



January 31, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

Upcoming Events

Monday, February 3, 2020	First Day of Semester Two
Wednesday, February 5, 2020	American Math Contests (8:40 -10:40 a.m.)
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	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

Message from Our Trustee

As we enter another month of winter, this is a good time to be thinking about our health, well-being and the importance of self-care. We know that, like all of us, our students can focus better when they feel better. Our schools play an important role in health and mental health promotion and education, and fostering well-being and mental health is one of our [priorities as a school board](#).

There is a lot of work taking place in our schools and board to create [healthy schools](#) and promote [mental health](#) and well-being, including:

- Providing training and resources for educators on strategies to support mentally healthy classrooms for all students, including holding a mental health conference.
- Hiring identity specific mental health workers and developing partnerships with [community partners](#) to serve the diverse needs of our students.
- Developing a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions.
- Educating students about the risks of [substance use and misuse](#), including [vaping](#) and [cannabis](#).
- Providing strategies and supports for students in [preparing for exams](#) and [managing stress](#).

This commitment is also reflected in Board policy like the [Healthy Schools and Workplaces](#) policy and procedures. Setting policy, which governs the operation of the Board, is one of the [roles of trustees](#), and we greatly value the input provided by students, staff members, family and community members. I encourage you to look at the [policies under review](#) and share your feedback.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2020. At the Board meeting in December, trustees unanimously approved the addition of [new permanent Indigenous Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee positions](#). We are committed to Indigenous Education in our Board and it is important that these voices are represented at the table. We hope to fill the positions as soon as possible and will share more information as it becomes available.

A [message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees](#) is also available on the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

Corrie McBain
Trustee, Richmond Hill, Wards 1, 2 and 4

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

After a semester of hard work, our students are ready to reflect on what they have learned this semester, where their strengths lie, and where they can improve for the future.

Students should 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>

Students will be able to begin locking their courses on February 12th and all course selections must be completed by Friday, February 24, 2020. I encourage all parents to review courses and our offerings; this can be a great point of conversation with your child. Parents, you can access all our in-class presentations including the parent presentation, delivered on Monday January 20 by clicking the following link:

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

At this time, Guidance is kindly asking all parents to take our evaluation survey and to let us know what information/events we can host in order to support your learning in regards to your student's education. Please fill out the following survey: <http://bit.ly/AMHScourses>.

If your child requires a timetable change for Semester 2 and has not had the opportunity to connect with Guidance prior to or during exams, ask them to come to Guidance by Monday, February 3 to obtain a grade-specific form. Please note that we cannot make any timetable changes without parental input; as such, your signature is required on the change form.

At this time, many of our courses are completely full, and therefore a timetable change may not be possible. Guidance will process only timetable changes that require a prerequisite for graduation, a missing prerequisite for a course where a student has been unsuccessful in Semester 1, compulsory courses, or to fill a "study period" / "spare" in the timetable.

Monday February 3 - morning	Gr. 12 students only	- Need a new post-secondary prerequisite or failed a course
Monday February 3 – afternoon	Gr. 9 students only	- Missing a course (have a spare) - Failed a compulsory course
Tuesday February 4 – all day	Gr. 11 students only	- Missing a course (have a spare) - Failed a compulsory course
Wednesday February 5 – all day	Gr. 10 students only	- Missing a course (have a spare) - Failed a compulsory course

Important dates:

Course Selection Submission – February 12-24

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

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

Upcoming Math Contests

The American Mathematics Contests (AMC-10B and AMC12-B) for Grade 9 to Grade 12 will take place on Wednesday February 5, 2020 in the AMHS Cafeteria, from 8:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

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](#)
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.