

May 1, 2023

Families,

I am writing to let you know about some upcoming changes to address significant growth pressures in the Halifax West High Family of Schools (HWH FOS).

As the population continues to grow in Halifax Regional Municipality, student enrolment is rising in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. The Halifax West High FOS is one of the fastest growing areas. As announced in 2018, a new school is [planned](#) to support the ongoing growth in the Clayton Park – Fairview area. The school is in the initial planning stages, and site location work is currently underway.

To ensure all students have safe, welcoming, and comfortable learning spaces until the new school opens, some changes are necessary.

Modular Units

Last fall, we let Halifax West High families know that [a modular unit](#) would be built this spring to help ease these pressures. The 12-classroom addition placed at HWH will help support growth in surrounding schools.

Effective September 2023, grade configurations will change at some schools in the HWH FOS.

Changes for Halifax West High Family of Schools

- **Atlantic Memorial-Terence Bay Elementary:** no change, will remain Grades PP-5.
 - **Brookside Junior High:** no change, will remain Grades 6-9.
 - **Burton Ettinger Elementary:** no change, will remain Grades PP-6. Pre-Primary will continue to be offered offsite at Fairview Heights Elementary.
 - **Clayton Park Junior High:** will change from Grades 7-9 to Grades 6-8. Grade 9 will move to Halifax West High. Will receive Grade 6 English from Rockingham Elementary.
 - **Duc d’Anville Elementary:** no change, will remain Grades PP- 6.
 - **Fairview Heights Elementary:** will change from Grades PP-6 to Grades PP-5. Grade 6 will move to Fairview Junior High.
 - **Fairview Junior High:** will change from Grades 7-9 to Grades 6-9. Will receive Grade 6 English from Fairview Heights Elementary and Grade 6 French Immersion from Rockingham Elementary.
 - **Grosvenor-Wentworth Park Elementary:** will remain Grades PP-6, except Pre-Primary will now be offered at 117 Kearney Lake Road.
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- **Halifax West High:** will change from Grades 10-12 to Grades 9-12. Will receive Grade 9 from Clayton Park Junior High. All other junior highs continue to feed in at Grade 10.
- **Park West:** no changes, will remain Grades PP-9. We are monitoring enrolment and a change may be necessary before September 2023.
- **Prospect Road Elementary:** no change, will remain Grades PP-5.
- **Rockingham Elementary:** will change from Grades PP-6 to Grades PP-5 for English and from P-6 to P-5 for French. Grade 6 English will move to Clayton Park Junior High. Grade 6 French Immersion will move to Fairview Junior High. Pre-Primary will now be offered at 117 Kearney Lake Road.

For more information, rationale, and to view a chart of all changes in this FOS, please [click here](#).

We Want Your Input

We know the success of each student's experience will depend on a strong transition plan. This is our current focus, and we're looking for your input:

"As we respond to growing enrolment and make necessary changes, how can we best support your child to ensure their success and well-being throughout this transition?"

To collect your thoughts, we're using an online platform called *ThoughtExchange*. You can contribute ideas and opinions, see what others have offered, and rate comments. It's available any time, it's accessible, and it's anonymous. Schools will use what you share to create meaningful plans to ensure a smooth transition.

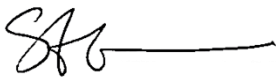
[Click here](#) to get started.

ThoughtExchange will remain open to feedback until May 9, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Thank you for taking the time to share your ideas.

What's next?

You can expect regular communication from school principals in the coming weeks as more information becomes available about transition plans. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to your school principal or connect@hrce.ca. We will continue to update our website with answers to your questions.

All the best,



Steve Gallagher
Regional Executive Director
Halifax Regional Centre for Education