



AMHS Bulletin



September 10, 2021

Dear AMHS Families,

We hope your children had a successful start to the new school year this past week!

This is the Bulletin for the upcoming week. The weekly Bulletin is full of useful information, reminders and upcoming events.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 16	Significant Faith Day - Yom Kippur
Friday, September 17	Safe and Caring Schools Presentations (for all students, in AM Block classes)
Monday, September 20	School Council Meeting (Virtual)
Week of September 13 - 17	"Day 1 / Week 1" Schedule
Week of September 20 - 24	"Day 2 / Week 2" Schedule
Week of September 27 - October 1	"Day 1 / Week 1" Schedule

School Schedule and Format – Semester 1

Day 1 (Week 1)	
Period	Times
Homeroom	8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.
Morning Class Day 1, Period 1 (150 min block)	8:35 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
Lunch	11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Afternoon Class Day 1, Period 2 (150 min block)	12:05 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Day 2 (Week 2)	
Period	Times
Homeroom	8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.
Morning Class Day 2, Period 1 (150 min block)	8:35 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.
Lunch	11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Afternoon Class Day 2, Period 2 (150 min block)	12:05 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.

As a result of the modified learning model which has been developed for this year, our school day schedule has been revised. In adherence with safety measures put into place to reduce the spread of Covid-19, further considerations will guide our school protocols. Please note:

- The school day will begin at 8:30 a.m., and students will not have access to their classrooms until 8:15 a.m.
- Covid-19 self-screening will take place upon entry to the school, each day. Masks/face coverings must be worn upon entry, and throughout the school day, in all parts of the school building.
- The school day will end at 2:35 p.m., and students are expected to vacate the school building immediately after dismissal.
- Students will have two 150 minute classes per school day (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) for one week ("Day 1" classes), and two other classes per school day for the following week ("Week 2" classes). The "Day1 / Day 2" rotation will continue throughout the semester, in alternating weeks.
- Students will have a 50 minute lunch every day, for the entire school year. Students must bring their own litter-less lunch to school with them each day, as the Cafeteria will not be providing any food services. (Food services at Mackenzie Health will also not be available, as entry to the hospital has been restricted to essential visitors only).
- Each student will have access to an assigned locker in the school this year.

We will continue to share updates about school re-entry to AMHS families as they become available.

Daily Covid-19 Screening

We are very excited to welcome back students in our school buildings, and we appreciate the efforts everyone in our communities have made to support a safe return for all. Below are some reminders and new information that we have recently received from the provincial government and York Region Public Health.

A new [screening tool](#) for the 2021-2022 school year has been provided by York Region Public Health (please click on Check for Symptoms Daily). This screening tool replaces previous versions and all students and staff must complete the screening prior to attending any YRDSB school or facility.

Secondary students will have to provide confirmation of a successful screening as follows:

1. After completing the screening tool, secondary students (or parents/guardians of students who may not be able to complete the form independently) must complete the [Secondary School Confirmation Form](#). Upon completion of the form confirming successful screening, students will receive an email. For students who may not be able to complete the self-assessment process independently, parents/guardians are asked to complete it.
2. After receiving this email, students can then attend their school and will have to show the email response in one of the following ways to school staff:
 - Show email on phone (showing the email or a photo of the email, for that current day)
 - Hard copy printout of the email
 - If neither option is available, students can provide verbal response confirming completion.

All staff and students are also required to wear a face covering upon entry to the school, and throughout the school day, in all parts of the school building.

Guidance Services

Course Change Requests

Guidance has worked diligently to ensure that your child's timetable is complete, fulfills their course selection requests as closely as possible, and meets their grade-appropriate pathways requirements. The deadline for submission of a request to **make changes to a course / timetable that were deemed necessary** (i.e. by an incomplete timetable, a compulsory course missing, a summer school credit earned, or a failed pre-requisite course) was today, Friday, September 10, by 4:00 p.m. Submissions were received digitally through a Google Form, and Guidance Counsellors are working to process these requests. There is no guarantee that all requests can be fulfilled due to class capacity constraints, or due to availability/course placement on a student's timetable, but we will do our best to accommodate students' needs.

Please note that students will not have access to the Guidance Office, unless they have an appointment arranged with a Counsellor in advance. Some appointments may be taking place by phone or through a virtual meet.

Your patience at this time is greatly appreciated. We welcome all of you back, and wish you much success in the semester ahead.

Visitors to AMHS

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, visitor(s) are not permitted into the school without a pre-arranged appointment. Please contact the school by telephone or email, and we will be happy to assist you.

Prior to entering the school, review/complete the [self-assessment](#) as per the posted self-screening posters at all entry points. Come directly to the Main Office to complete the visitor sign-in process with the Main Office staff member, which will include responding to the question "Have you completed the self-screening assessment?", and sign out when leaving.

Any visitor(s) experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must remain home. All visitors must sanitize their hands, wear a face covering at all times, and maintain a two-metre physical distance as they enter, move through and exit the building.

Health Care Forms

Fillable Health Care forms are now available for families who have children with asthma, seizure disorders, anaphylaxis, diabetes, and/or other prevalent medical conditions. This also applies to children who require the administration of medication at school. These forms can be accessed through the links below, and/or a paper copy can also be requested by contacting the school.

