



## Welcome to Hedda Wisingskolan autumn term 2017

I would like to start by thanking all the students and parents for the first year of study here at Hedda Wisingskolan, as well as welcoming all new students and guardians in year 7. Much was new to all of us at school start last fall - but now a whole school year has turned and we hope that we have created some structures to build on for the future and that we have learned from some mistakes. Thank you for your patience, you who have been there our first year.

Certainly, it is in the middle of the summer holidays and hopefully you are enjoying the school holiday and the lack of school work, but the start of the fall semester will be relentlessly closer to each day. Therefore, here is some information to all students and guardians before school start in August.

### School start - times and dates

#### *First school day*

Thursday, August 24, the fall semester begins. Students in year 7 start at 08:30. Then the mentor will receive the students at the school entrance. Year 8 and year 9 start at 09:00 and then they go straight to their "home classroom" (where they have their mentoring time).

In the morning the students will be with their mentors group to settle after Summer holiday and get some general school info. Lunch is served in school - first day of the year the students will have lunch according to their year level, the day after that they will eat lunch according to the schedule. After the first school day, the school (generally speaking) begins at 8:00 for all school students.

For those arriving early with school bus, the school is open from 07:30 throughout the academic year.

#### *The academic year*

Elementary school and upper secondary school generally follow the same academic years (individual study days may vary).

**The fall semester** extends between 24<sup>th</sup> August and the 21<sup>st</sup> of December.

The fall break is week 44 (31/10 - 5/11)

**The spring semester** extends between 8<sup>th</sup> of January and 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

Winter break is week 10 (5/3 - 11/3)

Easter holidays is week 14 (2/4 - 8/4)

Other holidays in the spring term are April the 30<sup>th</sup> and May the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Study days are the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of January - In other words, teaching does not begin in spring term until January the 10<sup>th</sup>. Study days in addition to this will be announced later by the school.



## Information from the school is now available via [HeddaUndervisning.com](http://HeddaUndervisning.com)

During the past year, we in the school management have sent information via mail and self-designed mailing lists. However, we see that 10-15% of you guardians are not reached by this information because mail addresses are wrong (mail bouncing), we do not have email addresses, etc. Therefore, we have created a page / portal or front for all information from the school as well as for the web tools we use – the front is called [HeddaUndervisning.com](http://HeddaUndervisning.com). Here, all common information from the school management will be presented as follows:



- Information from the school management (**Skolledarinfo**) – will be published ongoing instead of the previously sent out mail a few times a year. The information is representative in Swedish, but more important information about meetings, notifications, etc. will also be written in English.
- Link for students into **SharePoint** and the sharing area “in the cloud” that we will build in the coming academic year. There will be homework, educational plans, links, digital submission etc. to be found. That part of the page requires students' individual login, so if you, as guardian, want to see, you can use your child's login.
- School Schemes (**Schema**) – will be available class by class, etc. Later on in the fall semester, this opportunity will hopefully also be solved via an app in a smartphone.
- **FAQs** (Frequently Asked Questions) - Here you will find everything from information about the academic year, how to create shortcuts in your phone to HeddaUndervisning, to links to routines and forms, etc.
- There is also a direct route into **Dexter** and the school's **Facebook** page for students as well as parents.
- All students have an **Office365** account - it is through that login that they reaches SharePoint - therefore there is a direct way there if you are not already logged in.
- On the page there are also some calendars (**Kalendrar**). There you can find upcoming examinations (tests) for each year courses, as well as a school calendar where activities are presented that differ from the usual schedule.

It will therefore be the responsibility of each guardian to keep informed of general information about what is happening at the school by reading on [HeddaUndervisning.com](http://HeddaUndervisning.com). Information from mentors will continue as they have done so far.

In order for it to be as easy as possible for you, there is different ways to make the page available for you: you can subscribe to updates, have a shortcut (looks like an app) on your smartphone, or have an icon on the desktop on your computer. See **FAQ** on [HeddaUndervisning.com](http://HeddaUndervisning.com) for instructions on how to do - so you can choose which way works best for you.



## HeddaWisingskolan.com - for routines and guidelines, etc. a page for the school staff

For those who want to know more about the school's routines and guidelines, forms, educational tips, etc. there is our employee page [HeddaWisingskolan.com](http://HeddaWisingskolan.com) (not to be mixed with HeddaUndervisning.com). Its purpose is primarily an employee information page and is therefore adapted to these, but the information is open and accessible to anyone (in Swedish) who are interested.

## Parent meetings

Date of parent meeting for each class and year course will be announced via HeddaUndervisning.com later on, close to school start in August.

At the parents' meeting everyone gets common and general info from school management and administration, then each class meetings with respective mentors.

