



February 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

Upcoming Events

Monday, February 17, 2020	Family Day Holiday – No School
Monday, February 24, 2020	Black History Month - Celebration Assemblies
Monday, February 24, 2020	Course Selections Due (2020-2021)
Tuesday, February 25, 2020	Waterloo Math Contests (see item below)
Thursday, March 12, 2020	Interim Report Card Distribution
Monday, March 16 – Friday March 20, 2020	March Break
Thursday, April 2, 2020	Parent Teacher Interview Evening

Changes to AMHS School Day For September 2020

Alexander Mackenzie High School enrolment has been steadily growing since 2016 and is projected to continue to grow. Beginning in September 2020, adjustments to the school timetable will need to be made to accommodate increasing student enrolment.

Currently, Alexander Mackenzie High School operates with four (4) periods of instruction and a common lunch. Beginning September 2020, the bell times for Alexander Mackenzie High School will need to be adjusted to support five (5) periods of instruction, along with multiple lunch breaks. This modification will increase the capability of the school to accommodate more students.

School Day as of September 2020		
Homeroom	8:30 AM	8:35 AM
Period 1	8:35 AM	9:50 AM
Period 2	9:55 AM	11:10 AM
Period 3	11:15 AM	12:30 PM
Period 4	12:35 PM	1:50 PM
Period 5	1:55 PM	3:10 PM

The new bell times will shift the morning bell time to 10 minutes earlier, and the afternoon bell time to 15 minutes later. This model of the instructional day is common across York Region District School Board secondary schools. The chart above outlines the new start and end times of periods, which will go into effect beginning in September 2020.

Special Education

IPRCs and Special Education Placements:

1) Our 2020 IPRC process is underway. Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) are communicating with parents / guardians regarding September 2020 Special Education Placements. Please feel free to communicate with your child's SERT and discuss any concerns or questions.

2) Please ensure you sign the IPRC paperwork that will be sent home with your child in the coming weeks, and return it to your child's SERT as soon as possible.

Please email sarit.abramovich@yrdsb.ca if you have any questions.

Guidance Services

This week, our students began the process of selecting their courses for the next academic year through a program called myBlueprint.

As a reminder, **course selection submission occurs from February 12- February 24**. Once your child has submitted their courses electronically, they are still required to do a printout of their submission, obtain your signature, and hand in their form to their homeroom teacher. **Course selection closes on Monday, February 24**. Our updated course catalog (with all courses we're offering for next year) is available at this website: <https://app.myblueprint.ca/public/courses/yrdsb/mackenzie1>

As we point students in the direction of their future, we also need them to focus on the present. Taking time to slow down and not stress about what the future holds is essential for well-being. During the two weeks of course selection, we particularly like to connect with students for individual appointments to help them evaluate their priorities and set future academic/post-secondary goals. During these individual appointments we, as guidance counsellors, ask students to reflect on the following questions: **"What do you like?"** (passion), **"What do you think the world needs?"** (challenges), and **"What are you good at?"** (strength). We urge students to try new courses in order to gain new experiences and new skills. Teaching through experiences is where we see growth for young people. Thus, we encourage students to try a dual credit courses, and/or cooperative education course and to join one our four Specialist High Skills Majors (Business, Health and Wellness, Arts and Culture, Transportation) available at AMHS.

For more information on SHSM, please visit our board's website
<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Coop/Pages/SHSM-General-Information.aspx>

Do not hesitate to connect with us directly if you have any questions or require some information in regards to course selection and post-secondary planning.

Important upcoming date:

Course Selection Submission – February 12-24

Lana Fisher, Head of Guidance and Career Education
Alexander Mackenzie H.S.

Lana.fisher@yrdsb.ca Tel: 905 884 0554 Ext. 422

Upcoming - Waterloo Math Contests

The Waterloo Mathematics Contests (Pascal - Grade 9, Cayley - Grade 10 and Fermat - Grade 11) will take place on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 in AMHS Cafeteria from 8:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

From The Literacy Desk

Parents and guardians are asked to continue reviewing with their child the OSSLT Student Workbook. It includes useful tips and practice exercises.

This year's OSSLT for all eligible writers is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Students and families can continue using our OSSLT site: rebrand.ly/OSSLT. It includes online practice tests and videos to help your child prepare for the test.

You can email any questions you may have to our Literacy Resource Teacher: susan.romeo@yrdsb.ca. Please also follow us on Instagram @AMHSliteracy.

School Council News

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 21, 2020 in Room 122
Guidance Parent Series Presentation from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
School Council Meeting (to follow) from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

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
Phone: (905) 884-4477
cec.central@yrdsb.ca

Trustee-Corrie McBain
(416) 219-7426
corrie.mcbain@yrdsb.ca

Alexander Mackenzie High School

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

Special Education

Twitter: [@AlexMackSpecEd](#)

Arts Mackenzie

<http://bit.ly/ARTSMackenzie>

Arts & Culture:

Instagram: [#amhsartscouncil](#)

Visual Arts Department

Twitter: [@amhsvisa](#)

Instagram: [#amhs.studio](#)

Music Department

www.amhsmusic.ca

MAC Health, Physical Education & Athletics

For information about our programs, please follow us:

Twitter: [@Mustangsmove](#)

Instagram: [macpheathletics](#)

Moderns Department

French resources for parents and students

Twitter: [@AlexModerns](#)

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.