

Bur Oak E-Bulletin

Newsletter
June 12, 2020



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Student Return and Retrieval of Items:

Students and families may now arrange to safely pick up items they left at school and return items that belong to the YRDSB during the week of June 15th - June 19th. Students can sign up for a time using TeachAssist.

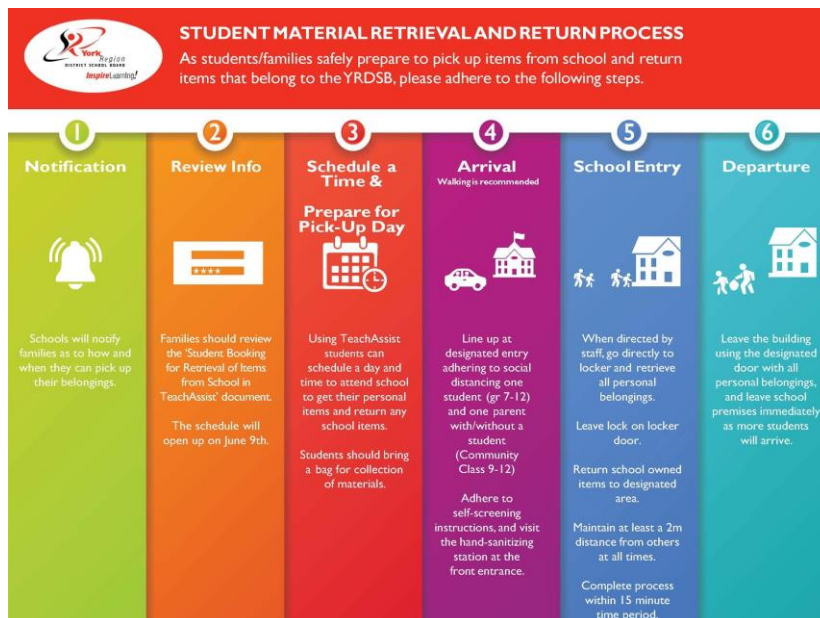
Only 30 students are allowed in the building at a time. Students must use hand sanitizer on entering the building, observe social distancing, bring their own bag to put their personal items in and are encouraged to wear a mask.

Students will enter at the front of the school and exit through the back. Parents and siblings who do not attend BOSS will not be allowed to enter with students.

School items will be left in the cafeteria with the exception of music supplies which will be returned to 1050

If you have any questions / concerns about this process, please contact us at bur.oak.ss@yrdsb.ca

We want to take this opportunity to thank our BOSS family for everything you have done to keep our students learning and supported through this challenging time. It truly does take a village.



Message from the Director

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of the school year, we wanted to provide updates and information on a number of topics that you may have questions about. While we don't have all the information at this time, we will endeavour to share as much as possible and provide further updates as they become available.

Mental Health Support and Tips for Parents Related to Anti-Black Racism

As mentioned in [previous messages](#), our Board is taking significant steps to address anti-Black racism and support our students and staff. We have heard from our community partners that families are looking for support and referrals, particularly those that will continue to be available throughout the summer. As such, we have posted information on our website with [mental health support](#) and age appropriate [resources for families to discuss anti-Black racism](#). We know there continues to be much work to be done to address anti-Black racism, and we will continue to update the Board's website with more information on resources and actions, including live virtual sessions for Black children and families and partnership opportunities and services offered by Black community organizations.

Device Collection

Did you borrow a chrome book or internet device from your child's school?

- At this time, devices will only be collected from students who are leaving YRDSB (i.e., students who are graduating or transferring to another school board).
- Students who are staying in the York Region District School Board for the 2020-21 school year can hold onto their devices until further notice.
- For those students who are graduating or leaving YRDSB, please return your device next week.

Student Material Retrieval and Return Process

- During the week of June 15, students and their families will have the opportunity to retrieve personal items from their classrooms/lockers in their school.
- Students/families have received notification from their school and are asked to sign up for a specific date/time.
- Students are also asked to return any school items such as library books, musical instruments, textbooks, etc.

Graduations, Scholarships and Recognition

- As previously communicated, all graduations have been postponed until the fall.
- Scholarships and awards will be determined in June and awards will officially be presented in the fall. Monetary awards will be distributed to recipients over the summer.
- Students will get most documents at graduation in the fall. This includes diplomas, certificates, SHSM certificates, class photos, etc.
- To help recognize graduates from both our elementary and secondary schools, each school will have a congratulatory banner placed on the outside of the building.
- Grade 12 students who need a copy of their transcript can contact their school to request a copy.

