



August 18, 2023

Dear HSB Families,

My name is Nick Laframboise, or Mr. L., and I am your new Principal at Howard S. Billings. It is an honor and privilege to be in this position and I look forward to serving the school and community for many years to come. Prior to my appointment at HSB, I worked for the Lester B. Pearson School Board as a teacher at Beaconsfield High School, vice principal at both Pierrefonds Community High School and Lakeside Academy and as the principal of St. Anthony IB World School. During the 2022-2023 school year, I occupied the role of academic counsellor and hockey coach at Selwyn House School.

Each new school year is exciting, and this year is no exception. On top of our wide range of programming options previously available to the students, our new middle school HIVE program and the return of our football program offer even more opportunities to the student population. In addition, large capital projects including brand new bathrooms and window upgrades will no doubt please our students and staff.

With that being said, our mandate is to provide the students with the skills and competencies necessary, in a safe and caring environment, to be successful in their future endeavours. I am confident that between the dedication of our incredible staff and your support at home, each child will be afforded the opportunity to flourish academically and socially.

This year, I am fortunate to have two experienced administrators to work alongside. Mr. Brian Woods will serve as Vice-Principal responsible for Secondary 1, Secondary 2 and Learning Centres and Mrs. Lina Zielinski, will serve as the Vice-Principal responsible for Secondary 3, Secondary 4 as well as WOTP. I (Mr. L.) will be overseeing Secondary 5 students.

Below you will find some information items pertaining to the start of the new academic year. Please be sure to read them over to ensure a smooth start to the school year.

On a personal level, I am looking forward to meeting you all and serving the community for many years to come! Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school with your inquiries.

Looking forward to a great year together!

Warm Regards and Go Blazers!

Mr. L.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### School Hours

This year, the school day is from 8:57AM to 3:40PM. As always, students are expected to be on time to all their classes throughout the day.

### First Days of School

- Entry will be staggered as follows:

Students Attending on:	Grade Levels
August 30, 2023	Only Grade 9, 10, 11, WOTP (Day 1)
August 31, 2023	Only Grade 8 (Day 1)
September 1, 2023	Only Grade 7 and Learning Centre students (Day 1)
September 5, 2023	All students- grades 7-11 (Day 2)

### Day 1 Information

- All students will use the main entrance on McLeod between 8:50 and 9:00 AM and will be guided to their homerooms.
- Our HSB Prefects (student leadership mentors) will be welcoming and guiding grade 7 and new Learning Centre students to their classes.
- All students are expected to wear their uniform.
- Students will receive their lockers, locks and combinations. Locks will be returned at the end of the year. Please remind your child not to share their combination or locker with anyone else. Also, valuables are to be kept at home as the school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Students will receive a printed copy of their timetable.
- Students are asked to bring their own lunches and snacks on their first day back.

### Lunch Options

The Cafeteria Services will resume as of September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Day 2). Students have the options of staying on campus in the cafeteria or outdoors or off-campus. All students are reminded to be good citizens whether on or off campus. Kind and polite behaviours are always greatly appreciated.

## Uniform

Students must be in uniform as of the first day. The uniform is:

- **White or navy blue tops** with the embroidered HSB logo. Only solid white or navy tops can be worn under an HSB outer layer. For example, a plain white T-shirt under an HSB vest or sweater.
- **Solid NAVY** (no logos or patterns) bottoms consist of:
  - pants** (yoga, sweatpants, cotton pants, capris-no jeans) or **Bermuda shorts** (no short shorts).
- If students have not yet received their uniforms, they can wear a plain white t-shirt and navy-blue pants or shorts until they do.

## Uniform Pickup

Moni will hold its uniform pickup day on Saturday, August 26th. Here is the schedule:

- 10:00-11:00 A to C
- 11:00-12:00 D to G
- 12:00-12:30 (Lunch break & catch up)
- 12:30-1:30 H to M
- 1:30-2:30 N to R
- 2:30-3:30 S to Z
- **According to orders placed by parents last name (not the students)**
- **Please note that ONLY the orders designated for school pickup and placed in June and July will be brought to the school. Do not come to pick up if your order was to be picked up at Moni outlet, if you requested home delivery or if you placed your order in August as your order will not be there.**

## Supply Lists

- The HIVE Middle School supply lists are accessible at [HIVE Supply Lists](#). Supply details for other grade levels will be provided by teachers as they meet students over the first days of school.
- Students are expected to have their basics supplies as of the first day of school:
  - pencils, pens, erasers, liquid paper, ruler, highlighters, scissors, glue sticks, colour pencils, pencil sharpener, pencil case, face masks (optional), a **reusable water bottle** (we have lots of bottle filling stations), running shoes for Phys. Ed, facial tissues (optional). A quality backpack is a good idea.

## Communications

- Our main way of communicating with you is through the [Parent Portal](#). This is where you will find your child's daily timetable, report card, transportation information (if applicable) and more. This is also used to report attendance. In order to receive notifications of your child's absence from class, you need to download [Parent-Portal Parents](#) (by GRICS).
- There are times when we will send important information through **emails**. Please check your Spam folder as HSB emails may end up in that folder. We also communicate with our students using their NFSB accounts. Please remind your child to check their inbox regularly!
- Our [HSB Website](#) has current updated information and documentations that can answer many of your questions. You can also follow us on Facebook and X (Twitter) for day-to-day info and updates.
- We can be reached by email at [hsb@nfsb.qc.ca](mailto:hsb@nfsb.qc.ca).

## Important Dates

- August 26<sup>th</sup> – Uniform Pickup
- August 29<sup>th</sup> - Student Daily Timetables available on the Parent Portal
- September 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Grades 10 and 11 students can request a change in their elective courses.
- September 21<sup>st</sup> – School Photos

Meet the Teacher evening and the Annual General Meeting will soon be scheduled and the details will be sent afterwards.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Warm regards,

Your HSB Administration Team

*Mr. L, Mrs. Zielinski, Mr. Woods*