



February 7, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

Upcoming Events

Monday, February 10, 2020	Semester One Report Card Distribution
Mon., February 10 – Wed., February 12, 2020	Course Selection Workshops for Students AMHS Library
Wednesday, February 12, 2020	Photo Day (for Semester 2)
Wednesday, February 12, 2020	IB and Arts Program Welcome Evening (for Grade 8 Students, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.)
Monday, February 17, 2020	Family Day Holiday – No School
Friday, February 21, 2020	Black History Month - Celebration Assemblies

Message from Our New Principal

My name is Krista Pummell and I am proud to introduce myself as the newly appointed Principal of Alexander Mackenzie High School. I feel honoured to be coming into a school community that has a rich history of academic achievement, arts appreciation, student enrichment, parent involvement and tradition.

Even though I have only been at the school for a short period of time, I can already tell that this school is a unique and special place, and I am excited to be a part of this community. As your Principal, it is important to me that everyone feel connected, welcomed, and know that their voice is heard and valued. Please feel free to contact me to discuss any concerns you may have. I look forward to working with you to support your child's achievement.

Semester One Report Cards

Semester One Report Cards will be distributed in homeroom classes (Period 1) on Monday, February 10, 2020. Please remind your child to share their report card with you on that day.

Please be aware that as a result of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation work-to-rule strike sanction, secondary teachers are inputting student report card marks electronically, but are not writing comments. As such, this Semester One Final Report Card will continue to be provided for secondary students with marks, but no comments. Grade 12 students' marks will be submitted to the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) and to the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) on time so that students' post-secondary applications will not be affected.

While only marks are available on Semester One Final Report Cards, teachers' assessment and evaluation of student work has continued to occur. Teachers will continue to communicate with students regarding feedback on their work. If you have any questions regarding your child's marks or learning progress, please contact the appropriate teacher.

Photo Day – Semester 2

Our Semester 2 Photo Day will be held this Wednesday, February 12, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Students who need their photo taken should listen for the announcements that day to know when to attend. The location will be on the stage, in the Cafeteria.

Welcome to New AMHS Staff!

As we welcome our students back for Semester Two, we also welcome the new staff members that have joined us, in various departments. We extend a warm welcome to the following teachers:

- Joseph Caporicci - Math
- Sophie Dedman – History, Special Education
- Jennifer Mansker - Science
- Nadine Nicolaou – Math
- Silvana Peredo - English
- Zemfira Sadikhov – English
- Sadie Vanier - French
- Yu Yee Wong – Music, Careers

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 below 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

We've had a great start to Semester Two here at Alexander Mackenzie HS. This week was a busy time in Guidance. Some of our students engaged in the process of requesting timetable changes for varied reasons. As always, we ask for your patience with our process as we ensure that we provide equitable and timely service for all of our students.

Our students will begin their course selection for next year on Monday. This year once again we will be using our course selection tool, called myBlueprint. All students will be called down to the library over the next two weeks for the working sessions. We welcome conversations about pathways with your child at any time, but we particularly encourage these conversations during the course selection time. Please ask your child to review the course selection calendar available on the Guidance website.

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>

Guidance is available to answer questions and help in this process with appointments starting next week. As a reminder, **course selection opens on-line on Wednesday, February 12** for students to begin submitting their courses. Once your child has submitted his/her 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.**

Important dates:

Course Selection Submission – February 12-24

The Equal Consideration Deadline for applying to Ontario Universities was Wednesday, January 17.

The College application deadline for equal consideration was on February 1st.

Students can still apply but their application may not receive first consideration amongst applicants.

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

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

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.

Lesson 6 will take place on Monday, February 10 during all Grade 10 Period 2 classes. Please remind your child to arrive to class prepared.

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](https://twitter.com/AlexMackSpecEd)

Arts Mackenzie

<http://bit.ly/ARTSMackenzie>

Arts & Culture:

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

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