



AMHS Bulletin



September 24, 2021

Dear AMHS Families,

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

Upcoming Events

Monday, September 27	School Council Meeting (Virtual)
Thursday, September 30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day
Monday, October 11	Thanksgiving Holiday
Week of September 27 - October 1	"Day 1 / Week 1" Schedule
Week of October 4 - 8	"Day 2 / Week 2" Schedule
Week of October 12 - 15	"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.

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 for the duration of the school day, in all parts of the school building.**
- Students are expected to vacate the school building immediately after dismissal at 2:35 p.m..
- Students are advised to complete their online screening at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>, each morning PRIOR to arriving at school, and be prepared to show entry-point staff their verification email.
- **Students who are experiencing symptoms of illness must remain at home**, and follow Public Health guidelines to ensure a safe return to school.

Student Handbook - School Policies and Procedures

As the new school year begins, we want students and their families to be aware of school procedures, Covid-related guidelines, and important policies, expectations, and codes of behaviour. With your child(ren), please read through the [AMHS Student Handbook](#), which outlines all such information. Once you and your child(ren) have read through the Handbook, please be sure to complete and submit the Google Form, linked here <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/>, to be accessed through each student's YRDSB Google account. It is **important that these forms are completed in a timely manner - one for each child in your family, by September 30**. For paper copies of the forms, please contact the AMHS Main Office. Thank you for supporting this essential process.

Daily Covid-19 Screening

We are very excited to welcome back students in our school buildings, and we appreciate the efforts that all members of our school 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 <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> or [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. Students experiencing symptoms of illness should remain at home.

Guidance Services

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please encourage your child to visit and join our Guidance Google Classrooms:

For Students in Grades 9 to 11:

Grade 9-11 Guidance Classroom (2021-2022)

Password: 6ymj3es

For Students in Grade 12 graduating in June of 2022:

Graduating Class of 2022

Password: mqjj3pp

For all students in Grades 9 to 12:

AMHS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Password: orggenu

and

AMHS Peer Tutoring Program

Password: odyb3b7

Thank you.

The Guidance Department

IB Updates

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please encourage your child to visit and join our IB Google Classrooms:

For IB Students in Grades 9 to 10:

Grade 9 and 10 IB Class 2021-2022

Password: hngt4hs

For IB students in Grade 11:
Grade 11 IB Class 2021-2022
Password: fu4feng

For IB students in Grade 12:
Grade 12 IB Class 2021-2022
Password: 5zwjdfg

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Orange Shirt Day

September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a federal statutory holiday which gives the public a chance to recognize and commemorate the intergenerational harm that residential schools have caused to Indigenous families and communities, and to honour those who have been affected by this injustice.

Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. Orange Shirt Day originates from the story of Phyllis Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation. In 1973, on her first day at St. Joseph's Residential School in Williams Lake, BC, Phyllis's shiny new orange shirt was stripped from her, never to be seen again. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind.

On September 30th, AMHS will honour and commemorate survivors, their families, and communities by taking a moment of silence to reflect on the injustices caused by Residential Schools. Staff will be integrating lessons of Truth and Reconciliation to ensure that the history and legacy of Residential Schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process. We also encourage students to wear an Orange Shirt on the day to commemorate Phyllis Webstad, the victims and lives lost at Residential Schools.

Indigenous Languages and International Languages: Secondary Credit Programs

We welcome everyone to the 2021-2022 Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) program year and thank you for your continued support and patience.

Due to the continuance of the pandemic, ILIL classes for Grade 9 to 12 students will take place online, not in the school buildings. Please note that the program delivery model may change from online to face-to-face during the school year depending on circumstances. Teachers will teach live language lessons in real time using Google Classroom to provide both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities during the regularly scheduled language classes. All program updates will be made on our Board ILIL program homepage.

YRDSB Students can register please complete the online [Registration Form](#). Once submitted, a confirmation form will be emailed to the student. The student must then share the form with their Guidance Counsellor and have them email it to ILIL@yrdsb.ca, in lieu of signatures as the office is closed.

Best regards,
The Indigenous Languages and International Languages Team
Phone Number: (905) 884-2046 ext. 242, Email: ILIL@yrdsb.ca

Visitors to AMHS

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, **visitor(s) are not permitted into the school** without a pre-arranged appointment. Parents/guardians must 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.

YRDSB Mental Health Newsletter for Families

YRDSB's Mental Health Newsletter for families for the month of September is [linked here](#). It outlines how the YRDSB is centering on Mental Health, emotional connections, and Well-being through the ABCs of Mental Health Framework & Lesson Series.

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.

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 the school building, facing Major Mackenzie Drive):

- Upon entry to the driveway (at both pick up and drop off times), 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.
- 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 or drop off your child in the middle of the driveway. Stopped vehicles must remain over to the side, until ready to depart again.
- **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 school day particularly, there is a tendency to experience high traffic congestion in the driveway loop. To alleviate this, we ask that during your exit from the driveway - at the stop sign at Major Mackenzie Drive - you ONLY make a RIGHT-HAND TURN. This will encourage continual flow of exiting traffic, to minimize backlogs and help families depart expediently.

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

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.**

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 Monday, September 27, 2021, in a virtual format. Below is the invitation information.

Topic: AMHS September School Council Meeting

Time: Sep 27, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://yrdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/92613657566?pwd=ZEZiY1dFdm9YMW1naEtzV1FPeGhHZz09>

Meeting ID: 926 1365 7566

Passcode: 584239

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 SERTs are very much looking forward to connecting with our in-person and virtual students and 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 out 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

If your English Language Learner is finding homework challenging, extra help is available every Thursday in Room 158 from 2:35 p.m. to 3:35 p.m. We are also looking for student volunteers who speak a language other than English 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.