

# Welcome to Alexander Mackenzie H.S.



**Tips to help your child  
achieve success in high school.**

# Welcome!

- ▶ Ms. Olteanu, Principal
- ▶ Ms. Nouragas, Vice Principal (A-L)
- ▶ Mr. Ellinas, Vice Principal (M-Z)

# Support Services

- ▶ Ms. Fisher, Head of Guidance
- ▶ Ms. Reyhani, I.B. Coordinator
- ▶ Ms. C. Clarke, Arts Mackenzie
- ▶ Mr. Belch and Ms. Pambis, Student Success
- ▶ Ms. Romeo, Literacy Lead Teacher
- ▶ Ms. Abramovich, Head of Special Education
- ▶ Mr. Auyeung, Head of ESL

- ▶ Corrie McBain, YRDSB Chair  
Trustee for Richmond Hill Wards 1, 2, & 4
- ▶ Michael Cohen, Superintendent of Education  
Student Achievement and School Operations
- ▶ Loren Thorburn, School Council Chair



# Agenda



- ▶ How are you feeling today?
- ▶ Unique features of AMHS
- ▶ Student Achievement
- ▶ Tips for Student Success
- ▶ Cyber Parenting
- ▶ Learning Goals & Success Criteria
- ▶ Answering Your Questions
- ▶ Grade 9 Assembly

# Learning Goals

Today we will learn about...

- ▶ AMHS; and
- ▶ tips for success and well-being.



# Success Criteria

I am successful if I can...

- ▶ articulate unique features of AMHS; and
- ▶ understand how to communicate with the school.



# How are you feeling?

## Think-Pair-Share Activity

- ▶ Introduce yourself to the person beside you.
- ▶ What are you looking forward to?
- ▶ Discuss any questions or concerns you may have about high school.





# How are you feeling?



What did you discuss?  
Volunteer to share, please.

# Unique features of AMHS

## The Arts Program - specialty courses in:

- ▶ Dance
- ▶ Drama
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Visual Arts



# Info Night: Oct.16 at RHCPA

# Unique features of AMHS

## International Baccalaureate (I.B. Program)

► June 2020:

First I.B. Diploma Graduating Year at AMHS



# Unique features of AMHS

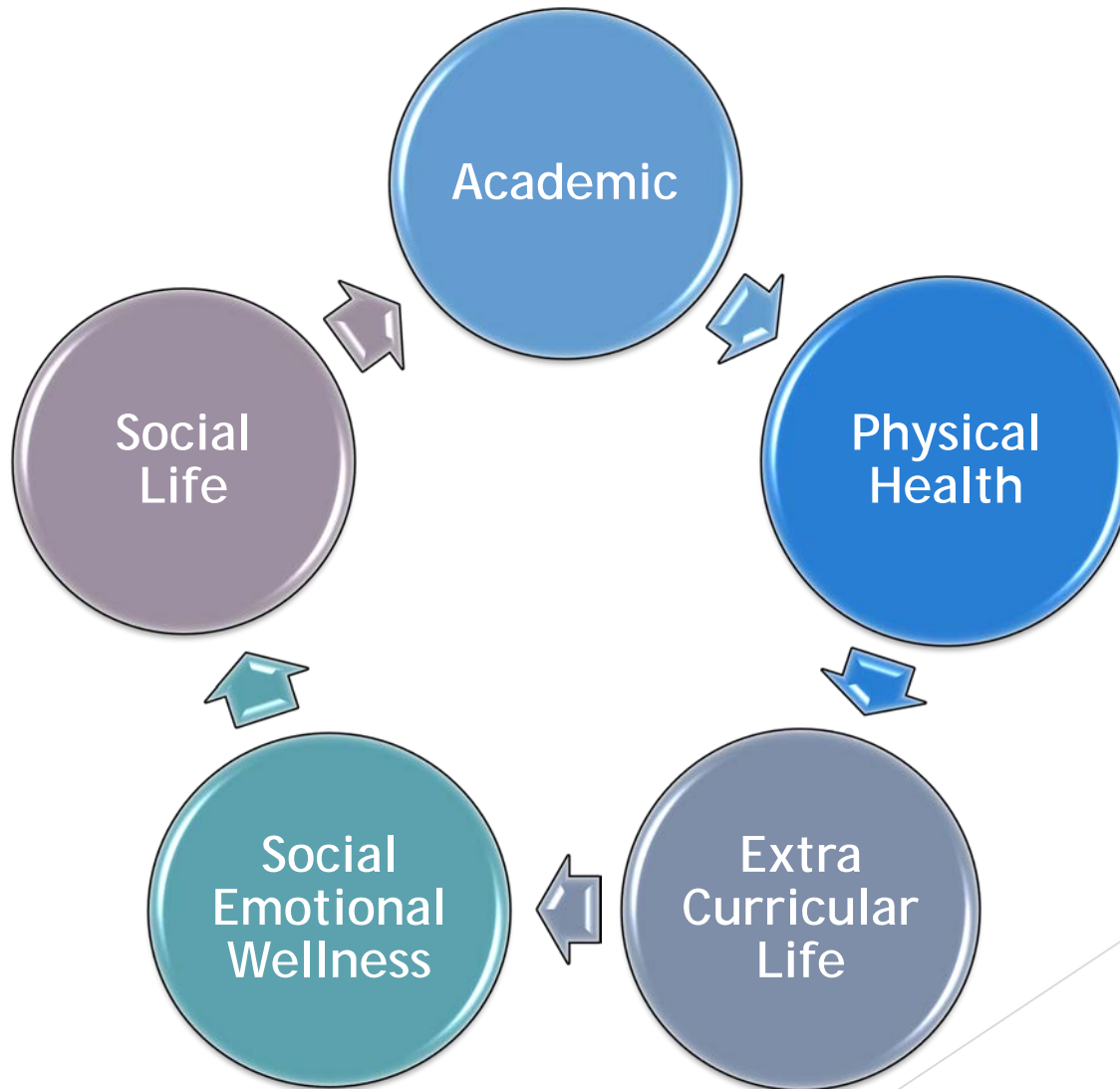
- ▶ A variety of Technological Education programs, including:
  - ▶ Transportation / auto mechanics
  - ▶ Construction Design and Engineering
  - ▶ Hospitality
  - ▶ Cosmetology

