



AMHS Bulletin

December 11, 2020

Reminders

Dates at a Glance

Chanukah: Dec. 10 - Dec. 18

Winter Break: Dec. 19 - Jan. 3

Christmas (Western): Dec. 25

Kwanzaa: Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

Christmas (Easter): Jan. 7

Support for Learners

The government is providing financial support to help parents and guardians with additional costs during the 2020-2021 school year during the second wave of COVID-19.

Eligible parents or guardians will receive a one-time payment of:

- \$200 for each child up to age 12
- \$250 for each child or youth up to age 21 years with special needs

This is a new program, and all parents or guardians who are residents of Ontario with eligible children will need to submit a new application for each child.

As of today, eligible parents or guardians can go to [Ontario.ca/SupportforLearners](https://ontario.ca/SupportforLearners) for more information and to apply for the one-time financial support. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2021.

Daily Attendance Reports

Email notification of the daily attendance report, which notifies parents of student absences/lates will resume on Monday December 7th. If there are any discrepancies with the information you receive, we ask that you contact the teacher directly. The teacher will communicate with the attendance office if corrections need to be made.

Student Attendance

General inquiries and student attendance information can be sent directly to the general AMHS email address at alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca or please call the school directly at 905-884-0554.

Visitors to AMHS

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, visitor(s) are not permitted into the school without a pre-arranged appointment. Please contact the school by telephone and we will be happy to assist you.

Before coming to an appointment, please review and adhere to the instructions on the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment poster from York Region Public Health](#) posted at all exterior doors. Come directly to the main office to sign in and obtain a parking pass prior to your scheduled meeting time, and sign out when leaving.

Any visitor(s) experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must remain home. All visitors must sanitize their hands, wear a face covering at all times, and maintain a two-metre physical distance as they enter, move through and exit the building.

Parents/guardians if you need to meet with a staff member please call ahead to book an appointment.

Revised School Screening Checklist

Each day, parents/guardians and students over 18 are responsible for reviewing and adhering to the [checklist from York Region Public Health](#). This checklist has been recently updated to reflect the Ontario government's revised COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in Schools and Child Care. Please note that the new screening guide applies to children only and the adult screening has not changed. Thank you for working with us to protect the health and safety of students, staff and families and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Self-screening tool

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19 the ministry has asked us to share this [link](#) with our school community.

York Region Public Health Decision Tree Tools

- [Preventing Covid-19 Exposures in the Schools](#)
- [COVID-19 Screening Tool for students and children in school and child care](#)

School Schedules

| December 14 - December 18 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rotation 6 Alternate Face to Face and Online Daily 8:30 – 11:00a.m. ** Rotation 7 begins on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 | Period 2 Class Cohort B Face to Face Cohort A Online | Period 4 Class Cohort A Face to Face Cohort B Online | Period 4 Class Cohort B Face to Face Cohort A Online | Period 4 Class Cohort A Face to Face Cohort B Online | Period 4 Class Cohort B Face to Face Cohort A Online |
| 11:00 – 11:15 a.m. | Students Exit | | | | |
| 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Student Transportation / Lunch | | | | |
| Synchronous Online – Block 2 12:30 – 1:20 p.m. | Period 1 Class Cohort A & B | Period 5 Class Cohort A & B |
| Synchronous Online – Block 3 1:20 – 2:10 p.m. | Period 4 Class Cohort A & B | Period 1 Class Cohort A & B |
| Synchronous Online – Block 4 2:10 – 3:00 p.m. | Period 5 Class Cohort A & B | Period 2 Class Cohort A & B |

| | Course Rotation for AMHS | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Rotation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | Sept 14 Sept 25 | Sept 28 Oct 9 | Oct 13 Octo 26 | Oct 27 Nov 9 | Nov 10 Nov 26 | Nov 27 Dec 14 | Dec 15 Jan 13 | Jan 14 Jan 29 |
| In Person Block 1 8:30 -11:00 | Per. 1 | Per. 2 | Per. 4 | Per. 5 | Per. 1 | Per. 2 | Per. 4 | Per. 5 |
| Exit/Travel / Lunch | | | | | | | | |
| Synchronous Block 2 12:30 - 1:20 | Per.2 | Per. 1 | Per. 5 | Per. 4 | Per. 2 | Per. 1 | Per. 5 | Per. 4 |
| Synchronous Block 3 1:20 - 2:10 | Per. 4 | Per. 4 | Per. 1 | Per. 1 | Per. 4 | Per. 4 | Per. 1 | Per. 1 |
| Synchronous Block 4 2:10 - 3:00 | Per. 5 | Per. 5 | Per. 2 | Per. 2 | Per. 5 | Per. 5 | Per. 2 | Per. 2 |

Guidance

Grade 12 Students:

Students are encouraged to keep a copy of the OUAC PIN and password in a safe place for future reference. Should your child not have received an email containing this information, please contact the AMHS Guidance Department at your earliest convenience.

