

Aurora High School

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School Start-Up Package

2014-2015



Aurora High School

August 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new and returning families. I hope you had a wonderful, relaxing summer and are looking forward to the new school year. The Aurora High School Start-Up Package includes important information about our school, including forms that you will need to complete. The Guide to the 2014-15 School Year issued by the Board is also available for your reference.

Please note that this year we will be completing our registration (payment of fees as well as all signing of important forms) online. Please take five minutes to watch this video clip and to register an account. <http://www.kevsoftware.com/movies/ParentRegEnglish/>
Throughout the year, all field trips, participation in team sports, purchases of spirit wear and other fees will be accepted online. In this way, parents and guardians will no longer need to pay by cash or cheque.

There are a few upcoming dates I would like to highlight:

- August – Online Registration
- September 2 – Grade 9 Transition Day
- September 3 – Grade 10, 11, 12 First Day of School
- September 12 - Photo Day
- September 17 – Grade 9 Green Acres Day
- October 10 – Interim Reports Issued
- October 16 – Parent-Teacher Interviews
- November 17 – Mid-Semester 1 Report Cards Issued

We have a dedicated staff with a strong commitment to student well-being and achievement, and to creating an environment where everyone feels safe, welcome, and respected. We look forward to speaking and working with you in the months ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have questions. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you.

I wish you all a happy, safe, and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Maria Maiato
Principal



Inspire Learning!

Aurora High School

Information Package and Form Checklist

This package includes important information about the school, and a number of forms that you need to complete for each child.

Please complete, sign and return the following forms to your child's homeroom teacher by Monday, September 8, 2014.

Required Forms

These forms must be completed.

- Consent/Agreement Form
- Policy Agreement Form (Caring and Safe Schools Policy & Information Technology Acceptable Use Agreement)

Additional Forms

These forms must be completed if you or your child wishes to participate.

- Parental Permission for the Transportation of Students
- Student Insurance Agreement
- School Council Nomination Form

“Nothing but Our Best”

Our goals are:

- to continue the tradition of excellence in academics, personal growth and extra-curricular activities;
- to develop within students a social consciousness which includes mutual respect, acceptance and fairness;
- to promote learning as a lifelong process;
- to provide a welcoming, supportive and stimulating environment within a safe, clean and healthy setting;
- to provide an orderly atmosphere in which expectations are clear, concise and fair;
- to communicate effectively with students, parents/guardians and the community; and
- to recognize the contributions and achievements of staff and students.

Aurora High School

Character Matters!

Character Matters! is an initiative within the York Region District School Board and at Aurora High School to cultivate positive personal attributes and civility among students. Our focus is on the following ten character attributes:

INTEGRITY	INITIATIVE	RESPECT	HONESTY	OPTIMISM
RESPONSIBILITY	PERSEVERANCE	FAIRNESS	EMPATHY	COURAGE

Our School

School Day Organization:

Period 1	8:15 - 9:30
Anthem + Announcements	9:30 - 9:34
Period 2	9:38 - 10:53
Period 3	10:57 - 12:12
Period 4	12:16 - 1:31
Period 5	1:35 - 2:50

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Calendars, Day Planners, Smart Phones, and Other Organizers

We encourage all students to use a calendar or day planner on a daily basis. Such a tool:

- may be used to record homework, due dates, and other important dates;
- helps students organize their time and manage other commitments in addition to those pertaining to school; and
- assists with time management.

Aurora High School

Components of the Secondary School Program Diploma Requirements

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST (OSSLT)

The successful completion of the OSSLT is a diploma requirement. The results of the Grade 10 Literacy Test will be reported as complete or incomplete. Students who are not initially successful will be allowed to retake the test. The test is generally administered in the spring.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY COURSE

A Grade 12 full-credit course will be offered to students who have failed the test at least once. The successful completion of this course will fulfill the diploma requirement.

