



# AMHS Bulletin



September 3, 2021

Dear AMHS Families,

Welcome back! This is the first Bulletin of the new school year for 2021-2022. The weekly Bulletin is full of useful information, reminders and upcoming events.

## Upcoming Events

Monday, September 6	Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday, Sept. 7 and Wednesday, Sept. 8	Board Holidays (No School)
Thursday, September 9	Grade 9 Day (*Grade 9s only attend)
Friday, September 10	First Day of School for All Grades (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12)
Monday, September 20	School Council Meeting (Virtual)
Week of September 9 - 10	"Day 2 / Week 2" Schedule
Week of September 13 - 17	"Day 1/ Week 1" Schedule

## Update on School Schedule and Format – Semester 1

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

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## Student Timetables - Update

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This past week, it was brought to our attention that the timetables that were shared with students may have not included accurate information about courses and course placement. We apologize for any confusion this has caused for students and their families.

Please note that **accurate timetables and locker information will be shared with students in their Homeroom/Morning Block class** when they arrive for their respective first days:

- For Grade 9 students, it will be on Thursday, September 9
- For Grade 10, 11 and 12 students it will be on Friday, September 10.

We thank you for your patience.

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## Guidance Services

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### 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. Please note that **a request to make changes to a course / timetable will only be considered if the change is deemed necessary** (i.e. by an incomplete timetable, a compulsory course missing, a summer school credit earned, or a failed pre-requisite course).

Be aware that we may not be able to fulfill all course change requests, due to many courses being at capacity, or not fitting into a student's timetable. Also, no elective course changes will be made to Grade 9 and 10 timetables.

If your child would like to make a **Course Change Request**, they may do so using the form [linked here](#). They will have to access this form while logged into their YRDSB GAPPs account.

The form will:

- Open on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, at 8:30 a.m.
- Close on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, by 4:00 p.m.

Each submission will be received digitally and will then be processed by our Guidance Department. 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.

We will always do our best to accommodate students' needs. Your patience at this time is greatly appreciated.

We welcome all of you back, and wish you much success in the semester ahead.

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## Health Care Forms

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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.

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## Visitors to AMHS

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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-meter physical distance as they enter, move through and exit the building.**

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## Student Attendance

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General inquiries and student attendance information can be sent directly to the AMHS attendance email address at [alexandermackenziehs.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:alexandermackenziehs.attendance@yrdsb.ca). You may also call the school directly at 905-884-0554.

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## Parking and Ticketing

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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.**

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## Photo Day

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Photo Days (which in past years would be occurring in September) will not be occurring at this time. We will share updates as they become available.

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## School Council News

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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](#)

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## Message from our Trustee

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We have many reasons to feel optimistic as we begin the 2021-22 school year. Schools are reopening to in-person learning, vaccination rates continue to increase, and our students can start to resume some of their favorite school activities.

As we return to school, our [reopening plan](#) continues to prioritize the health and safety of students, families and staff members. We are working with public health to ensure we are taking all appropriate measures. For more information on the plan, including health and safety measures, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening](http://www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening). You can also find additional information from York Region Public Health at [www.york.ca/safeatschool](http://www.york.ca/safeatschool).

The pandemic and last year's school closures affected students and families in many different ways. This has been a challenging time. Our caring, skilled and dedicated staff members are prepared to prioritize the mental health and well-being of students as they transition back to school, as well as supporting their academic learning and growth. If you are worried about your child, please speak to your child's teacher or principal. You may also find some of the [learning and well-being resources](#) on our website helpful.

Whether your child will be attending school in person or online, we know how important it is that they feel safe, respected and valued. We want every student to feel supported, to take pride in their identities and to know that they matter. Any form of hate or discrimination in our schools is not acceptable. This school year, we will continue to implement the [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#) launched in March to address anti-Black racism in schools. We also remain committed as a school board to honoring the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#). As an education system, it is imperative that we create learning environments that enable all of our students to feel valued and to be successful.

As your school board trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the center of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#). We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

The relationship that we have with families is so important, and I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website. You are welcome to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

There are also many other ways you can stay connected with what's happening in the school board. Visit our [newsroom](#). Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow us on [Twitter @YRDSB](#) and on [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#). Watch the latest videos, including news, features and profiles about our schools, students and staff members on our [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#).

As we begin another school year, I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

Simon Cui  
Trustee – Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2 and 4

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## School Contact / Website Information

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**Superintendent** – Lois Agard  
Phone: (905) 884-4477  
[cec.central@yrdsb.ca](mailto: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](http://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.*