Students are invited to review the slide show information linked in the email concerning how to use the PIN in the OUAC Website and how to set up a student profile, and add University Programs among other things.

Please note: 'While creating your OUAC account, it might ask for a 12-digit student number: add '000' (3 zeros) in front of your 9-digit student number.'

Please feel free to contact your child's counselor for more information regarding the OUAC Application process or any other questions you may have over the next several weeks.

Please see the following updated Guidance Google classrooms:

Grade 12:

Graduating Class June 2021; Password: zjwvzt3

Grade 12 Scholarships for Graduating Students only; Password: hlthp5

Note to Grade 11 Students: If you would like to learn more about Grade 12 in order to prepare for next year, please join the Grade 12 Google classrooms. However, please be mindful that only Grade 12 students may participate in the nomination for any awards and scholarships that are shared by the Guidance department.

School Information

OSSLT Support

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is a requirement for students who wish to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. As a school, we are taking many steps to assist our students in completing the test successfully. This year's test will take place on April 8th, 2021. One way that we have chosen to assist our students is by offering extra support to reinforce literacy skills in reading and writing.

A number of pre recorded sessions are available to students. These sessions will make a difference in the student's knowledge and confidence related to the various reading and writing tasks they are required to complete on the OSSLT. The pre-recorded sessions are located in the Google Classroom titled "OSSLT Practice".

Literacy Strategy of the Month:

To support student success with the OSSLT, grade 9 and 10 teachers use a suggested strategy-of-the-month". Teachers are asked to consider suitable times throughout the month to use it. Parents and guardians are asked to engage in dialogue with their child around how the strategy was used in class. The strategy for December is **Concept Maps**.

Literacy Tip:

Leverage your child's interest in current events. Highlight the ways they can use reading to keep tabs on what's happening in the world. Encourage your child to read the news online. If your child is interested in sports, politics, celebrities, music, etc., there will always be something they might want to read.

Study Hall

Students who require study hall are to sign up through TeachAssist (<https://ta.yrdsb.ca/yrdsb/>). Sign-up for study hall is done on a weekly basis.

The purpose of lunch and study hall is to provide a space for students who do not have consistent access to broadband Wi-Fi at home, and who are in school for their face-to-face morning class. During lunch and study hall, students will not have face-to-face access to their classroom teachers.

To ensure safety, students who attend study hall for their afternoon online courses will be supervised by a staff member. Supervision will focus on participants' adherence to Public Health requirements, including sitting 2-meters apart with only those students in their morning face-to-face class.

During study hall, students will need to provide their own technology, including earphones (preferably microphone-enabled earphones) to reduce noise during interactive activities with the online class. Students will also be required to remain at school to eat lunch. Unfortunately, no cafeteria or food delivery services are available at this time.

Parking & Ticketing

Students and visitors will be required to display a valid parking permit in their vehicle at all times in order to park on school property. Any vehicle parked on AMHS property without a valid parking permit will be subject to ticketing. It is your responsibility to ensure that a valid parking permit is clearly visible to our parking enforcement officers. Be sure to request a parking pass when you sign in at the Main Office. (*ALL visitors to the school MUST report to the Main Office.) **Parking is on a first-come, first-served basis; availability cannot be guaranteed**

York Region District School Board Information

Black Foundation of Community Networks (BFCN) - Kwanzaa & Cultural Celebrations - December 18 & BFCN - Scholarship Application Workshop - January 22

Join BFCN for an end-of-year celebration to learn about Kwanzaa and the importance of cultural traditions on Friday, December 18 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Celebrate the start of the holiday break with an evening to remember, hosted by the phenomenal storyteller Sandra Whiting. We are also excited to welcome Kofi Morris of Holistic Foundations who will teach us about the history of Kwanzaa and practicing traditions, Yolanda Marshall who will do a book reading, and Negus Medhin of Holistic Vibrancy who will share some African drumming. There will also be games and prizes to be won!

Please share with your friends and family and encourage them to save the date. The online workshop is free but there is limited space available so please register via Eventbrite ASAP: [bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopDecember18](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bfcn-workshop-december-18-2020-tickets-123456789012)

Also, Black students and their families are invited to join us for another online edition of the BFCN Scholarship Application Workshop on Friday, January 22, 2021 from 7 PM - 9 PM.

The workshop is offered free of charge as the goal is to share our collective knowledge so that Black students and their families can make informed decisions about post-secondary education. Note that the Scholarship Program Coordinator will also be present to answer any questions.

