



Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School

January 10, 2025

Timetable

Homeroom	8:20 - 8:25 a.m.
1	8:25 - 9:40 a.m.
2	9:45 - 11:00 a.m.
3	11:05 - 12:20 p.m.
4	12:25 - 1:40 p.m.
5	1:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Exam Information

The Exam Schedule and Information Memo was emailed to families and can be found on our webpage:

<http://denison.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

Students are encouraged to connect with their teachers for more information.



[@DrDenisonSS](#) on Instagram

February 25, 2025

Grad Photo Retake Day &
Semester 2 New Registration
Photos

Important Dates

Jan. 13: School Council at 6:30 PM
Jan. 22: Period 1 Exams
Jan. 23: Period 2 Exams
Jan. 24: Period 3 Exams
Jan. 27: Period 4 Exams
Jan. 28: Period 5 Exams
Jan. 29: Lunar New Year
Jan. 29: Instructional Day
Jan. 30: Exam Review Day/Severe
Weather Day (if needed)
Jan. 31: PA Day
Feb. 3: Semester 2 Begins

School Contact Information

Principal

Seiji Ishiguro

Vice-Principals

Elissa D'Souza
Deborah Austring

135 Bristol Road, Newmarket,
ON, L3Y 8J7 (905)836-0021

<http://denison.ss.yrdsb.ca/>

Superintendent

Farooq Shabbar

Trustee Name

Carolyn Butterworth
Pamela McCarthy

Denison School Website

[Denison Homepage](#)

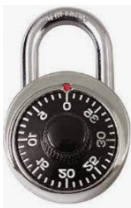
Semester 1 Exam Week Schedule

January 22	Period 1 Culminating Activities/Exams												
January 23	Period 2 Culminating Activities/Exams												
January 24	Period 3 Culminating Activities/Exams												
January 27	Period 4 Culminating Activities/Exams												
January 28	Period 5 Culminating Activities/Exams												
January 29	Instructional Day - Lunar New Year												
January 30	Exam Review Day Severe Weather Day (if needed)												
<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="2">EXAM REVIEW DAY Thursday, January 30</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Period 1</td> <td>8:20 – 8:57 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Period 2</td> <td>9:02 – 9:39 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Period 3</td> <td>9:44 – 10:21 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Period 4</td> <td>10:26 – 11:03 a.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Period 5</td> <td>11:08 – 11:45 a.m.</td> </tr> </table>		EXAM REVIEW DAY Thursday, January 30		Period 1	8:20 – 8:57 a.m.	Period 2	9:02 – 9:39 a.m.	Period 3	9:44 – 10:21 a.m.	Period 4	10:26 – 11:03 a.m.	Period 5	11:08 – 11:45 a.m.
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January 31	PA Day												
February 3	Semester 2 Begins												

We would like to remind families that the **only excused absences from final exams are for medical and legal appointments.** If your child needs to miss a final exam for one of these reasons, please ensure that appropriate documentation is provided to the school administration. A missed exam or culminating activity could result in a "zero" and will negatively impact your child's mark in the course.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Lockers



Lockers are assigned to students with school locks provided. For safety reasons, only locks provided by the school can be used on lockers. Additionally, students must keep their lockers locked at all times. If a student lock is found not locked on the locker, or if a locker has a lock that is not provided by the school, the student will be notified.

A student may lose their locker privileges if they do not continue to abide by these rules. Lost locks have a replacement fee of \$10.00. Thank you.

Library

The Library team would like to provide notice that there will be an interruption to the device loan services provided through the Learning Commons as we prepare for and administer the Grade 9 Math EQAO assessment.

On Friday, January 10th, we will not be lending out any devices as assessments are occurring all day. We will also have a very limited number of devices to be loaned out during the Exam period, specifically on January 22, 23, 24, and 27. Please remind your child(ren) of this so that they can plan ahead for these dates if they anticipate they will need a device.

