



December 20, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,
Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin, full of useful information and upcoming events.

Upcoming Events

Monday, January 6 th , 2020	Return to School (after Holiday Break)
Wednesday, January 15 th , 2020	Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment – Day 1
Thursday, January 16 th , 2020	Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment – Day 2
Monday, January 20 th , 2020	Guidance Presentation for Parents (see below) AMHS Cafeteria - 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., January 23 rd – Wed., January 29, 2020	Examination Week (*Students must attend all exams, as scheduled)

Final Examinations – January 2020

Exam Week is fast approaching! Please be aware of these important dates, indicated below. Parents and students are reminded to **not schedule appointments, trips, interviews, etc. that would conflict with scheduled examination dates.**

Thursday January 23	Friday January 24	Monday January 27	Tuesday January 28	Wednesday January 29	Thursday January 30	Friday January 31
Period 1 Course	Period 2 Course	Period 3 Course	Period 4 Course	Severe Weather Day	Exam Review Day	P.A. Day

Students received the Examination Schedule, as indicated above, this past week in their Homeroom class. Expectations / procedures outlined on this communication include:

- **Examinations and/or other final evaluations will start each day at 9:00 a.m.**
- An official Severe Weather Day will be declared if the school buses for **our** school have been cancelled; if an official Severe Weather Day is declared during the Exam Week, the missed exam / final evaluation will occur on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.
- Students must be present to complete each exam / final evaluation, on its scheduled day and time.

Guidance Services

Teaching our children how to use technology safely and appropriately is a challenge we all face. I wanted to share with you that Facebook has a Facebook Parents Portal, which features various resources for parents. According to Facebook, this portal is aimed at assisting conversations between parents and their children about staying safe online. The Facebook Parents Portal is live and can be accessed at www.facebook.com/safety/parents.

Psychologists recommend two key items for parents when it comes to using technology:

1. Have lots of conversations with kids about what they're doing online and how to be safe. If this is a normal part of daily discussion, and something difficult comes up, your child will be more willing to share or ask for help.
2. Have guidelines in place as a family. These can address screen time, online content, and rules about sharing access to all social media accounts.

Mental Health Walk-In Clinic

The **Let's Talk Clinic** is a very brief (3 session maximum) counselling service available to youth residing in York Region between the ages of 16-26 year old who want to talk about challenges they are currently experiencing.

Every Monday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., with the last session starting at 4:45 p.m.

Location: The Youth Hub, 10415 Yonge Street., Richmond Hill, ON L4C 0Z3

Upcoming Events

A presentation for all parents “Course Selection - Questions and Answers”

Monday, January 20, 6:30 p.m. - Cafeteria

Equal consideration University Application deadline (OUAC) – January, 15th, 2020

Equal consideration College Application deadline (OCAS) – February 1st, 2020

- ***Book an appointment with a Guidance Counsellor if you require assistance with your application.***

The **Specialist High Skills Major Program** has seen continued growth in grade 11 students applying to the Program in the Health & Wellness, Business and Arts & Culture. These Program allows students to further focus their learning in areas of interest to them. We anticipate having another year full of exciting learning opportunities and experiences across all of our SHSM Sectors.

A list of upcoming SHSM events that are taking place at our school are as follows:

Counterfeit Detection (Business SHSM):

- SHSM Certification: Thursday, December 19, 2019
- To fight counterfeiting, the Bank offers free training materials to help the public, businesses, and police agencies use the security features in genuine bank notes.

We are still recruiting student volunteers who may interested assisting the SHSM Program with the management, promotion and communication elements of the program, as part of the SHSM Student Council. Many other events will be forth coming in the weeks ahead. Please stay tuned!

Lana Fisher

Head of Guidance and Career Education

Alexander Mackenzie H.S.

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Upcoming EQAO Math Assessments

In January 2020, Grade 9 students across Ontario will write the provincial Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics. This assessment is conducted by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), an independent agency of the Government of Ontario. It will be administered to all students enrolled in a Grade 9 Applied or Academic Mathematics course in Semester One, and the results of this assessment will comprise 5% of each student's final mark in their Math course.

At Alexander Mackenzie High School, this assessment will be written by students on Wednesday, January 15 and Thursday, January 16, 2020. The assessment will consist of two test booklets, and students will be given 60 minutes to complete each booklet over the course of two days, during regularly scheduled Math periods.

In September 2020, EQAO will send our school a report on your child's achievement on the assessment, and we will send it home at that time.

For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of its assessments, you are encouraged to visit www.eqao.com.

From The Literacy Desk

This year's Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is being written on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. The test is written by all eligible students in Grade 10, who started high school in September of 2018. Successful completion of the OSSLT is a requirement all students must meet in order to graduate.

Our school is preparing students for this important assessment in a variety of ways. Stay tuned for updates as preparation opportunities become available to support test-writers, as the test date approaches.

You are always welcome to email our Literacy Resource Teacher at susan.romeo@yrdsb.ca. Please also follow us on Instagram @AMHSLiteracy.

School Council News

Minutes

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

Parking and Ticketing

Ticketing at AMHS began on Tuesday, September 3rd. All students and visitors are 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 begin their visit there.

Parking is on a first-come, first-served basis, and availability cannot be guaranteed.

Dropping-Off and Picking-Up Students

If you are in the habit of dropping-off or picking-up your child at school, you have probably noticed the high volume of traffic that builds up in the parking lot / driveway loop at the front of the school, facing Major Mackenzie Drive.

In an effort to alleviate the traffic congestion and keep traffic flowing smoothly, we ask that drivers **only turn right** when exiting from the school driveway onto Major Mackenzie Drive, both in the mornings and the afternoons. Thank you.

School Notifications



School Cash Online

Since September 2015, our school has been accepting online payments through School Cash Online. Payments for school-related expenses such as the Student Activity Fee, field trips, fundraisers, sports teams, yearbook, Graduation, Prom, etc. can be made online with a credit or debit card. Please use the following link to register for this convenient payment method: <https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>

More Events and Information

School Contact/Website Information

Superintendent- Michael Cohen

Trustee-Corrie McBain

Phone: (905) 884-4477
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(416) 219-7426
corrie.mcbain@yrdsb.ca

Alexander Mackenzie High School

Principal – Otilia Olteanu
Vice-Principal – Yula Nouragas (A-L)
Vice-Principal – George Ellinas (M-Z)
Telephone: 905–884–0554
Fax: 905–884-4694

Special Education

Twitter: [@AlexMackSpecEd](https://twitter.com/AlexMackSpecEd)

Arts Mackenzie

<http://bit.ly/ARTSMackenzie>

Arts & Culture:

Instagram: [#amhsartscouncil](https://www.instagram.com/amhsartscouncil)

Visual Arts Department

Twitter: [@amhsvisa](https://twitter.com/amhsvisa)
Instagram: [#amhs.studio](https://www.instagram.com/amhs.studio)

Music Department

www.amhsmusic.ca

MAC Health, Physical Education & Athletics

For information about our programs, please follow us:

Twitter: [@Mustangsmove](https://twitter.com/Mustangsmove)
Instagram: [macpheathletics](https://www.instagram.com/macpheathletics)

Moderns Department

French resources for parents and students
Twitter: [@AlexModerns](https://twitter.com/AlexModerns)

Alexander Mackenzie H.S. On Twitter

Follow us on twitter [@AlexMackHS](https://twitter.com/AlexMackHS)

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