FULL DISCLOSURE

The Ontario Student Transcript Manual, 1999 outlines the regulations and procedures regarding Full Disclosure. They are as follows:

- In Grades 9 and 10 only successfully completed courses are recorded on the OST.
- In Grades 11 and 12 withdrawal from a course will not be recorded on the OST if it is dropped within **five instructional days following the issue of a midterm report card**. After five instructional days following the issue of the midterm report card, the student's percentage grade at the time of withdrawal is recorded.

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT AND RECOGNITION (PLAR)

Any student who possesses the full range of knowledge and skills for any Grade 10, 11 or 12 course offered in York Region District School Board may apply to challenge the course for the credit. To find out about eligibility requirements consult the Guidance Department and/or visit the Ministry website at www.edu.gov.on.ca

Home Communication

Parents/guardians are our most important partners in educating children. We communicate with you in a variety of ways throughout the year.

Email

To improve communication between home and school and reduce paper use, we coordinate an email distribution list. The list will be maintained and used only by school staff to communicate electronically to parents/guardians. Your email will not be sold, distributed or publicly posted.

Stay Connected Online

You can also stay connected online through our school website. Some teachers also have moodles, blogs, Twitter feeds, or newsletters to help you stay connected. Your child's teachers will provide more information. In addition, parents will receive a weekly bulletin.

In addition, you can follow Board news and updates at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca or on Twitter [@yrdsb](https://twitter.com/yrdsb).

Aurora High School

Emergency Information

Let office staff know as soon as possible if any of the following information changes:

- address, work or home numbers or other contact information
- emergency contacts and telephone numbers
- changes in custody agreements
- medical alert or changes in health condition (e.g. allergies, medications, concussions, other injuries, hospitalization)

Allergies/Medical Conditions

There are students in our school who have a life-threatening allergy to nuts, scents, and other allergens. If they smell or come into contact with these foods or fragrances, they may have an anaphylactic reaction. Students, staff, and visitors to the school are asked to **avoid using fragrances, body sprays, and other scents**, which severely affect the health of many individuals in the building.

If your child has a serious or life-threatening allergy or medical condition, let the school know immediately and speak to the school office about completing the appropriate medical forms. EpiPens and medications, in addition to those in the student's possession, may be stored in the main office with the student's picture and required forms.

Arrivals and Departures

Parents/guardians who **drive their children to school**,

- ensure that your child arrives prior to the first bell at 8:10 a.m.;
- take care when entering and exiting the driveway since students and many staff members cross the driveway to enter through the front doors

Students who drive to school*, must have a valid parking pass. Beginning on Registration Day, student parking passes will be available for purchase, in the main office for \$25.00. Students must provide proof of a valid Ontario Driver's License and Insurance. Please be advised that parking passes are issued each year, and are neither refundable nor transferable. The pass **will not guarantee you a spot**, as we have limited parking. Parking will be available in the STUDENT PARKING LOT at the south end of the school ONLY, on a first-come, first-served basis. Vehicles must not be parked on the grass or other restricted areas. The parking fee will be used to hire personnel to supervise the student parking lot. Students found parking without a pass, or in STAFF-assigned spots, will be tagged and/or towed at the student's expense with the possibility of parking privileges being revoked. To avoid any by-law tickets, please ensure that your vehicle is parked in a designed parking spot.

Students who use bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards or scooters* to travel to school:

- must exercise safety at all times;
- must walk while on school property;
- should lock bicycles on the bike rack;
- must store rollerblades, skateboards or scooters in their locker or backpack;

** Aurora High School and the York Region District School Board will not be held liable for damages or losses occurring on or around school property.*

Aurora High School

Bus Information

This information is for students attending secondary schools outside their attendance area. Students who, by choice, attend schools outside their designated school attendance area **shall not be entitled** to Board-provided transportation. Students who attend specialized programs (e.g. Arts York, French Immersion) and who reside within the local Municipal Transit Service area of the school offering the specialized program **are not entitled** to Board-provided transportation. Students required by the Board to attend a secondary school outside their attendance area are entitled to temporary transportation, unless their ride time falls within the Municipal Transit Service criteria, listed above.

