

Welcome Back!

As we begin a new school year, we are excited to welcome every student and family back to our school community. At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to creating a place where everyone feels they belong, where diversity is celebrated, and where each student is known, valued, and supported to thrive.

This year, we look forward to building on a culture of kindness, inclusion, and possibility. Through responsive instruction, meaningful relationships, and high expectations, we will continue to create learning experiences that help every student discover their strengths, pursue their passions, and see new opportunities for success.

We wanted to share a few updates, so you are ready for the first day of school!

Check Aspen AGAIN Before the First Day

Every student should review their timetable in Aspen before the first day of school. There have been changes made to the timetable this week and some classroom numbers and teachers names may have changed.

Taking a few moments to check your timetable before arriving will help ensure you have the most up to date classroom locations and feel prepared for a successful start to the year.

Grade 9 First Day Information

A special welcome to our newest students!

For many Grade 9 students, the first day of secondary school is filled with excitement, anticipation, and new possibilities. We are committed to ensuring every student feels welcomed, connected, and supported as they begin this important journey.

On the first day of school, all Grade 9 students should proceed to the back of the school and meet their Period 1 teacher on the field. Period 1 teachers will greet students, help build connections with their classmates, and lead a tour of the school so everyone can become familiar with the building and start the year with confidence.

Transportation

To help students feel prepared and confident for the first day, please take time to review the attached **bus schedules and pick-up/drop-off locations** at home before school begins. Familiarizing yourself with transportation details in advance can help ease first-day nerves and ensure a smooth start. As always, we will have lots of staff throughout the building ready to assist students in finding classrooms, answering questions, and getting to the right place. If you are unsure of your bus route number, log onto nsts.ca

Lunch

During the lunch break, students are welcome to purchase food from our school cafeteria, which will be open and serving a variety of lunch options. Students are also welcome to bring a lunch from home. We encourage students to choose the option that works best for them and helps them feel ready to learn throughout the day.

Staying Connected

We also encourage families to stay connected throughout the year by regularly visiting our school website, westniagara.dsbn.org

The website is the best source of up-to-date information, including our **school calendar, important dates, events, and daily announcements**, which are posted each morning. Checking the website regularly will help students and families stay informed and engaged in all that is happening in our school community.

Welcome Back, Reggie!

We are also delighted to welcome Reggie, our service dog, back to school. Reggie is a cherished member of our community. We know there will be many are excited to see him back in the building! To learn more about Reggie's role, review the included Meet Reggie letter.

Online Permission Forms

Due to a recent software upgrade, school cash online has been unavailable this week and the student permission & activity forms are not yet available online. As soon as it is ready, we will let you know. Thank you for your patience!

We will notify families as soon as the system is available and you are able to log in to complete the required forms and purchase student activity fees. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Looking Ahead

As we begin another year together, we are excited about the possibilities ahead. By leading with kindness, embracing inclusion, and supporting every learner through responsive instruction, we will continue to build a school where everyone belongs, and feels supported to achieve their personal best. We can't wait to see you next week!