

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. When and how will my child choose courses?

Gr. 8 Students will choose their courses in February using their school's Pathway Planner and MyBlueprint. Details will be sent to all feeder schools.

### 2. How does my child apply for the Arts or IB program?

Any student wishing to apply to the Arts Mackenzie Program will complete an artistic demonstration for one of the following disciplines: dance, music, theatre arts or visual arts. Students apply in December and selection begins in January.

Students wishing to join the IB Programme will have to apply in October and take an in-take assessment in November in order to be accepted into the AMHS Preparatory Program for the International Baccalaureate Program in Grade 9.

### 3. What if my child is not from YRDSB?

If you are planning to move to our boundary and wish for your child to attend the school, you can visit our website for details on how to register.

### 4. If my child needs to take English as a Second Language courses, how will my child know what classes to take?

Together, with your child's teacher and the help of Guidance and the MLL Guidance head, ESL classes will be scheduled for your child according to their language step.

### 5. What if we are transferring from another school board?

You will need to contact the main office to arrange for a registration appointment. Guidance counsellors are also available for discussions about course selection, pathways and mental health and wellbeing.



## More About Us!



<https://bit.ly/amhsweb>



<https://bit.ly/amhsgram>



**Families Can Access The Presentation  
Shared At Grade 9 Open House:**

<https://bit.ly/grade8pres>



### AMHS Administration Team

**Krista Luks**

Principal

**Themistocles Drekolias**

Vice Principal A-L

**Helen Ho**

Vice Principal M-Z

### Contact Information

300 Major Mackenzie Drive West  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
L4S 3C3  
905-884-0554  
[alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca](mailto:alexander.mackenzie.hs@yrdsb.ca)

Guidance: ext. 418  
Special Education: ext. 148



## Grade 8 Open House Information



## What AMHS Is All About!

Our school's mission statement states that "together, in a safe and secure school community, we will engage in dynamic learning that prepares open-minded individuals who will make a difference in our world."

We have a dedicated, diverse and enthusiastic staff that is committed to developing the whole child with a focus on student achievement, well being, and cultivating an environment where everyone feels safe, respected and included.

Alexander Mackenzie H.S. offers a wide variety of courses and programs that support all pathways and learning styles including, the Arts Mackenzie Regional Arts Program, Alternative Education, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Exploring Opportunities Program - Transportation, International Baccalaureate Regional Programme, Multi-Language Learner programs, Specialized High School Major Program and Special Education, just to name a few.



## Student Life

Student life at AMHS is exciting, enriching and educational. There are many activities, clubs, councils and events for all students. AMHS thrives on student voice, participation and leadership.

### Schedule

The school year is divided into 2 semesters:

**Semester 1** is from September to June

**Semester 2** is from February to June

**Bell Times:** 8:30 a.m. -3:10 p.m.

There are 5 periods in the day.  
Each student has 4 classes and lunch.

## Our Programs



## Student Services

AMHS has many supports and resources available to all students!



**Child and Youth Workers** as part of our Student Success Team

**Guidance** available to students for pathway planning, post-secondary information and mental health and wellbeing

**Mental Health Nurse** in partnership with Mackenzie Health

**Multi-Language Learner Resource Teacher** as part of our Student Success team

**Social Worker** in partnership with YRDSB Mackenzie Health

**Special Education Resource Teachers** assigned to students with an IEP to help monitor and support students

**Student Settlement Workers** in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region for our Newcomers

**Student Success Teachers** available for help with course work



## Graduation Requirements



### 17 COMPULSORY CREDITS

- 4 Credits in English (1 per grade)
- 1 Credit in French
- 3 Credits in Math (grades 9, 10, 11)
- 2 credits in Science
- 1 credit in Canadian history
- 1 credit in Canadian geography
- 1 credit in the arts
- 1 credit in health & physical education
- 1 Technological Studies (taken in grade 9 or 10)
- 1/2 credit in civics & 1/2 credit in careers
- 1 credit from the **STEM-Related Course Group**:
  - Business Studies
  - Computer Studies
  - Cooperative Education
  - Mathematics in addition to the 3 compulsory credits
  - Science in addition to the 2 compulsory credits
  - Technological Studies in addition to the 1 compulsory



### 13 STUDENT-SELECTED ELECTIVES

Students can choose a variety of additional courses of their choice based on their interests and pathways. Some of these elective choices in grades 11 and 12 may have prerequisites.



### OSSLT

The Ontario **S**econdary **S**chool **L**iteracy **T**est (OSSLT) is written by all grade 10 students across the province and **is a requirement for all students who wish to graduate with a secondary school diploma.**



### 40 HOURS COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students can start their volunteer hours the summer before Grade 9. Please see our website for forms and guidelines. Students are responsible for keeping track of their hours and submitting them to guidance.