Additionally, please help us to remind your child(ren) that if they are borrowing devices on the last day of classes prior to exams, they are to return their devices to the Library by the end of the day.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

MOBYSS



Visits to Denison:

- January 23
- February 20
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 12

January Observances

[Student Trustee Area Voting](#)

January 13 to January 17, 2025

[Social Media and Mental Health](#)

January 15, 2025

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#)

January 17, 2025

[Maintenance Day](#)

January 18, 2025

[Tamil Heritage Month Gala in Vaughan](#)

January 18, 2025

[No Smoking Week](#)

January 19-25, 2025

[Tamil Heritage Month Markham Thai Pongal](#)

January 19, 2025

[No Name-Calling Week](#)

January 20-24, 2025

[The Tenants' Housing Rights Free Virtual Workshop](#)

January 20, 2025

[Lincoln Alexander Day](#)

January 21, 2025

[Wellbeing & Mindfulness Workshop](#)

January 23, 2025

[International Day of Education](#)

January 24, 2025

[World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture](#)

January 24, 2025

[OPSBA Public Education Symposium](#)

January 24, 2025

[Tamil Heritage Month Tai Pongal Stouffville Celebration 2025](#) - January 26, 2025

[Family Literacy Day](#)

January 27, 2025

[International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust](#) - January 27, 2025

[Families of YRDSB Black Students Monthly Information Session](#) - January 27, 2025

[National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia](#) - January 29, 2025

[Lunar New Year](#)

January 29, 2025



FREE DROP IN BASKETBALL
HOSTED BY PLAYFOREVER

A TYPICAL SESSION:
Basketball skill work, 4v4/5v5 & workshops catered to high school students in York Region

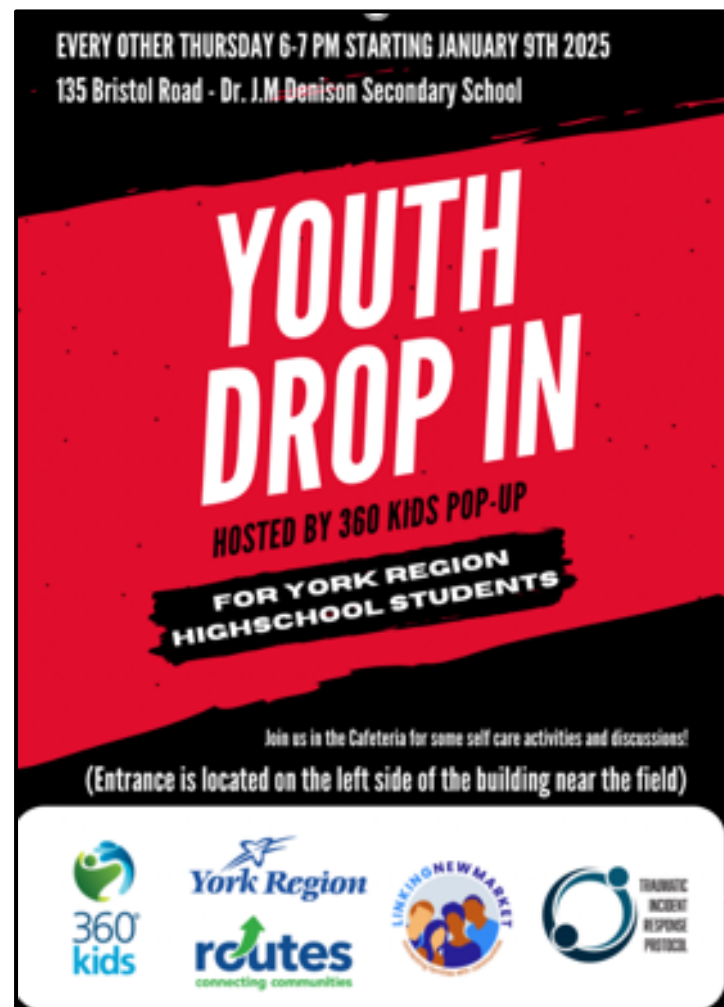
SCHEDULE:
Thursdays 6 to 8 PM - January 9th to April 3rd 2025
No events on March 13th

ADMISSION:
Positive Attitude

LOCATION:
DR. J.M Denison Secondary School Gymnasium -
135 Bristol Road, Newmarket
(Entrance is located on the left side of the building near the field)

FOR MORE EVENT INFO, GO TO LINKINGNEWMARKET.CA

LINKINGNEWMARKET, routes connecting communities, York Region, PLAY FOREVER



EVERY OTHER THURSDAY 6-7 PM STARTING JANUARY 9TH 2025
135 Bristol Road - Dr. J.M Denison Secondary School

YOUTH DROP IN
HOSTED BY 360 KIDS POP-UP
FOR YORK REGION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Join us in the Cafeteria for some self care activities and discussions!
(Entrance is located on the left side of the building near the field)

360 kids, York Region, routes connecting communities, LINKINGNEWMARKET, TRAUMATIC INCIDENT RESPONSE PROTOCOL

Guidance Notes

Course Selection Assemblies for 2025/2026

Wednesday, January 8 - Monday, January 13 during period 5

Grade 9's	Wed. Jan. 8	two 30 minute presentations
Grade 10's	Thurs. Jan. 9	two 30 minute presentations
Grade 11's	Fri. Jan. 10	two 30 minute presentations
Returning Grade 12's	Mon. Jan. 13	one 30 minute presentation

Course Selection Information shared during the assemblies will be posted on the Guidance Google Classrooms.