Route and schedule information are available on the following website: **www.schoolbuscity.com**. Students must follow the instructions of the bus driver. Students on buses are under the authority of the school and may lose their bus privilege if their behaviour is unacceptable. Parents/guardians, it is important to remember your child's bus number, pick-up/drop-off times, and location.

Behaviour/Code of Conduct

Students are expected to demonstrate behaviour that is respectful and courteous at all times. This includes demonstrating respect for each other and our communities. These expectations are indicated in Ontario's Code of Conduct.

The Ontario Code of Conduct sets clear provincial standards of behaviour for students, teachers, parents, volunteers and other staff members whether they are on school property, on school buses or at school-authorized events or activities. The following standards of behaviour have been adopted by the York Region District School Board and Aurora High School:

All school members must:

- respect and comply with all applicable laws and Board policies;
- treat one another with dignity and respect at all times;
- respect the rights and property of others;
- take appropriate measures to help those in need;
- respect persons who are in a position of authority; and
- respect the need of others to work and learn in a safe and welcoming environment..

CONDUCT IN THE HALLS

Students should not be in the halls during instructional hours. Students may go to their lockers **five minutes prior to the beginning of a class**. Stairwells should be kept clear. Groups of students should respect requests by staff to disperse. Consumption of food and beverages is not permitted outside the cafeteria.

School Cash Online

Aurora High School will be participating in a pilot program to offer parents and guardians the convenience of online payments for the 2014-2015 school year. Parents and guardians will be able to make payments securely online at any time and there will be no more need to send cash or cheques to school.

Aurora High School

Dress Code

The York Region District School Board Policy #635.0, Student Dress Code, guides Aurora High School's Dress Code. Our dress code is mandatory for all students and complies with the human rights code, promoting a learning environment in which students and staff feel respected and secure.

- Language or graphics on clothing will not display provocative, obscene, sexist, or racist slogans, nor will they refer to drugs, alcohol, smoking, or sex. Clothing which contravenes the Human Rights Code in any way is unacceptable.
- Students will not wear clothing to school that is revealing or provocative (e.g. muscle shirts, tube tops or halter tops). Midribs and undergarments will remain covered at all times.
- Clothing and accessories/paraphernalia depicting violence or death or that identify or promote cults or gangs are unacceptable.
- Head coverings of any description will not be worn inside the school. Exceptions are made for religious or medical reasons.
- Students will wear appropriate clothing for gym.
- For obvious safety reasons, shoes must be worn at all times.

Non-compliance

Those who choose to wear clothing that does not conform to the code may be asked to:

- turn the piece of clothing inside out;
- wear something over the offending piece of clothing;
- change into something else or remove the accessory;
- give the offending item to the teacher, Principal, or Vice-Principal; or
- possibly go home to change.

Religious Accommodations

Students and families are invited and may request accommodations for religious beliefs and practices in a variety of areas of school life. Parents and students may express their needs regarding religious accommodations by completing the Religious Accommodations Invitation form, accessible on the school's website.

Electronic Devices

The use of devices should be limited during the school day. As a courtesy to others, devices are to be turned off at all times. Students are permitted to use electronic devices in instructional areas with clear teacher permission. The school is not responsible for personal items that go missing at the school. All devices are to be off during assemblies and for guest speakers. Please note that laser beam pointers are extremely dangerous and have caused eye damage. Possession of a laser pointer may result in a suspension.

Aurora High School

Policies and Procedures

Accidents at School

All injuries must be reported immediately to the classroom teacher, to the person supervising the activity, or to the main office. Students are asked not to leave a victim unattended, nor move a seriously injured person.

Announcements

Announcements are read daily. All announcements must be signed by a staff member and be submitted to the office by 8:00 a.m. on the forms provided. Only emergency announcements, with the approval of an administrator, will be made at other times.

Anti-Racism and Ethno-cultural Equity Policy

The York Region District School Board recognizes that principles of anti-racism and ethno cultural equity shall permeate all aspects of its organizational structure, policies, guidelines and procedures to ensure that barriers to equity shall be identified and eliminated.

Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

At the start of each semester, teachers will provide students with a written course evaluation policy. Formal examinations are held in January and June as indicated in the planning calendar. **Students must write their exams on the scheduled day/time.** A student who misses an exam must provide the school with a medical certificate.

Report Cards will be issued four times during the school year:

November	Mid-semester Report for Semester 1
February	Final Report for Semester 1
April	Mid-semester Report for Semester 2
July	Final Report for Semester 2

The report card contains separate sections for reporting attendance, for recording comments about the student's achievement of curriculum expectations and for evaluating the student's learning skills in each course.

Elevator

Students with mobility issues may require an elevator key. Keys may be obtained from the Main Office. A refundable deposit will be required when the key is issued.

Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential components for academic success. Students are responsible for work covered during any absence, and can expect to be evaluated on all work in the course.

Aurora High School

If a teacher is late or absent from a regularly scheduled class, students are to inform the main office. The students must remain in the class and await instructions. Students leaving without permission will be considered truant.

Absence Procedures

A parent note, email, or phone call (905-727-0033, ext. 153) is required when a student is absent from school. Please include the following information when contacting the school:

- student's name
- date(s) and reason for absence
- parent or guardian signature on notes
- students 18 years of age** and older may sign their own note - however, signing in and out privileges and note authorization may be withdrawn at the discretion of a school administrator.

Truancy

A student who is absent from class without authorization will be considered truant until proper authorization is obtained. The student may be assigned a lunch-time detention to serve. The school will notify parents of any truancy unless the student is 18 years or older and has requested no parental contact in writing.

When an absence is not accompanied by a note, it will be considered an "unauthorized absence" or/a "truancy". Students are responsible for providing authorization promptly and on their own time. Attendance issues should be dealt with before school, at lunchtime, or during a spare period, but before the class for which authorization is required.

Persistent Absence

Consequences for students who are persistently absent may include some or all of the following: counselling, making up time missed, alternative assignments, in-school work detail, an attendance monitoring contract, or consideration for an alternative program. All cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.

**** A MESSAGE TO STUDENTS AGED 18 AND OVER AND THEIR PARENTS**

Students 18 years of age and older, may not wish the school to communicate with their parents about matters that are required by law. Students must state their objection in writing and submit it to the principal. **A phone call will be made to parents to inform them of this action at the time the letter is submitted.**

Early Leave

Notes requesting early leaves must be submitted to the office before 8:00 a.m. Students without a note must obtain permission from the office prior to signing out. Students who leave without signing out will be considered truant. Once students have signed out, they must leave the building. Students will be considered truant for classes missed if they remain on school property.

Aurora High School

Illness at School

If students become ill at school, they are to report to the main office. They are not to stay in a washroom without informing a teacher or the office. Failure to report to the office may result in the absence from class being recorded as truant. Students under 18 years of age will be allowed to go home only if the school can notify a parent or guardian.

Illness (Extended Period of Time)

Students who are confined at home or in hospital for more than one week should contact Guidance. Assignments and homework will be collected from each subject teacher and picked up in the Guidance office.

Late for Class

It is the student's responsibility to report promptly to all classes. Students detained by a teacher must obtain a note from that teacher in order to gain admission to the next class. Students arriving within the **first 15 minutes** of each period are to go directly to class.

Late for School

Students arriving **to school prior to 8:35 am must proceed directly to Period 1**. After 8:35 am they must report to the Attendance Secretary. Students found in the hallways during the national anthem and announcements are to stand quietly.

Persistent Lateness for School

Consequences for students who are persistently late may include counselling and other disciplinary actions. Persistent lateness impacts learning and success.

Procedures & Consequences for Missing Major Term Evaluations or Deadlines

As outlined in *Growing Success – Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting: Improving Student Learning* the primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning. The intention of the procedures below is to ensure that students submit work and complete evaluations according to deadlines so that the teacher can assess their learning in an accurate and fair manner.