\*Also: We share the outdoor fields with the Town of Richmond Hill

# Unique features of AMHS

- ▶ Regional program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students
- ▶ Advanced Placement Program available in some subjects
- ▶ Specialist High Skills Major in Wellness, Arts and Culture, Business, Transportation
- ▶ Partnership with Mackenzie Health

# Adolescence is a balancing act



# Guidance Services at AMHS



# Services Offered



- Pathways Counselling
- Course Selection/Course Changes
- Assistance with obtaining Volunteer Hours
- Social Support
- Mental Health Support
- Scholarship Information
- University/Colleges/Apprenticeship Information
- Career Exploration Support



## Counsellors by Last Name Alpha:



- Make an appointment in person
- Stop by for a friendly chat

A-I                      Ms. Fisher

J- Martin              Ms. Juma

Mason-Whyte        Mr. Petrone

Will - Z                Ms. Reyhani

# How to Make an Appointment with your Counsellor



## When:

- Before School
  - Drop In
- After School
  - Drop In
- During Lunch Time
  - Drop In
- During School Hours
  - Must make an Appointment

# Goals for Grade 9 Students



- **Student Involvement**
  - Meet New People
  - Join Clubs/Teams
  - Participate in Events (ie. Green Acres, Club Fair, Terry Fox Run)
  - Show School Spirit
- **Earn Community Hours**
  - Begin now
  - Non-profit organization
  - Minimum of 40 hours for graduation
  - No maximum – recognition awards
  - Many opportunities --- Visit Guidance

Join AMHS

Volunteer  
Opportunities  
Classroom

VOLUNTEER



## *Go to your child's Google classroom*

Use their gapps  
account

Code to join:  
**tbdbujo**

- Encourage your children:
- To check the classroom frequently
- Check the guidance board outside of our office
- Check our own TV screen --- Located in Guidance

# Focusing on Mental Health



- Social Worker in the Building – Tuesdays & Thursday
- Nurse Health Practitioner (Partnership with Mackenzie Health) – Mondays & Fridays
- Presentations by Guidance in all Gr. 9 Physical Education Classes
- Individual Guidance support with school stress, exam preparation, time management

## Presentations for Parents



- Post-Secondary Information Evening
  - Monday, September 16 @ 6:30 pm
- Financing Your Child's Post-Secondary Education
  - Monday, November 18 @ 6:30 pm
- Course Selection: Questions and Answers
  - Monday, January 20 @ 6:30 pm
- Pathways 101: Careers of the Future
  - Monday, April 20 @ 6:30 pm

# Thank you!

## Contact Information:

Lana Fisher

Head of Guidance and Career Education

Tel: 905 884 0554 ext.422

E: [lane.fisher@yrdsb.ca](mailto:lane.fisher@yrdsb.ca)

# Tips for Success



Some tips for helping your child  
be successful in high school.



