



January 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

Upcoming Events

Thurs., January 23 – Wed., January 29, 2020	Examination Week (*Students must attend all exams, as scheduled)
Thurs., January 23 – Tues., January 28, 2020	Arts Program Auditions
Thursday, January 30, 2020	Exam Review Day *Modified schedule: 8:40 – 11:20 a.m.
Friday, January 31, 2020	P.A. Day
Monday, February 3, 2020	First Day of Semester Two
Monday, February 10, 2020	Semester One Report Card Distribution

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.

Principal's Message to Our AMHS Community

As the semester comes to a close, changes are occurring at AMHS. I will be moving into a new position of Principal of Education and Community Services at the end of January, and a new Principal will be coming to AMHS starting Jan. 31, 2020. I am very sad to say good-bye to the many people I have had the privilege of meeting and working with over the past eight years.

There is no doubt that AMHS is a vibrant place, full of opportunity. We are fortunate to have committed students, caring and involved parents, dedicated teaching and support staff and an excellent caretaking

team. I feel very fortunate to have been part of the Alexander Mackenzie H.S. community and I will always cherish the time spent at this school.

It is my pleasure to introduce Krista Pummell, currently Vice Principal at Bill Hogarth S.S., who has been promoted to Principal of Alexander Mackenzie High School, effective January 31, 2020. Her wealth of knowledge and depth of experience will be invaluable as the school enrollment continues to grow. Please join me in extending a warm AMHS welcome.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to work with you and your children. I am especially proud of our students and will always treasure the many fond memories of the students, parents, family members, and staff! I wish everyone all the best in the years ahead.

Otilia Olteanu
Principal

Special Education

Refer to the schedule for Exam Week, below. Note that students with IEPs who require exam accommodations must speak to their classroom teachers and their SERTs in order to facilitate smooth access to applicable assessment accommodations during Exam Week.

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.

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

Students can now be working on their course selections for next year. 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>

We encourage all parents to review courses and our offerings; this can be a great point of conversation with your child. Parents, you can access our presentation beginning on the evening of January 20 by visiting <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>. In addition, please encourage your child to connect with us during the Exam Week for deeper exploration of all post-secondary pathways. Students will be able to begin locking their courses on February 12 and all course selections must be completed by Friday, February 24, 2020.

If your child is looking for summer employment, the York Region Police hires secondary school students every summer. For an application and more information about the YOUTH IN POLICING INITIATIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, please email: csv@yrp.ca or contact Program Supervisor, York Regional Police at 1866-876-5423, Ext. 2880. Your child can also apply for a summer program with an Ontario government starting today. There are over eighty types available in a number of different work environments including: museums, offices and provincial parks. Visit Ontario.ca/careers and search by the "Student" Career level to see all job postings available.

Important dates:

The Equal Consideration Deadline for applying to Ontario Universities was Wednesday, January 15.

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

The College application deadline for equal consideration is February 1st. Please see this link for more information. <https://www.ontariocolleges.ca/en/apply/important-dates>

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

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

All eligible students will write the OSSLT on its scheduled date of Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Practice at school and at home will support your child's success. Our school site includes videos and practice online materials that students can complete to test their skills.

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 – 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](#)

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.