



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS TRANSITIONING FROM GRADE 8 TO 9

"You can't always control circumstances. However, you can always control your attitude, approach and response." Tony Dungy, Former NFL Head Coach

1. When will students receive timetables for September?

Typically, at the end of summer there is an email to all new students/families who are attending WOSS in September. The emails will include timetables, information about the first day of school and other forms to be filled out for school use.

2. What does the first day of school look like?

In a typical school start up year, there would be events setup by our Cat Crew members and staff either before the first day of school or on the first day of school in the morning before afternoon classes. The Cat Crew would take students on a tour of our school, talk about the WOSS community in terms of extracurricular activities and clubs, locker process, and have students participate in various activities to allow for opportunities to meet new people.

3. Who is my homeroom teacher?

Your homeroom teacher would be your first period teacher that is listed on your schedule each semester. Homeroom is before period 1. In your homeroom, you listen to the announcements, receive forms, report cards etc., from your period 1 teacher.

4. How do I get a locker?

The past process has been that students can pick any locker near their first period class and secure it by placing a lock on it. You may purchase a lock from the office or bring one in from home. Once you have secured your locker, your homeroom teacher would collect the information in terms of your locker number and combination to submit to the office.

5. What items should I bring to school on the first day?

On your first day of school the recommendation is to bring the following items- A backpack, a notebook or binder, writing utensils, agenda (paper or electronic) and lunch. If you have a laptop or chrome.

6. How do I find out more information about White Oaks and the school community?

Please go to our school website at the following link-

[School Website- WOSS](#)
[Grade 8 - 9 Transitions Information](#)

Under the "Student" tab you will locate more information about the school community like athletics, [extracurricular](#) activities, student handbook etc.

7. How do I find out about extracurricular activities?

Please use the link found in question number 6, under the student tab. Open up the link that lists all the extracurricular activities at our school. The excel spreadsheet contains information about sports, clubs, teacher supervisor, days that the club runs etc.

8. Where can I find bussing information?

[Transportation Information](#)

9. How do I record my volunteer hours that were completed during the summer before grade 9?

For volunteer hours completed during the summer and during your years at high school, please go to the following link for information, how to submit your forms and you will also find forms to submit to your community service hours. [Community Hours](#)

10. What is the best way to contact teachers/What is the Communication Protocol?

Each of your subject teachers will give you a course outline on Brightspace or a paper copy for the semester listing your units of study and the evaluations for the semester. On the outline you will also have your teachers' contact information on the first page of the outline. It will list email addresses, Bright Space contact info. and/or a google classroom info.

The best way to contact your teacher is through email. Remember to have a subject line in your email regarding what you are emailing about and address your teacher in an appropriate salutation. For example "Hello Ms. Smith,". **Please share the email contact information with your parents.**

Another way to find your teachers' contact information is their last name + first initial of their first name will appear on your timetable. In your hdsb emails, when you type their last name in the "To" section, typically, their email address will pop up.

11. Should I contact my teachers if I have questions, or should my parents?

If you have questions that pertain to your course, questions about assignments or anything that you would like to ask for clarification, it is always best to directly email your teacher. If your parents have questions that they would like more information to support your learning needs, please have your parents email your teacher.

12. How do I request a timetable change?

For timetable changes there will be a process posted on our [Student Services web. Page](#) that is requested in late August prior to school starting:

Students can make timetable changes before the start of the school year. Students can make all timetable requests using a google form that will open after you receive your timetable. This form will be posted on the [White Oaks website](#).

Students will be required to use their HDSB emails to submit requests. No requests will be considered without parent permission indicated on the google form for students under 18 years of age. Students will only be permitted to submit one request form, so they are encouraged to think carefully about their add/drops for the new school year.

13. Who do I talk to about pathway planning?

To discuss pathway planning please make an appointment to see your grade level guidance counsellor which is posted on our Student Services web page. For 8 - 9 Transitions, please contact me stoss@hdsb.ca

14. Am I allowed to leave the school at lunch time?

Yes, you are permitted to leave school property during lunch hour as long as you have permission from your parents and you return to school on time for your afternoon classes.

15. Do I have enough time to get from the south campus to the north campus between periods?

Between each class there is 5 minutes of travel time. As soon as the bell rings, please start walking to the opposite campus if that is where your next class is located. Walk quickly and stay focused. It is not a long walk and 5 minutes is typically plenty of time to make the walk from one campus to the other.

16. What if I need a tutor?

If you need to a tutor to help with Math, Science, English, French etc., please email (sstos@hdsb.ca). I will post a request with our senior IB students in grade 11 and 12 who are well versed in your subject area if they are available to tutor a grade 9 student. Once a student responds, I will contact you with the student through email, and then you can email to set up a time and place to meet for extra tutoring sessions. A good place to meet is usually the library.



Helpful Tips for Homework

1. Record homework in your agenda or planner, and make sure the expectations are clearly understood.
2. Ask teachers for clarification or help when expectations are not clear. And work on time management to complete all your assignments and still get a good night's rest.
3. Set a time for homework and work in a quiet space away from distractions.

MORE RESOURCES

[Transition to High School](#)

[School Website](#)

[Community Involvement Hours](#)

[Guide to Secondary School](#)

[Welcome To Woss Virtual Presentation](#)