Thursday, February 13 - Students can begin locking in course selections, in MyPathway Planner at 9:00 am

Friday, February 21 - Course Selection due in MyPathway Planner by 4:00 pm

No paper copy is required, parent approval through email via Pathway Planner.

Supports for Course Selections

- **Tuesday, February 11** - Course Fair Period 1, for 30 minutes
- **Monday, February 10 - Friday, February 14** - Pop-up Guidance in the Main Hallway at the start of lunch periods 2, 3 and 4
- **Wed. to Fri., February 19-21** - Course Selection Support in room 127 - students can visit during their lunch period

Post-Secondary Application Information

For more information on applying to both OCAS and OUAC please see the following links:

Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) - Equal consideration date to apply: Feb. 1, 2024

[Ontario Colleges - Apply](#)

Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) - Deadline to apply: Jan. 15th, 2025

[OUAC Student Application Information](#)

Denison Graduation 2025 - Our Grade 12 Graduation date June 25, 2025

Timetable Changes for Semester 2

- **Most semester 2 classes are full with waitlists** - currently 175 students on waitlists for semester 2 courses
- Students need to see Guidance BEFORE Semester 2 begins to make a timetable change, so that we can add you to a waitlist(s)
 - Guidance appointments available for booking now - Jan. 21
 - Walk-in to Guidance to speak with a Counsellor over exams - no appointment bookings available, walk-in only from Jan. 22 - 30, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
- Starting Semester 2 there will be NO GOOGLE FORM for timetable changes and NO APPOINTMENTS
 - for the first 2 days of semester 2, **students on lunch/spare** will line up outside Guidance to be added to waitlist(s)

Night School Credit Courses

Semester Two - Winter 2025 - Registration opens on December 16, 2024

February 13, 2025 to June 5, 2025

<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/adult-learning/night-school-credit-courses/night-school-courses-offered>

Please be advised that our traditional in class face-to-face Night School program will move to a remote learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous). Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm.

We encourage students to register early as course offerings are not guaranteed and are subject to sufficient enrollment.

Graduation



Graduating students should save the date for their Graduation Ceremony which will be held on Wednesday, **June 25, 2025** at 7:00 p.m. at Dr. Denison Secondary School. The \$40.00 Graduation Fee is now available for payment on www.schoolcashonline.com, and is due by April 1, 2025.

Inclement Weather

Bus or School Cancellations

With winter weather here, we want to share some important reminders for families.

When an **inclement weather** or **extreme cold** day is declared, school transportation (including buses and taxis) is cancelled in the morning and afternoon. Schools will remain open. If you drive your child to school, or your child takes alternate transportation, you must make arrangements for your child to get home at the end of the day. Please call the school if your child will not be attending school on those days. Students will not be penalized for missing school on these days.

There may be rare instances when **emergency winter events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. Please take the time to make plans in the event of an emergency school closure.

Information about transportation cancellations and Board closures will be shared through local media, [Board](#) and school websites and on [X @YRDSB](#).

Our process for extreme cold, inclement weather and emergency weather days is outlined in the Board's [Severe Weather policy](#).

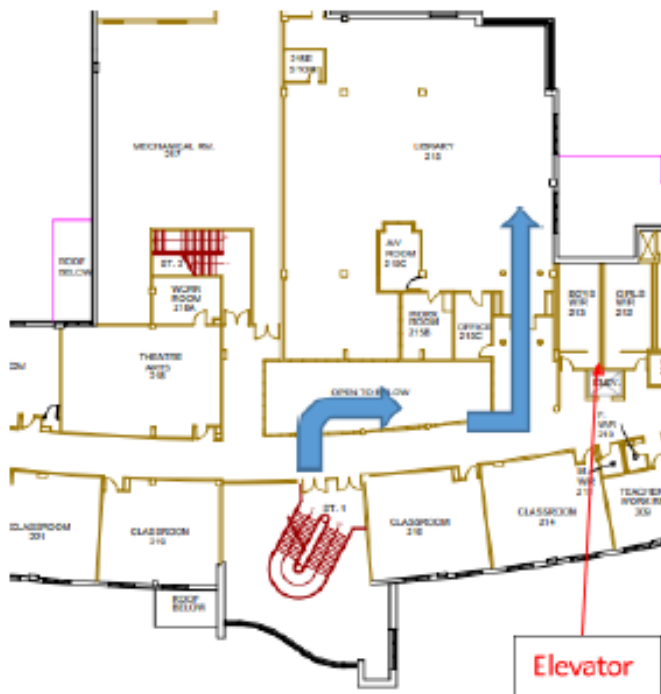
[JOIN MEETING ONLINE](#)