To assist students, teachers will:

- provide clear communication of expectations for assessment or evaluation;
- identify timelines and deadlines;
- speak to the student and/or parent/guardian when individual students fail to meet deadlines; and
- communicate in a timely fashion with parents/guardians if/when students are experiencing difficulty.

Regular attendance is crucial to student success. To provide students with every opportunity to succeed, the consequences for students who are persistently absent may include some or all of the following: counselling, making up time missed, alternative assignments, an attendance contract, or consideration for an alternative program. All cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.

The following outlines procedures and consequences related to missed evaluations or deadlines and academic integrity:

Aurora High School

Evaluations/Deadlines Missed Due to Illness, Family Bereavement, Medical Appointments, Field Trips or other School Sponsored Events

Absences must be validated by a parent/guardian prior to the absence wherever possible. If this is done, students will be given the opportunity to recover lost marks through revised due dates, make-up tests or assignments.

If students are in the school on the day of an evaluation but leave before it, they must:

- contact the teacher before the evaluation
- sign out in the office

If students arrive after the evaluation, they must:

- sign in at the office when they arrive
- contact the teacher before the end of that school day

In the case of missed group presentations or individual seminars, students are expected to contact their teacher before the start of the school day if absent for the entire day. This provides the opportunity for the teacher to make adjustments where appropriate.

Family Vacations

Because they can have a negative impact on student achievement, vacations during school regular time are **strongly discouraged**.

Students are expected to obtain an **Extraordinary Absence Form** from the Attendance Secretary, inform their subject teachers of the absence and have them complete the form. The completed form should be returned to a Vice-Principal at least one week before the commencement of the absence.

Students are responsible for all missed work.

Vacations must not be planned during examination periods. Such absences will result in a grade of zero on the examination.

Evaluation/Deadline Missed Due to Truancy

When a student is truant for any evaluation:

- he/she may be referred to an administrator;
- appropriate consequences will be determined by the teacher and/or administrator;
- parents/guardians will be contacted by the teacher and/or administrator;
- arrangements may be made for an alternate evaluation;
- a central record and documentation will be kept of every student's missed evaluation; and
- repeat offenders may lose the opportunity to make up the missed evaluation and may receive a grade of zero

Aurora High School

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism or Cheating

Plagiarism can easily be avoided by giving credit to the author. When a situation arises where plagiarism is suspected, it is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate the work to be his/her own.

Plagiarism includes:

- using whole sentences or paragraphs of another as your own;
- paraphrasing someone else's argument;
- presenting someone else's ideas or line of thinking as if it were your own; and
- submitting a project, assignment, homework or essay that is not your own work.

Cheating includes:

- copying work of others on a test or exam;
- unauthorized giving/receiving of information during a test or exam;
- bringing unauthorized material into a test or exam; or
- submission of same/similar work for evaluation in two courses unless both teachers have given prior approval;

Depending on the severity of the incident, one or more of the following steps will be taken:

- students may be referred to an administrator;
- parents/guardians will be contacted by the teacher and/or administration;
- students may be required to complete the "Academic Integrity" workshop;
- a central record and documentation will be kept of all incidents involving plagiarism or cheating; and
- the Administration, in consultation with the teacher, will determine appropriate consequences for repeat offenders and notify the parent.

Aurora High School

Field Trips and Athletic Trips

- The Caring and Safe Schools (#668) and school regulations are in effect while students are on school trips. Teachers are legally responsible for the conduct and welfare of students and students must follow their instructions at all times.
- Students going on a school trip must return a signed parent consent form prior to the date of the trip.
- Buses are arranged for most school trips. Whenever a bus is arranged, all students must leave and return on the bus.
- Students on the bus are expected to act in a manner which enables the driver to give full attention to driving the bus and keeping the passengers safe.
- While on a school trip, students are representing the school. It is expected that their conduct will reflect favourably on Aurora High School.
- Students who violate rules on a school trip may forfeit the privilege of participating in other school trips for the remainder of the school year and may be sent home at parent's/guardian's expense.
- It is the responsibility of students to inform their teachers in advance of their participation on a school trip. Missed work must be completed and seminars or tests re-scheduled.
- Students who are suspended from school prior to and including some of the time of the field trip or special event will not attend the field trip nor have their money refunded.