## “Skofri” skola

Our school has a “shoe-free” indoor environment - that means we all (students and employees) at school take our outdoor shoes off when we get into school - just as we do at home. We believe in a nice indoor environment without gravel and dirt.

When you get to school, you simply take off your shoes - immediately when you get into school building. You will have a shoe locker to keep your shoes in, in direct connection with the main entrance. If you enter through one of the other entrances, you simply get to take off your shoes and carry them in your hand to your shoe locker. The lockers are distributed by the mentor in the first few days.

In order for this to work well, it's important that everyone thinks about this from the very first school day. Running around in school in stockings is not a good idea. We therefore recommend you to bring a couple of indoor shoes or slippers of some kind to school - that can always stay in School so you do not need to bring them every day. At some lessons it is a requirement to have shoes - ex. crafts, arts, technique.

Keep in mind that it will be very cold to run out for fire training in bare stockings if it's raining, or even winter when it is 15 degrees cold.

We look forward to see you coming to school walking around in class rooms and corridors with soft beautiful slippers, sandals, “gympadojor”.

At the initiative of the student council, the school management and the student council are working on a proposal regarding some flexibility around the shoe free school. More info about this will come a bit into the term, until then Hedda Wisingskolan will be a 100% shoe free school.



## Student's choice (elevens val) in the coming academic year

In the coming academic year, student's choice (elevens val) will be planned different compared with the year passed. Instead of the student's choice every Friday the last two hours of the schedule, we will instead have a student choice at a couple of (possibly three) periods per academic year of 2-4 days each. When these periods will occur is not yet planned, but one of these will be added in connection with the end of the spring semester in June. More information about this comes when students are to make their choices for student's choice for the fall semester.

We do this change for several reasons, among other things, we want to carry out more coherent / extensive activities with the students without being bound to the schedule. We also see that the construction we have had locked the schedule in a negative way and makes the schedule less flexible.

We are very pleased that we could have had such a wide range of sports offerings as we had on the pupil's choice so far and we would therefore like to thank all sports associations that made this possible and hope to have such a positive cooperation in one way or another even in the future even though it will be in other forms.

## Support activities, special education and matte efforts in the coming academic year

One of the school's most important objectives is to increase goal achievement; that all students gain access to their learning and develop and reach the goals in all subjects.

During the past school year, we have been in lack of employees with specialist teacher skills, despite ongoing recruitment. Our only specialist teacher has had a heavy duty to manage the support activities. This is now solved - from school start in fall semester we now have three specialist teachers / special educators attached to the school. This means a significant improvement in support opportunities and that we will be able to provide support even outside the classrooms, which we did not have during the school year passed.

With the new student's choice plan, we remove the subject support we had on Fridays. We replace these with two new support passes for all students (Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning) where two teachers in each subject area (Swedish, English and Ma / No) will be available together with special teachers and teachers in Swedish as second language. Some students who we already find have difficulties to reach the goals will be scheduled for one or both of these passes, in other words, they will have compulsory attendance on these support passes. For other students, it is voluntary to use these passes as needed.

Because we see that mathematics is the subject where students have the hardest to achieve the goals, we have decided to increase the mathematics education by 30% for all classes at the school during the coming academic year. This in order to provide more teaching where needed and / or be more flexibility in teaching as needed. This will be evaluated during, and after, the academic year to assess the effect it has on learning.

During the academic year 17/18, all teachers will join the "Special Education uplift" (specialpedagogiklyftet) to increase the competence in the field of special education. We therefore hope to become even better at responding to all pupils in need of support at all times, as well as providing greater accessibility to learning for all students in school.



## Substitute teacher situation

The school has the basic idea that no lessons should be canceled because someone is to be sick or has sick children at home. Though, we have not been able to live up to this in during the past year due to difficulties in obtaining temporary staff. In order to solve this for the coming years, we have rearranged the organization around our resource staff. The existing resource persons, in the classes where there is one, will in the future be the substitute teacher when necessary. This means that we will have a substitute person that already knows the class as well as knows where the class is in the respective subject planning.

In addition to that, we have also employed a person at the school that has the substitute teacher role as part time work only for Hedda Wisingskolan and in other words always will be available at school. We hope that through this we will be able to cover the short-term substitute need considerably better than last year.

## One computer per student

All students at Hedda Wisingskolan are offered to borrow a computer from the school to facilitate the work and learning with IT in the classroom. Pupils in year 8 and 9 were given their computers before school start in the fall semester 2016. For new students in year 8 and 9 and students in year 7, we hope to get started with lending shortly after the start of the semester. More info on this will come later.

We look forward to the academic year 2017/18 and hope that all students will be happy with us at Hedda Wisingskolan. But until the school begins, we hope all the students enjoy a beautiful summer holiday.

Best regards,

Erik Juntikka, principal at Hedda Wisingskolan