Last Day of School/PD days

- As per the direction from the Ministry of Education, all remaining PD days for the 2019-2020 school year are now instructional days.
- This means that the PD days originally scheduled on June 25 (for secondary) and June 26 (for elementary and secondary) will be instructional days.
- Teachers will have office hours scheduled on these dates.
- Online platforms, e.g., Google Classroom, for students to access will continue to be available to the end of the school year.
- As teachers will be on summer break after June 26, online platform sites will not be monitored. To ensure student online safety, access will be discontinued by June 26 (the last day of school).

2020-2021 School Year Calendar

- The proposed 2020-2021 School Year Calendars were submitted to the Ministry of Education for review and final approval.
- Due to the current conditions, the Ministry has stated that the review and approval process has been put on pause and is indicating Boards should receive a response later this month.
- Calendars are not official until they receive formal Ministry approval and will be communicated as soon as we receive approval.

YRDSB Summer Programs

- To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Continuing Education Services is adjusting its Summer Learning program offerings to align with public health guidelines.
- As a result, Summer Institute programming (scheduled to run July 6 - August 14) is cancelled for this summer.
- Refunds will be remitted to those who have already registered and paid by early June. If you have any questions or have not received your refund, please contact Performanceplus.si@yrdsb.ca.
- Please note this applies to Summer Institute only and other [summer programs](#), such as summer school, will be proceeding where possible within an online environment.
- Traditional in-class, face-to-face summer programs will move to a remote learning delivery model as per Ministry direction.
- We will continue to follow Ministry direction and if there are any changes to our program delivery model we will communicate those changes.
- We encourage families and students to continue to monitor our [Board's website](#), and Twitter account, [@YRDSB](#), as updated information will be posted in those forums.

September 2020

- The Ministry of Education has stated that they are working on a framework for reopening of schools in September.
- We are expecting to receive further information on this framework later this month and will update parents as soon as we are able.
- For the school year start, we will be developing plans for how orientation days (i.e., Grade 9 Transition day, Kindergarten Orientation day) will be facilitated within the Ministry's framework.

We know this has been a very stressful and challenging year, and we want to thank all of our students, families and staff for their patience as we have worked through finding new ways to learn together. We expect to have more information about school reopening in the next couple of weeks and will share this information as soon as it becomes available. We look forward to welcoming our students, staff and families back to school.

Sincerely,
Louise Sirisko
Director of Education

Course Change Requests for 2020-21

Students wishing to make changes to their courses for next year are strongly encouraged to make those requests **as soon as possible**. It is much more challenging to fulfill requests in September for all parties.

Please have students fill out their change request at: bit.ly/BOSSchanges2021. A counsellor will send follow up details and confirmation emails.

While we may not be able to accommodate every request received, students will be placed on Wait Lists and receive priority to spaces that become available in the new year.

Summer School 2020-21

YRDSB Summer School courses will continue to be offered during the month of July. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Continuing Education Services is adjusting its Summer Learning program offerings to align with public health guidelines. Please be advised that our traditional in class face-to-face summer programs will move to a remote learning delivery model as per Ministry direction.

For students wishing still to register for summer school, please review the offerings for both Remote Learning Summer School and eLearning Summer School. Once you have decided on your program choice, you must complete the Bur Oak Request form before registering for any summer credit program. (Please note, this also includes Private School and International Languages programs offered in other school boards)

bit.ly/BOSSsummerRequest

For more information about YRDSB Offerings please see the two sites listed below.

[Remote Learning Summer School](#)

[Summer School eLearning](#)

Please note: All summer school courses require parent/guardian permission that needs to be received by our department. Please ensure that you complete all steps. For those families who have still not confirmed after their scheduled meeting should make arrangements quickly as spaces are running out for both Summer courses and the possible replacement course for next year.

New Information: Credit Upgrading Program

YRDSB has just announced a two-week upgrade program that is currently being offered for Grade 11 and 12 students. Running from July 6-16, this package of courses will be offered for select Math, Science and English offerings. Please check with your counsellor for more details.

Parent/Guardian(s), students, and all YRDSB staff at our Secondary schools will no longer be able to see any attendance data within Edsby. Parents/Guardians should connect with their school office for accurate student attendance information. Student and Parent/Guardian contact information, as well as information related to timetables will still be available through Edsby.