Fire Procedures

The continuous ringing of the fire buzzer is the signal to leave the building. Students must proceed quickly and leave the building by the designated exit. A sign is posted in each room indicating the exit to be used. Everyone must move well away from the building when outside. Students exiting the east doors will assemble on the north field away from the building and parking lot. An announcement from the office will call the students back to the building.

Lockers

Lockers are school property on loan to students. Students are expected to:

- take responsibility in the care of their locker;
- keep it locked, using only a combination lock, which may be purchased at the school; and
- register their locker number and lock combination with the Main Office.

The school has the right to search lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. In addition, police may be invited onto school property to conduct their own searches which may be conducted without notice or permission.

Aurora High School

Personal Property

Students should not bring large amounts of money or valuable personal property (MP3s, cell phones, iPods, camera/video equipment, jewellery) to school. **The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen articles. Under no circumstances should money or valuables be left in the Physical Education change rooms.**

Retiring from School

Students who choose to retire from school are asked to see a Guidance Counsellor. An information package outlining various options will be provided. All textbooks must be returned to Guidance and the textbook card destroyed.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited on Aurora High School property and on adjacent property within sight of the school.

What Will Happen If You Are Found Smoking on School Property

The incident will be reported to the Main Office and the student may be interviewed by an administrator.

Should there be a second incident; a notice will be faxed to the York Region Health Services. An enforcement officer may interview the student within 30 days. Students under the age of 16 may receive a summons to appear in court. Students over the age of 16 may be served a ticket in the amount of \$305.00. The fine for sharing a cigarette is \$365.00.

Textbooks

Textbooks are on loan and students are financially responsible for lost or damaged books. Textbooks must be returned to the subject teacher at the end of each semester, or if the student drops a course. At that time, the textbook card will be returned to the student. If the school has the textbook card, then the textbook has not been returned. Students must return or pay for any lost textbooks before writing exams. If a student does not return or pay for a lost textbook prior to the exam, he or she will be referred to the main office. The main office may ask for collateral to be held until restitution has been made.

Bullying

DON'T! On EVERY level, it is just WRONG.

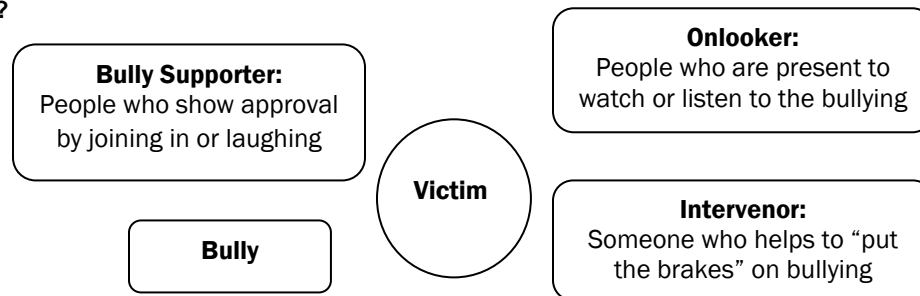
Bullying refers to **REPEATED or INTENTIONAL NEGATIVE** words or actions **MEANT** to hurt and cause distress.

Aurora High School

Bullying includes:

- insults, teasing, racial slurs, put-downs;
- destruction or theft of personal items;
- unwanted touching, pushing, or physical assault;
- facial expressions, rolling eyes, intimidation, threats, extortion;
- exclusion of people;
- hurtful notes, texts, online posts, and/or emails;
- rumors and gossip; and
- interference with the victim's friends

Who is involved?



Tips to stop bullying:

- Choose friends who treat you and others with respect.
- Think about the words, jokes and humour you and your friends use.
- Report any bullying to an adult you trust.
- Refuse to be part of any form of bullying.
- Call the KIDS HELP PHONE: 1-800-668-6868.