[Health Care Plan](#)
[Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan](#)
[Asthma Health Care Plan](#)
[Diabetes Health Care Plan](#)
[Epilepsy Plan](#)
[Self-Administration Of Medication](#)
[Staff Administration Of Medication](#)

Once you've completed the appropriate Health Care Plan, please return it WITH the appropriate medication to the Main Office with your child. The form and medication can be placed in a sealable bag, with the child's name marked on the bag and left at the office. There will be a 'drop box' to receive Health Care Plans.

Families can also return the form using a secure file transfer system as sensitive, private data needs to be protected. Please contact the Main Office for further information and clarification.

Student Attendance

General inquiries and student attendance information can be sent directly to the AMHS attendance email address at alexandermackenziehs.attendance@yrdsb.ca. You may also call the school Main Office directly at 905-884-0554.

Parking and Ticketing

Students and visitors will be 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 report to the Main Office.) **Parking is on a first-come, first-served basis; availability cannot be guaranteed.**

Driving to School - Pick Up and Drop Off Information

For parents whose children are attending school in the "face to face" learning model, we ask for your help with drop off and pick up procedures that will keep traffic flowing smoothly, and all our children safe. Please ensure that you follow these procedures for dropping off and picking up in the loop at the front of the school (on the South side of Major Mackenzie Drive):

- Upon entry to the driveway (at both pick up and drop off), please drive up the driveway, and pull over into the first available spot along the curb, to allow your child to disembark/get back into your vehicle safely.
- Please DO NOT obstruct any of the yellow school buses or taxis that support transportation for our students.
- Please ensure that you DO NOT stop the traffic flow in the driveway route and that you DO NOT pick up your child in the middle of the driveway. Stopped vehicles must move over to the side. The middle of the driveway is for moving traffic only. Please respect the traffic flow and do not stop your vehicle in the middle of the driveway.
- At the end of the day particularly, there is a tendency to experience high traffic congestion in the driveway loop. To alleviate this, we ask that upon exiting the driveway, at the stop sign at Major Mackenzie Drive, you ONLY make a RIGHT-HAND TURN.

We thank you for working with us in partnership to ensure the safety of all our students.

School Council News

At Alexander Mackenzie High School, the School Council promotes good communication between parents/guardians and the school's administration, teaching staff and support staff. The meetings provide an opportunity for parents/guardians to contribute their ideas and concerns regarding a variety of issues. It is also a place to receive information on happenings at the school. Information from the School Board and Ministry of Education are also presented here. Parents/guardians are often asked for their input into issues regarding student learning. Our meetings are open to all parents/guardians and are a useful forum for information sharing.

This year's first School Council Meeting will take place on September 20, 2021, in a virtual format.

MINUTES

School Council minutes can be accessed through the school website by clicking the attached link:

[School Council Minutes](#)

YRDSB Continuing Education - Night School Courses

Continuing Education Services is pleased to offer credit programs outside of the school day to support our secondary school students. Prior to approving Continuing Education Night School courses, schools must attempt to accommodate course requests in the day school timetable.

Night School

A remote learning model will replace in-person Night School this fall as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Classes will occur online using a synchronous model.
- Classes will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30p.m. to 9:45p.m.
- October 5, 2021 to February 3, 2022
- Contact continuing.education@yrdsb.ca for more information

Online Learning Night School (formerly eLearning)

Our Night School Online Learning courses are initially offered to adult learners. Once program offerings are determined, space may be available to current YRDSB secondary school students.

- These courses are specifically designed to be delivered in a fully online format. Classes will be delivered online using an asynchronous model. Weekly synchronous opportunities with teachers are available.
- September 21, 2021 to January 17, 2022
- Contact online.learning@yrdsb.ca for more information

MyPathwayPlanner

YRDSB Students will register for both programs using MyPathwayPlanner.

- Approved student course requests in MyPathwayPlanner will be exported weekly on Friday afternoons.
- Guidance Counsellors are asked to review student requests in MyPathwayPlanner on a weekly basis until program registration closes.

Fees & Fee Exemption for International Visa Students

The cost for International fee-paying students is still to be determined. International students may be eligible to be exempt from fees to attend Night School and/or Online Learning. Please refer to the [Fee Exemption Form](#) for more information.

Resources for Families

Special Education Department

Welcome back, from your AMHS Special Education Department. Our Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs for short) are very much looking forward to connecting with all our students, in both in-person and virtual learning

students, and their families. Our three community classes have already begun, and by the end of next week, our SERTs will be in touch with students and families to get this year started in a great way.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to John Shep, Head of Special Education (john.shep@yrdsb.ca).

ELL Department

Additionally, if your English Language Learner is finding homework challenging, extra help is available every Thursday in Room 158 from 2:35pm to 3:35pm. We are also looking for student volunteers who speak another language to help. Please see Mrs. Mansker in room 156s if you are interested in helping our newest Mustangs!

School Contact / Website Information

Superintendent – Lois Agard

Phone: (905) 884-4477

cec.central@yrdsb.ca

Trustee/Board Chair

[Simon Cui](#)

Alexander Mackenzie High School

Principal – Krista Pummell

Vice-Principal – Erika Pridie (A-L)

Vice-Principal – Yula Nouragas (M-Z)

Telephone: 905-884-0554

Fax: 905-884-4694

Arts Mackenzie

<http://bit.ly/ARTSMackenzie>

Music Department

www.amhsmusic.ca

MAC Health, Physical Education & Athletics

For information about our programs, please follow us:

Twitter: [@Mustangsmove](#)

Instagram: [macpheathletics](#)

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.