



# AMHS Bulletin



Alexander Mackenzie High School  
300 Major Mackenzie Drive West, Richmond Hill, ON, L4C3s3  
School Website: [www.alexandermackenzie.hs.yrdsb.ca](http://www.alexandermackenzie.hs.yrdsb.ca)  
School Email: [alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca)  
Telephone 905-884-0554  
Principal: Krista Luks  
Vice Principal: Themistocles Drekolias and Helen Ho

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## Important Upcoming Dates

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- Tuesday September 10 - Photo Day
- Thursday September 19 - Terry Fox Day
- Monday September 23 - School Council Meeting
- Tuesday September 24- Club/Council Fair
- Wednesday September 25 - Grade 9 Camp Day
- Friday September 27 - PA Day

### Cash Online Items

- Grade 9 Day
- School Activity Fee
- School Council Donation



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## NEW Cell Phone Policy

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### Student Expectations:

- Phone is set to silent and not visible during instructional time

### Classroom Teacher Expectations:

- All phones are set on silent and not visible
- If a student violates the policy:
  - Step one - conversation with student/warning
  - Step two - contact with family
  - Step three - if student continues to violate policy after step two, student is referred to the main office

### Administration Expectations:

- Phone is confiscated and stored in the vault for the remainder of the day
- Parent/guardian is contacted to pick up the cell phone
- Progressive discipline is applied for repeated violations

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## AMHS School Council

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The AMHS school council invites all parents/guardians to our first school council meeting of the year. The meeting will take place on Monday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. in our library. All are welcome to attend and learn more about our school community. If you are interested in submitting your name for nomination for the school council executive, please complete the following nomination form by Monday, September 23: [School Council Nomination Form](#)

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## School Events: Annual Clothing and Toy Drive/ Photo Day

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**ANNUAL NEW CLOTHING AND TOY DRIVE.**

School will be collecting new child clothes and toys to donate to our partners in education, the Chippewas of Georgina Island. We will be donating to their Child and Family Services: Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services.

**Deadline to donate: Sept 30**

**Where: Box located in rm 283. Box will be donated on Oct 1.**



**YOUR PHOTO DAY IS APPROACHING!**

Tuesday, September 10th

**Showcase Your Best Smile**

- Students will be photographed at school.
- You must be photographed to receive your student ID.
- Review your images and purchase online with ease!



**DON'T FORGET**  
To help make your photo day seamless, check out our photo day tips at [edgeimaging.ca/photo-day-tips](https://edgeimaging.ca/photo-day-tips)

**GET REMINDERS**  
Sign up for notifications at [edgeimaging.ca/photoday](https://edgeimaging.ca/photoday) to get real-time updates about your photo day and stay in the know with Edge.



edge imaging 1 (866) 707-3343 [edgeimaging.ca](https://edgeimaging.ca) [edgeimaging](#)

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## Trustee Message

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September 2024

Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. We are so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning students and families to a new school year.

### How Trustees Help

As school board trustees, we have a number of [roles and responsibilities](#), including setting policies and budget and advocating for quality public education. My responsibilities also include communicating with the public. I will continue to keep you informed throughout the school year through these regular newsletters. You can also reach out to me directly. Learn more about [how we can help](#) and [how you can reach me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

You can also stay up-to-date with school board news and events through school communications, social media (X [@YRDSB](#) and [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#)), our [newsroom](#) and Board podcast [TuneIn YRDSB](#).

# Our Priorities as a School Board

One of our responsibilities as a Board of Trustees is also setting the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the priorities that will guide our work as a school board for the next several years. We want to thank the many students, family and staff members and community partners who shared feedback in the spring that was used to inform the development of the plan. Some key themes emerged in the feedback that families will see reflected in the plan, including a clear focus on student achievement and well-being. We look forward to sharing more with you very soon.

## A New School Year

The start of a new school year is a time of transition - whether your child is starting elementary or secondary school for the first time, entering a new program, moving to a new school or beginning a new grade. The caring, dedicated and professional staff members who work in our system are here to help support your child through this transition. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teachers or the school to speak about your child's transition and the supports that are available.

We also recognize that transitions can take place throughout September. Elementary schools may be required to adjust some classes due to enrollment changes and class size restrictions. In secondary school, schools may also see timetable requests and adjustments in the first few weeks. These are occurrences that happen each fall and schools do their best to be responsive and to minimize the effects of any changes on students.

## Partnerships with Families

We value the essential partnership between schools and families and want to ensure that families are aware of the many resources available. Our [family resources page](#), available from the homepage of [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca), gives you quick access to platforms that we use, tips and information, the [Guide to the School Year](#) and [student learning resources](#). It also includes resources for [newcomers](#), [translation information](#) and much more. We are also working on a dedicated new family portal to make it easier for families to engage with their child's education. To ensure you receive notifications and updates, please make sure the school has your up-to-date email address. If you are not receiving emails, please contact your school to confirm. More information will be shared in the coming months.

I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, successful and enjoyable 2024-2025 school year, and look forward to communicating with you in the months ahead.