Supporting Online Learning

While schools will remain closed for the rest of the school year, we will continue to support your child's learning and well-being. We know that learning at home looks different for each family. We have developed a number of resources and tips to help students and families, including:

- [How to log in and use online learning platforms](#), including Google, Edsby and D2L. Short videos are also available.
- [Tips for families to support online learning](#).
- [Student Tech Help](#) form for support with student technology provided by the Board and accessing online learning platforms.
- [Mental health](#) and [community resources](#) for students and families.
- [Resources for students with special education needs](#).

To learn more about our [Learning and Caring Plan](#), access these resources and more, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/covid19. Google translate is available on our website.

Attention Parents and Guardians

Please be advised that teachers may be trying to get in touch with you regarding your student and may be calling from a blocked telephone number.

Graduating Student Reminders and Updates

Families are encouraged to keep an eye on their emails from Post-Secondary Institutions to confirm details and ensure they submit their confirmation for selected programs before the stated deadlines. Students who are concerned about options should make arrangements to connect with their Guidance Counsellor.

Scholarship and Awards Updates

Just a reminder to families, we do update our [Scholarship and Awards](#) page with information we receive from many community resources.

Students who will be receiving awards from the Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA), please note that the event has been rescheduled to November, 2020.

International Languages - Secondary Students

Registration for International Languages Courses for September are now being accepted. If you are interested in these courses, please register through MyBlueprint. Mr. Milberg will follow-up with you with an appointment to review your request. More information can be found in the link below:

[International Languages - Secondary Students](#)

NEW! Grade 8 Reach Ahead 2020 Summer Credit Language Program & Grade 9 to 12 Students (Spanish & Mandarin)

- Grade 8 students can now take a Grade 9 credit course this summer in Spanish or Mandarin.
- Grades 9 to 12 students can now take Level B or C summer credit courses in Spanish or Mandarin.
- Prerequisites are not required for any Level B international languages course.
- This is an 18-day program (July 6-29, Monday to Friday, 8:45 a.m. to 3:33 p.m. daily) for one credit introductory (Level B) international languages course.

Click on the attached [YRDSB link](#) for more information and details regarding registration.

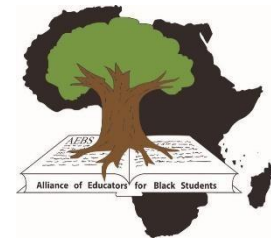
Notice:

During the school closure related to the current Pandemic, referrals to CRES partners listed below can continue to be made by YRDSB Psychology and Social Work, as well as directly by parents/families/student (as applicable). Some of our partners are offering a limited range of services. Please contact these agencies directly to learn more about their current offering of service.

Click on the attached link for helpful YRDSB information regarding [COVID 19 Community Resources for Behaviour, Mental Health and Financial Supports](#).

Please refer to the attached links for more YRDSB information regarding [Novel Coronavirus FAQ](#) and [Novel Coronavirus Updates](#).

York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol](#) to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. The Student Suicide Intervention Protocol will be implemented starting fall 2019. Please take a moment to review the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol notice YRDSB Student that is a part of the YRDSB website.



AEBS 2020 Scholarships for Black Students

Graduating from York Region District School Board High Schools

The Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS) is dedicated to the success of Black students of African Canadian heritage in schools in the YRDSB. Unfortunately, AEBS had to cancel the 2020 Achievement Awards Ceremony due to COVID-19. However, AEBS believes it is important for students to have access to funds to help pay for their postsecondary education.

AEBS invites Black students who are graduating to [apply](#) for a scholarship online.

The deadline to apply is Monday, June 15, 2020.

More [information](#) about AEBS Scholarships is available online or contact:

Charlotte Reid; charlotte.reid@yrdsb.ca
Elaine Ricketts; elaine.ricketts@yrdsb.ca
Jaymyi Lesmond; jaymyi.lesmond@yrdsb.ca

MARKHAM AFRICAN CARIBBEAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

2020 Scholarship Application Package



The **Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (MACCA)** has awarded scholarships to students going to College or University for the past 32 years.

The MACCA event will take place in November, 2020. Please follow the attached link in order to access the full [**MACCA Scholarship Application Package 2020**](#). And note that the deadline to apply is Friday, June 26th, 2020.