

Wellington Heights Secondary School

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Principal B. Bloch
Hon. B.A., B.Ed.
Vice Principal C. Fiddes
Hon. B.A., B.Ed.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As a part of our efforts to ensure that students get the best possible start to high school, we are proud to offer a 3-day, 2-night camp for all incoming Grade 9 students. This initiative has been very successful in our school to help transition our new students to high school and to create friendships with students from all elementary schools attending WHSS for the first time. Given the value of this trip, we anticipate that most, if not all of our Grade 9 students will attend, and therefore overnight spaces will be limited to students who respond first with the attached permission forms and payment on the day of Grade 9 Orientation, Wednesday, August 28, 2024.

The camp we will attend is Camp Ki Wa Y in St. Clements. The trip will take place from Wednesday, September 25th until Friday, September 27th and students will either depart from and return to WHSS or the Arthur Looney Tooney parking lot.

This camp is designed to provide an opportunity to develop students' leadership, teamwork, and communication skills, as well as provide an opportunity for students to challenge themselves to achieve their goals. This trip will also go a long way to helping students form new friendships that may last a lifetime. We hope that through this trip, students will feel part of the WHSS community - a community of which they will be a part for the next four years.

There is a wide array of activities at the camp including team-building initiatives, low ropes, orienteering, high ropes, a climbing wall, and many more. The highly qualified staff at the camp will ensure students are safe, comfortable, and well-supervised for all activities. If students are uncomfortable participating in a particular activity, alternate programming will be provided. WHSS staff, as well as senior student members of the WHSS LINK Crew student mentorship program will also be at the camp to help create a great experience for all Grade 9 students.

The cost of the 3-day overnight trip for each student will be \$200. Students will need to eat a hearty, healthy breakfast on the morning of the trip and bring a refillable water bottle. All other meals will be provided. Special food and dietary restrictions can be indicated on the medical form for your child. While we encourage students to participate in the full Grade 9 Camp experience, we understand that some students may not be able to stay overnight. Students will also have the option to participate in an extended 1-day trip to Camp Ki Wa Y on September 26th at a cost of \$65.

Attached to this letter you will find the permission and medical forms; please complete and return these forms at the Grade 9 Orientation day on Wednesday, August 28th or on the first day of school on Wednesday, September 4th.

A parent information meeting for the trip will be held at Wellington Heights at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28th just after you drop off your child for Grade 9 Orientation day. Alternately, parents or guardians with questions about the trip or about arranging an alternative payment schedule can contact Principal Brent Bloch at 519-323-3430 ext. 222. If you are unable to bring your Grade 9 student to WHSS on Grade 9 Orientation day, please send your child with the attached camp permission forms. Payment can be made on School Cash Online beginning in late August. We look forward to welcoming your child to Wellington Heights, and to helping them build positive relationships from the start at camp!

Sincerely,



Mr. Brent Bloch
Principal

You're almost a Wolverine!

Information you should know...



Important Dates:

August 28, 2024 - Grade 9 Orientation
September 4, 2024 - FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL
September 12, 2024 - Picture Day
September 25-27, 2024 - Grade 9 Camp

Locks:

**Available for purchase through School Cash Online and can be picked up in the main office*

**Remember to practice using your lock ;)*

School Day Schedule:

8:50: warning bell
8:55-10:15: period 1
10:20-11:35: period 2
11:35-12:25: lunch
12:25-1:40: period 3
1:45-3:00: period 4

Volunteer Hours:

- all students are required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service before graduation
- volunteer hours can be collected this summer!
- look for the community involvement tracking sheet to document volunteer time and make sure to turn in to the main office at WHSS

Morning Announcements

The best way to access current information is to read our morning announcements, which are posted to the WHSS website daily.

www.ugdsb.ca/whss

UGCloud

- Students will be provided with google accounts, which will allow access to google classrooms, gmail and their google drive
- To access your UGCloud account, determine your username: *the first two letters of first name, the first three letters of last name and the last 4 digits of OEN (Jane Smith, with OEN 123456789, would use jasmis6789@ugcloud.ca).*
- *At the beginning of the semester, passwords will be reset to the OEN.*

****UG Cloud will not allow students to log-in if they are already logged into a personal gmail account - log out of other accounts or open an incognito window**

Community Involvement Activity Notification and Completion

Students are able to start accumulating community involvement hours in the summer before they enter grade 9. ~ ~ It is strongly recommended this form be submitted no later than June 1 of a student's graduating year.