Cindy Liang

Trustee, Richmond Hill Wards 3, 5 and 6

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## School Start Up and Medical Forms

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School Start-Up forms will be sent out next week. Student GAPPs login information will be required for families to complete the forms.

If your child has a medical condition, please make sure the school offices know and submit health care forms to the main office.

[Staff Administration of Medication](#)

[Self-Administration of Medication](#)

[Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan](#)

[Asthma Health Care Plan](#)

[Diabetes Health Care Plan](#)

[Epilepsy Seizure Disorder Health Care Plan](#)

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## Caring and Safe Schools Assembly

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As the new school year is beginning, students attended a Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentation that occurred on September 6. These presentations are designed to underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussions about school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Start-Up Presentation.

Presentation topics include:

- Racism and types of discrimination;
- Bullying;
- Progressive discipline; and
- Vaping
- Mobile Devices Policy
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

### For More Information

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

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## Guidance Services

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### Timetable Information

The guidance department is working diligently to make changes to timetables in a fair and equitable manner for all students. In order to facilitate the most efficient way to make these accommodations, we are asking parents and students to refrain from booking appointments or coming into guidance to check on the progress of the change or to just make a change on the spot without completing the Google request form. The form acts as the appointment for the students who will be either emailed or contacted in person if the change can be made. Here is the link for the [Google Form](#).

The process will take some time since we have a number of students requesting changes and although we know this is frustrating for parents and students, we are asking for some patience and understanding. Please keep in mind that we are aware of students missing classes and the need for course prerequisites for our senior students. We assure you that we are making the necessary changes as quickly as possible. However, we are restricted by when and where courses are placed as well as full classes. As changes are made, some spaces may open. This is part of the timing. Note that we are only making necessary changes to semester 1 for the following reasons:

- Missing a course (a blank in the TT)
- Missing a prerequisite course
- Missing a compulsory course
- Removing a course that is no longer needed due to Summer School

| Guidance Counsellor | Alpha last name for students |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Ms. Pantusa         | A - G                        |
| Mr. Petrone         | H - M                        |
| Mr. Daides          | N - V                        |
| Ms. Cohen           | W - Z                        |

Guidance Secretary: Maryam Padyab

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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 Main Office directly at 905-884-0554.

If your child is arriving late to school due to an appointment or another reason, please ensure that you confirm their late arrival with a call or email to our attendance office. Thank you.

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## AMHS Daily Schedule

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The schedule for the AMHS school day will be as follows:

| TIMES                   | PERIOD   |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 8:30 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.   | HOMEROOM |
| 8:35 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.   | Period 1 |
| 9:55 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.  | Period 2 |
| 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Period 3 |
| 12:35 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.  | Period 4 |

1:55 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.

Period 5

## Parking Lot Reminder

Student drop off and pick up is on Trench Street. Please keep the parking lot on Major Mackenzie clear as that is for our Bus drop off and pick up.

Parking passes for semester 1 are by request and the google form will be available on September 9. Student parking spaces are limited and will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

## YRDSB Community Information



**Student Safety while riding YRT**

York Region Transit (YRT) cares about your safety and security. The dedicated YRT Transit Enforcement and Security team offers security, customer assistance and fare enforcement services throughout the system.

**QUICK TIPS!**

**Practice the following safety tips when taking transit**

- > Take extra care when walking or cycling to or from your bus stop
- > Always cross at a designated crosswalks or intersections; only cross when the designated light/walk signal is displayed
- > Make eye contact with motorists when crossing the street
- > Be aware of your surroundings at the bus stop and on the bus Board at the front doors, exit at the rear doors
- > Keep an eye on your belongings
- > Be alert and listen; heads up, phones down!
- > Know where you are getting on/off the bus

**SAY SOMETHING**

**Transit safety is everyone's responsibility; see something, say something**

- > Report any verbal, physical, sexual harassment or discrimination by alerting the driver, an enforcement officer or any YRT uniformed staff
- > Report issues by calling the YRT Contact Centre at 1-866-668-3978 or [Live Chat](#) with a Customer Service Representative
- > **If there is a true emergency call 9-1-1 immediately and notify the driver or any other YRT personnel when safe to do so**

**SAFE TRAVELS**

**Technologies with your safety in mind**

- > Security cameras to deter vandalism and provide evidence
- > Emergency call boxes at vivastations and terminals
- > Travelling at Night Request-Stop Program

These technologies assist in creating a safer environment for all travellers.

**There's a seat for everyone.**

YRT supports a positive travel community. **Please be respectful and courteous towards others.** All travellers are encouraged to follow YRT's [travelling etiquette tips](#) on how to conduct yourself in a way that ensures a positive travel experience for everyone.

For more information on transit safety, visit [yrt.ca](#)

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1-866-MOVE-YRT (668-3978) | TTY: 711 | [yrt.ca](#)



## Website Information

**Arts Mackenzie**  
[www.artsmackenzie.com](http://www.artsmackenzie.com)

**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 on Instagram:** [@alexmackhs](#)