Guidance and Career Services

The guidance department offers a number of services, including support for academic and career planning, personal counseling, referrals to community resources, and support for the development of study habits and life skills. For more information, contact the guidance department.

Counsellors will:

- **offer assistance and encouragement** to help students develop their own problem-solving and decision-making skills;
- **help students to access** current information about work, apprenticeships and post-secondary schooling through the use of technology and printed matter;
- **be accepting** of all individual differences; and
- **maintain confidentiality.**

Aurora High School

Guidance services which may be of interest to students:

1. Educational Planning:

- Course Planning Assistance
- Information on Colleges, Universities and Apprenticeships
- Work Transition Programs

2. Personal and Social Concerns:

- Individual Counselling
- Group seminars organized to meet special needs
- Referrals to outside agencies and specialists

3. Career Counselling:

- Post-Secondary/Apprenticeship/Work Research Facilities

Library Resource Centre

The School Library serves as a centre for resource-based learning, reading for information and pleasure as well as curriculum-related research skills and material acquisition. You will find our website very informative and useful: www.yrdsb.ca/schools/aurora.hs/library

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Monday to Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – Friday

Loan Periods:

Non-fiction	2 weeks	Current Files	Overnight
Magazines	3 days	Videos/DVDs	Overnight
Fiction	2 weeks	Reference	Overnight

Homework

1. Completion of homework is an integral part of the success of students in individual courses.
2. Homework is an indication that certain tasks could not be completed at school or that additional work is needed to augment a particular topic in a given subject.
3. Homework is well planned, carefully integrated, relevant information necessary for completion of a course.
4. Homework assigned should be completed on the day assigned.

Aurora High School

The following guidelines are suggested for students.

GRADE	TIME/NIGHT
9	1/2 - 1 hour
10	3/4 - 1 1/2 hours
11	3/4 - 1 1/2 hours
12	1 - 3 hours

- Students taking practical courses may have less homework.
- Time suggestions may be adjusted to suit project work, seminars, essay writing and exam preparations.
- Individual teacher implementation will vary according to subject needs and teaching styles.

Athletic and Music Policy

The objective of the Athletic and Music Departments is to provide opportunities to all students to grow and develop into well-rounded students. This policy has been developed as a collaborative effort between the Music and Health & Physical Education Departments. Students and teachers involved in both programs will be expected to follow the guidelines below with respect to practices, performances and games. Any questions or concerns regarding the policy need to be directed to the Head of Music or the Head of Physical Education. Students must obtain, complete and sign a contract with both departments at the beginning of the year or season to be involved in multiple AHS activities. Teachers, please be aware that students may be involved in one of the following courses throughout the year:

Music Repertoire Courses:

Grade 9	Tuesdays
Grade 10	Wednesdays
Grade 11	Tuesdays & Thursdays Semester 1 (switches with Grade 12 Semester 2)
Grade 12	Wednesdays Semester 1 (alternates with Grade 11 Semester 2)

Practice Schedule Times

Indoor/Outdoor Practices**	Athletic Time	Music Time
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.	3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Outdoor Practices		
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Games or No Play Dates for Music

An athletic game or a musical performance takes precedence over any other practice or rehearsal. Athletes are expected to attend the full practice prior to playoff night and musicians are expected to attend full practice prior to concert night. The Athletic and Music Departments encourage students to participate in the many opportunities provided by both departments.

Mr. Forster	Department Head, Health & Physical Education
Ms. Fowler	Department Head, Music

Aurora High School

Athletic Program

Students who wish to participate in the athletic program at Aurora High School and join one or more teams are required to pay a fee, which is subsidized by the annual \$50 Student Activity Fee. This fee allows for students to join a variety of teams at a reduced cost. While participating in athletic programs, students may earn points towards an athletic letter. The Physical Education department will provide an outline of the award system for athletic letters.

Junior Letter - 90 points

Senior Letter - 180 points

Athletic points earned at other high schools are transferable.

Note that only full-time students are eligible to participate in the athletic program at AHS. Only these students may try out and qualify for a team.