Activity	Start Date	# of hours	Completion Date (DD/MM/YY)	Location	Supervisor's Name (please print)	Supervisor's Phone Number	Supervisor's Signature	Principal/ Designate's Signature ("if required)

If the activity is NOT on the "Eligible List" you must obtain your Principal's signature BEFORE starting the activity.

I _____ hereby confirm that I have completed the above activities, totaling at least 40 hours of community service, as set out according to the information in this booklet.

Student's Name- Please Print _____ Date _____
 Student's Signature _____ Date _____
 Principal's Signature _____ Date _____
 Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

The legal authority for the collection of this information is in the Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12 Program and Diploma Requirements (S6.1.4). Users of this information will be teachers, principal and corresponding support staff. The purpose is to record and provide confirmation of community involvement hours accumulated. Once completed, the original form will be securely stored and retained in the student's Ontario Student Record (OSR) in accordance with the UGDSB Procedures for the OSR Guideline and securely destroyed once it has met its required retention as outlined in the board's Records Management Manual and Policy 316.

For queries regarding the collection of this information, contact the School Principal.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	Hours logged in Student Information System
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Grade 9 Orientation

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

8:55 am - approx. 1:00 pm

The first day of high school will be an exciting orientation day for grade 9 students!

Orientation Day activities will include:

- a fun assembly
- activities lead by Link Crew leaders
- a school tour
- checking out homeroom classrooms
- meeting teachers
- bbq lunch



We aim to provide the best possible start to high school for our grade 9 students.

At WHSS we have a fantastic Link Crew program to help ensure a smooth transition from grade 8 to high school. Our grade 11 & 12 Link Crew Leaders and staff advisors are committed to helping with this transition.

WHSS has found that participation in both Grade 9 Orientation and Grade 9 Camp are the best combination to build confidence within students and a sense of community within our grade 9 class.

Parents are encouraged to come to WHSS on Orientation Day for our 2024 Grade 9 Camp information meeting

**for over 15 years, WHSS has offered a grade 9 camp retreat in September for all grade 9 students*

The meeting will start at 9:00 on August 28th.

**Please bring all camp permission and information forms to turn in*

Grade 9 Camp

September 25 - 27, 2024

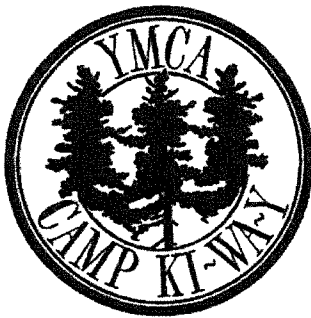
Grade 9 Camp will take place over 3 days and 2 nights at Camp Ki Wa Y in St. Clements, ON. The camp program is run by the Camp Ki Wa Y staff, with support from our Link Crew leaders and teaching staff.

Participation in both Grade 9 Orientation and Grade 9 Camp is integral in ensuring a smooth and successful transition to high school.

For over 15 years, we've received extremely positive feedback from grade 9 students and parents about experiences at camp. For many graduates, it remains a highlight of their time at WHSS.

Important Times:

- We will depart WHSS at 9:00 am on Sept. 25th
- We will return to WHSS at around 2:30 on Sept. 27th
- Arthur pick up at 8:15 am on Sept. 25th and drop off on Sept. 27th around 2:30 in the Looney Tooney parking lot



Parent Information Meeting:

Parents are invited to WHSS on August 28th at 9:00 to attend the parent information presentation for Grade 9 Camp

"Daytime Only" Option

While we encourage students to participate in the full Grade 9 Camp experience, we understand that some students may not want to stay overnight.

Students will have the option to participate in an extended-day program on Sep. 26th.