# Tip #1

## Be Proactive, Be Interested

- ▶ Your child needs to know that you are interested and will be involved in their education.
- ▶ Research has found that students with interested parents perform better at school.

## Tip #2

### Set goals with your student.

- ▶ Set goals for the school year.
- ▶ Check their timetable.
- ▶ Ask questions.
- ▶ Listen closely to what your child has to say.

## Tip #3

Start the day off right.

- ▶ Get a good night's sleep.
- ▶ Remove electronics from the bedroom.
- ▶ Eat breakfast.
- ▶ Arrive by 8:30 a.m.

# Tip #4

## After School ...

- ▶ Ask questions.
- ▶ Learning Goals and Success Criteria
  - ▶ What did you learn at school today?
  - ▶ What was the learning goal in (subject)?



# Tip #5

## Homework Supports

- ▶ Provide a quiet place to do homework.
- ▶ Check on what homework is being completed.
- ▶ Not seeing any?
- ▶ Speak to your child first and then contact the teacher if necessary.

# Tip #6

## Cyber Parenting

- ▶ No student will need to use the computer every night, all night, to complete homework.
- ▶ Monitor electronic devices and their use.
- ▶ Worried? Speak with your student's teachers.

# Tip #7

## How can you get involved?

- ▶ Check the school website regularly  
[www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs](http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/alexandermackenzie.hs)
- ▶ Attend school events.
- ▶ Read the Student Handbook.
- ▶ Contact your child's teachers.
- ▶ Contact Guidance or Student Success.
- ▶ Attend School Council meetings.

# Electronic Communications

- ▶ A weekly electronic newsletter is distributed.
- ▶ It contains dates, events, attendance for the week, etc.
- ▶ Do we have your email? If not, please stop by the Main Office before you leave today to update us.



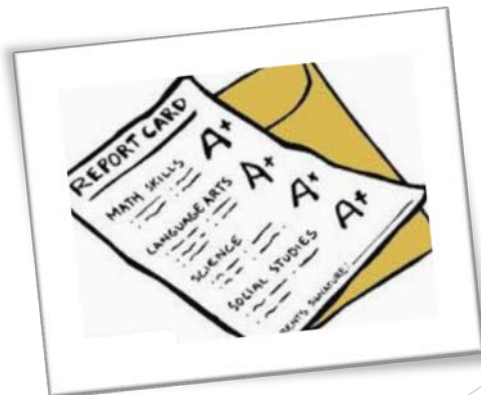
# Important Dates

- ▶ Check the weekly Parent Bulletin
- ▶ School Council meets regularly.
  - ▶ First meeting and Elections will be on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



# Important Dates

- ▶ Two Parents' Nights:  
Wednesday, October 23 & Thursday, April 2
- ▶ Two Interim Reports per year:  
mid-October and mid-March
- ▶ Four provincial Report Cards a year:  
November, February, April & July
- ▶ Questions? Please call us at 905-884-0554



# Tip #8

## Attendance

- ▶ Daily attendance is essential for success.
- ▶ If your child is ill, please keep your child at home.
- ▶ Automated messages are sent home daily when a student is absent from class.

# Absent?

- ▶ If your child needs to be away, be sure to call the school or provide a note and/or documentation. Voicemail and email are available 24 hours a day.
- ▶ If your child needs to sign-out for an appointment during the school day, you must call or send a note and then your child will sign-out at the Main Office.
- ▶ If your child is late to school or any class, regardless of the reason, they must sign-in at the office.

# Be on Time.

- ▶ Classes begin at 8:40 a.m. in homeroom.
- ▶ Have your child arrive by 8:30 a.m. to:
  - ▶ go to locker;
  - ▶ get organized for the day;
  - ▶ talk to friends; and
  - ▶ get to Homeroom on time for morning announcements.
- ▶ Classes end at 2:55 p.m.

## Tip #9 - We're a team!

- ▶ Communication is key.
- ▶ Do not believe everything your child tells you. Check with teachers / the school when in doubt.
- ▶ Check your child's backpack weekly.
- ▶ Read our school's weekly communications.
- ▶ Please call us anytime!



# Tip #10

## If you have concerns/questions

- ▶ Please call us at 905-884-0554.
- ▶ Talk to your child's teacher(s).
- ▶ You can also speak with:
  - ▶ Guidance Services
  - ▶ Student Success
  - ▶ Special Education
  - ▶ Admin--Mrs. Olteanu, Mr. Ellinas,  
Ms. Nouragas.

# Thank you for coming!

- ▶ Questions?



- ▶ Grade 9s will be arriving shortly for their assembly.
- ▶ You are welcome to stay for the assembly.