Aims of the Inter-School Program

To provide:

- athletic competition beyond the regular class program
- an opportunity for students to develop athletic skills
- equal opportunity and access to athletic competition
- an opportunity for school spirit through athletic competition
- an environment for social development
- an opportunity for recognition
- an opportunity to develop leadership skills, a feeling of self-worth, and a feeling of belonging and to have fun

Alpha Awards

The **Alpha Award** is given to students who excel in the three main areas of school life: Academics, Athletics and Citizenship.

The requirements for a **Junior Alpha "a"** are:

1. a total of 300 points
2. a minimum of 66 points in each area
3. accumulation of the 300 points within 3 consecutive years

AWARD: Wall Plaque for each qualified student

The requirements for a **Senior Alpha "A"** are:

1. a total of 400 points
2. a minimum of 88 points in each area
3. accumulation of the 400 points within 4 consecutive years

AWARD: Each qualifying Senior Alpha winner will be awarded a wall plaque PLUS a share of the interest generated by the Mildred Graham Scholarship Fund.

PLEASE SEE GUIDANCE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Aurora High School

Student Personal Information

Schools routinely collect, use and release student personal information, in keeping with the Education Act and other laws. Whenever your child's personal information is collected, its use will be explained to you.

Please see the section on **Student Personal Information** in the **Guide to the School Year** booklet for a list of examples for when permission will be sought. Parents must sign the **Consent/Agreement Form**, acknowledging that they have read and understood this information.

If you have any questions about your child's privacy protection, please contact the school principal or the Information Access and Privacy Office at 905-727-0022 ext.2015.

School Council

As parents/guardians, there are many ways you can be engaged in your child's learning at home and at school. This includes getting involved with the school council. Contact school office staff for more information.

Visitors

Visitors and parents are required to report to the Main Office. In very unique cases, individuals may be given permission to visit provided prior arrangements have been made with the school administration. Students will assume responsibility for the behaviour of their guests. Visitors who have not obtained permission through the Main Office will be asked to leave the school property. Trespassers may be prosecuted under the Provincial Trespass to Property Act.

For More Information

You can find more information on these and other topics in the **Guide to the 2014-15 School Year** included with this package or on the York Region District School Board website at www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

Aurora High School

Important Dates to Remember

Date	Event
2 September 2014	Grade 9 Transition Day
3 September 2014	First Day of School for Grade 10, 11, and 12
12 September 2014	Photo Day
17 September 2014	Grade 9 Day at Green Acres
22 September 2014	PA Day
14 October 2014	Photo Re-Take Day
10 October 2014	Interim Reports Issued
13 October 2014	Thanksgiving Holiday
16 October 2014	Parent Teacher Interviews
27 October 2014	PA Day
14 November 2014	PA Day
17 November 2014	Mid-semester 1 Report Cards Issued
17 November – 21 November 2014	Grad Photos
22 December 2014 – 2 January 2015	Christmas/Winter Break
19 January – 20 January 2015	Grade 9 Math EQAO
23 January – 29 January 2015	Semester 1 Exams
30 January 2015	Exam Review Day
2 February 2015	PA Day
3 February 2015	Semester 2 Begins
9 February 2015	Semester 1 Report Cards Issued
16 February 2015	Family Day
12 March 2015	Interim Reports Issued
13 March 2015	PA Day
16 March – 20 March 2015	Mid-Winter Break
26 March 2015	Literacy Test
1 April 2015	Parent Teacher Interviews
3 April 2015	Good Friday
6 April 2015	Easter Monday
27 April 2015	Mid-semester 2 Report Cards Issued
8 May 2015	PA Day

Aurora High School

Important Dates to Remember Continued

Date	Event
18 May 2015	Victoria Day
10 June – 11 June 2015	Grade 9 Math EQAO
17 June – 23 June 2015	Semester 2 Exams
24 June 2015	Exam Review Day
25 June 2015	Graduation
25 June – 26 June 2015	PA Days

Notes...