Please share with your friends and family and encourage them to save the date. The online workshop is free but there is limited space available so please register via Eventbrite ASAP: [bit.ly/BFCNWorkshopJanuary22](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bfcn-workshop-january-22-2021-tickets-123456789012)

Registration via Eventbrite is mandatory in order to participate for both workshops. A Zoom link and further details will be sent to all those who register. For more information or to share accessibility needs, please contact us at info@bfcn.ca or 416-566-2731.

Tamil Heritage Month 2021 Poster Competition

YRDSB and the Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action: Tamil Heritage Month 2021 Poster Competition. Deadline is December 14. See the [flyer](#) for all the details.

Tamil Heritage Month Workshop Series

In recognition of Tamil Heritage Month, students are invited to participate in two free workshops in January which focus on aspects of Tamil Identity: Traditional Tamil Cuisine and Spoken Word. See flyer for further information. For more information please refer to this [flyer](#).

Islamic Heritage Student Art Call for Entry 2020/21

Islamic Heritage Student Art Call for Entry. Theme: Islamic Heritage Month in the Canadian Context with a focus on Muslim Canadians past and present who have made an impact in our country. Deadline: March 1, 2021. See flyer for further details. Please check this [flyer](#) for additional information.

Russian & Hebrew Holiday Get together

Settlement and Education Partnership in York Region (SEPYR) is hosting a virtual Russian & Hebrew Speaking Newcomer Teen Get Together. Please refer to this [flyer](#) for additional information

Secondary GSA Google Classroom

Secondary school students who identify as 2SLGTBQI+ and their allies are invited to join a virtual GSA secondary classroom. The classroom will be moderated by our caring and dedicated GSA advisors, who will make sure the space is following ground rules, safe space guidelines and confidentiality. The classroom is now open and accepting student registrations. Students must [register](#) using their YRDSB GAPPS account.

The GSA Google classroom will bring the social and educational aspects, and fun of a GSA online. It will include discussion boards, community services and resources, group social sessions and various supports as students need. The first GSA classroom meeting will take place on December 15, 2020 from 3:00- 4:00 p.m.. Our first meeting will be an opportunity to meet the moderators, introduce ourselves and to help shape the classroom as a group.

Parents for Children's Mental Health (PMCH)

PMCH provides support, education, and linkage between families, communities, agencies and government. A virtual meeting about ADHD will be held on Monday, December 14 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Please review this [link](#) for additional information.

K.A.L.V.I. - Student Leadership Training Series

Are you a high school student who wants to enhance and learn new skills to become a future leader? Review the flyer for information on K.A.L.V.I. - Student Leadership Training Series beginning November 13. For additional information, please check [here](#).

Renewed Computer Technology

The York Region District School Board is once again working with Renewed Computer Technology (RCT). RTC is a not-for-profit, charitable organization that empowers learners, educators and not-for-profit organizations with access to affordable, renewed computers to help meet education and career goals.

Please refer to the attached [Renewed Computer Technology flyer](#) to review the available packages.

Online Program Opportunities

As many of our YRDSB community partner organizations continue to offer on-line opportunities for your children and youth, we are happy to provide you with a comprehensive list of these opportunities, including those that are continuing and also new programs and services.

Please visit [2020-2021 Online Program Opportunities for Children, Youth and Families](#) to find a list of programs organized by category and age group. We encourage you to check the link regularly as the Community and Partnership Developer Team will be making regular updates to available programs and resources.

For more information, please contact jcs@yrdsb.ca

Adult ESL, LINC & LBS Programs

YRDSB offers Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for those who want to develop effective language skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing for daily life in Canada. We also offer specialized classes in Citizenship and Conversation.

For more information and registration details, please check these links: [English](#), [Farsi](#), [Russian](#), [Tamil](#), [Simplified Chinese](#).

School Council News

Minutes

School Council minutes can be accessed through the school website by clicking the attached link: [School Council Minutes](#)

School Contact / Website Information

Superintendent - Lois Agard

Phone: (905) 884-4477

cec.central@yrdsb.ca

Trustee - [Simon Cui](#)

Alexander Mackenzie High School

Principal – Krista Pummell

Vice-Principal – Erika Pridie (A-L)

Vice-Principal – George Ellinas (M-Z)

Telephone: 905-884-0554

Fax: 905-884-4694

Arts Mackenzie

<http://bit.ly/ARTSMackenzie>

Music Department

www.amhsmusic.ca

AMHS Literacy & OSSLT

rebrand.ly/OSSLT

MAC Health, Physical Education & Athletics

For information about our programs, please follow us:

Twitter: @Mustangsmove

Instagram: macpheathletics

Alexander Mackenzie H.S. On Twitter

Follow us on twitter @AlexMackHS

If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter, please notify Alexander Mackenzie High School by email.