



September 8th, 2023

Greetings AMHS Families,

Welcome to another wonderful start to the school year! We have had fantastic energy in the building to start our school year. This year, we would like to welcome our new Vice Principal, Mr. Drekolias to the building. Mr. Drekolias was previously at Emily Carr Secondary School and brings much educational experience to the table. Next week, please be reminded that we have our photo day. Additionally, for our cafeteria, we hope to have it open at some point in September. We will let families know once it is open. Finally, as a friendly reminder, for any families with students who have a significant health challenge e.g., asthma, anaphylaxis, seizures, please be sure to fill out a healthcare plan form and hand it in to the office. Thank you for your support!

Important Upcoming Dates

September 12th - Photo Day

September 18th - School Council Meeting @ 7:15 PM in the library @ AMHS

September 22nd - PA Day

September 28th - Terry Fox Run

October 3rd - Grade 9 Green Acres Trip

YOUR PHOTO DAY IS APPROACHING!

Tuesday, September 12th



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



GET REMINDERS

Sign up for notifications at edgeimaging.ca/photoday to get real-time updates about your photo day and stay in the know with Edge.



AMHS School Council

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 18 at 7:15 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 Friday, September 15: [School Council Nomination Form](#)

Caring and Safe Schools Assembly

Dear Families,

As the new school year is beginning, students attended a Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentation on Friday. 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
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

Inappropriate Behaviour

In the Start-Up Presentation, students learned about anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination, and bullying. This learning will continue throughout the school year. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students were also reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

Reporting Behaviour

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;
- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868).



Mental Health

We stressed to students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students learned about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

Student Discipline

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping, electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000). In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property,

the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

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.

Guidance Services

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: Cathy Zhang

Guidance Google Classrooms

Grade 9-11 Guidance Classroom (2022-2023)
Guidance & Education Services
Class Code: ugbztay

AMHS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GUIDANCE
Class Code: orggenu

AMHS Peer Tutoring Program
Class Code: odyb3b7

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.

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.

AMHS Daily Schedule

As of September 2022, 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

School Contact / Website Information

Alexander Mackenzie High School

Principal – Krista Luks

Telephone: 905-884-0554 ext 407

krista.luks@yrdsb.ca

Vice Principal - Themistocles Drekolias

Telephone: 905-884-0554 ext 405

themistocles.drekolias@yrdsb.ca

Vice Principal - Seiji Ishiguro

Telephone: 905-884-0554 ext 406

seiji.ishiguro@yrdsb.ca

IB Google Classroom Codes

Grade 9 and 10 Pre-IB: e3szkm3

Grade 11 IB: nn4umuq

Grade 12 IB: rqzmsui

Grade Google Classroom Codes

Grade 9: hf5itbn

Grade 10: [jv4kffq](#)

Grade 11: [qlinckg](#)

Grade 12: [kwjnulg](#)

Arts Mackenzie

www.artsmackenzie.com

Music Department

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](#)

[YRDSB Parent, Family and Community Engagement \(PEAC\) Newsletter](#)