staff have already been in getting ready for our new and returning Skyhawks to break through the door! We know that it is going to be a spectacular year here at HDSMS!

To help you get the year started off right, below is some pertinent information you will need about the first few days of school. Please take some time to read through it carefully. And don't hesitate to contact me by phone, text or email with any questions.

### Staying Connected

- HDSMS will continue to work towards being a completely paperless school when it comes to communication with parents. In order to stay informed, please be sure you use at least one of the following on-line methods:
  - **Email:** send your information to [tdick@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:tdick@sd35.bc.ca) or [alyon@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:alyon@sd35.bc.ca) to ensure you are on our parent email list.
  - **Facebook:** Please like our page at [www.facebook.com/HDSMSskyhawks](https://www.facebook.com/HDSMSskyhawks)
  - **Twitter:** Follow our feed at [www.twitter.com/HDSMSskyhawks](https://www.twitter.com/HDSMSskyhawks)
  - **Instagram:** Follow us at [www.instagram.com/HDSMSskyhawks](https://www.instagram.com/HDSMSskyhawks)
  - **Texting:** To receive information via one-way text (no charge) please text "@hdstaffo" to (778) 402-6346 and follow the prompts
  - **Website:** Stay up-to-date at [hdsms.sd35.bc.ca](http://hdsms.sd35.bc.ca)
- Every second Friday, please be on the lookout for our *Hawk Squawk* blog celebrating successes here at HD Stafford Middle from the week. We share this electronically through social media and email. It's a great way to see all the amazing things our Skyhawks are doing!
- Every Sunday, we email and share through social media our *This Week At HDSMS* newsletter. This contains important information about the upcoming week so please take time to read through this. It is also posted on our website.



## First Day of School - September 3, 2019

- Only our grade 6s and WEB Leaders attend on the first day of school (8:30 – 11:30).
  - They will meet in the foyer outside the gym for 8:30
  - Students do not need any supplies for the first day but should dress in comfortable clothes.

## First Week of School

- The first day for all students is Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 2:49
  - Students should go to their homeroom class, which will be shared out on Friday electronically and on the front window
  - Students who are new and have not registered should report to the office
- Photo Day is on Thursday, September 19, 2019<sup>th</sup>
- Exploration rotations for all grades will start on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Teachers will let students know what their first exploration (Tech Arts, OACES, Home Arts, Drama) will be
- Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> will be our first Spirit Day of the year: **Stafford Pride!** Be sure to wear your Skyhawks gear and colours!

## HDSMS Calendar

- This year, our school calendar will be available on-line. You can access it by going to our [school website](#) or by [clicking here](#)
- They can also be downloaded into iCal to have on your mobile device. Simply [click here](#) for the file.

## 2019 - 2020 Staffing

- As with every year, there have been some changes in our staff. We will be updating the website shortly with the [full staff directory](#) so be sure to check that out in the coming days.

## School Fees and Forms

- This year we will be using School Cash Online for payment of school fees, field trips etc. Please [click here](#) for information on how to register and pay through this method.
- There will be a few forms coming home with students the first week of school. Please be sure to complete these and return them as soon as possible. They will include:
  - Student Image Permission Form
  - School Internet-based Tools Permission Form
  - Google Apps for Education Permission Form
  - Walking Field Trip Permission Form

## School Supply Lists

- School supply lists can be found on the [“School Start Up” link](#) on our website. Students will need these supplies for the first full day of school on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Class Composition

- In the Spring of last year, our staff worked extremely hard to create classes for students to best meet their learning needs. There are many factors that go into this process. Having students

into their classes during the first week will allow for that crucial relationship between staff and student to begin sooner while establishing important routines for the entire year.

- So, to that end, students will come on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> to their homeroom class.
- These will be shared out electronically on Friday, Aug 30<sup>st</sup> and posted on the front door of the school **AFTER 4:00pm**.
- This will be their class for the year. Out of respect for the process in making these classes, **absolutely no changes will be made for the first six weeks of school** unless there are truly extraordinary circumstances.
- A reminder that HD Stafford Middle practices “looping” with our grade 6 classes. In order to leverage the power of relationships, these students will spend their grade 6 and grade 7 years in the same class with the same teacher. For information about looping, please [click here](#).
- If you have any questions about this, please contact Mr. Hantke via phone (604-534-9285) or by email ([jhantke@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:jhantke@sd35.bc.ca))

### Transportation

- Please [click here](#) to access the section on transportation on the Langley School District website. It has all the information and forms for those families who take the bus. Registration is different than in the past so please be sure to [go to this link](#).
- For those students who take transportation through School District #35 (Langley), please [click here](#) for important expectations while riding the bus.

We are extremely excited to get the year underway! We have amazing students, parents and staff at HD Stafford Middle School and look forward to making our Skyhawks community even stronger this year.

Sincerely,

Mr. J. Hantke  
Proud Principal  
HD Stafford Middle School

SKYHAWKS