Monday, January 13, 2025

On behalf of your 2024/2025 Executive, please join us for our School Council meeting **in the Library at 6:30 PM.** If you enter by the front doors, use the main stairs to access the 2nd floor and turn right. If you would like to join us virtually, please click on the link below:

[Join Meeting Online](#)



By participating and/or attending School Council meetings, you can learn about current events in the school and board. At the meeting(s) we will explore how you can contribute to the education of Denison's students through partnership with the school and board.

During the second School Council meeting, we will be discussing the goals and objectives for our School Council for the upcoming year.

Agenda	
6:30	Land Acknowledgment
6:35	Student/support staff/staff reports
6:55	Admin Items
7:00	Fundraising Discussion
7:30	Positive Social Spaces
7:45	PRO Grant Discussion

Building Opening Time

The school building opens at **6:45 a.m.** each morning. Please plan your child's arrival accordingly, as access to the building will not be available before this time.

If your child arrives to school between 6:45 and 8:00, they are expected to remain in the "pit" area or cafeteria unless they are participating in a supervised activity, such as a practice or rehearsal.

Class Attendance

During class time, all students should be in their designated classrooms. If students need to leave the classroom for any reason, they must have permission from the teacher. To promote an environment conducive to learning, staff may ask students their name and current classroom if students are in the halls during class time, including lunch periods. We appreciate students' ongoing cooperation and respect for the learning environment.

Lunch Periods

This is a reminder the cafeteria is the designated location for students to eat lunch. Eating in stairwells, classrooms, and hallways is not allowed. This policy helps us keep our school clean and ensures that everyone has a pleasant dining experience.

TEN TIPS FOR MANAGING STRESS DURING EXAMS

SIGNS OF STRESS MAY INCLUDE:

- Physical: Muscle tension/aches and pains, sweating, increased heart rate/breathing, increased/decreased appetite
- Emotional: Sense of loneliness, feeling overwhelmed, irritability, restlessness
- Behavioural: nail biting or pacing, sleeping too much or too little, using drugs or alcohol to relax



TIPS FOR MANAGING EXAM STRESS

- 1** Prepare by making a to-do list and prioritizing things to do based on their due dates and importance
- 2** Get organized so you will have more time to learn, and the information will stay in your long-term memory for the exam.
- 3** Getting 8-10 hours of sleep is important as it improves mood and decreases anxiety.
- 4** Practice sleep hygiene by turning off electronic devices half hour before bed
- 5** Practice techniques such as deep breathing, being physically active, healthy eating, positive self talk, or listening to music
- 6** On exam day eat a well-balanced meal, practice deep breathing, and avoid last-minute studying
- 7** Before your exam, use the washroom, take a deep breath, and use positive self-talk
- 8** During your exam, read through the instructions carefully and re-visit questions you do not know
- 9** If you are stuck during an exam, answer the easier questions first so you can focus on the harder questions next
- 10** Speak to your teacher or guidance counselor for some tips on how to manage your time and workload or if you are feeling stressed

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675
TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/healthyschools



Tamil Heritage Month – January 2025



Tamil Heritage Month aims to celebrate the richness of the Tamil language and its literature and highlight Tamil Canadians' vibrant traditions, histories, arts, and cultures. In addition, it seeks to recognize the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians in key areas of social, cultural, economic, and political spheres. This year, Pongal will start on January 14, 2025 and continue for four days concluding on January 17, 2025. Thai

Pongal is the most important and widely-celebrated festival amongst Tamils around the globe. Thai Pongal is a time to give thanks for the previous year's blessings and a time to look forward to the New Year.

Registration Link for BSA Drop In

BSA

Drop In

Dates

2025

If you haven't already registered, please do so on this [Google Form](#).

Wed
4-5 p.m.
MS Teams

An illustration of four diverse people (two men and two women) hugging each other in a circle. They are wearing colorful clothing: a man in an orange shirt and yellow pants, a woman in a green top and blue pants, a woman in a blue and white striped shirt and pink pants, and a woman in a yellow top and orange pants. The background is a light beige color with a large orange circle behind the text.

January 15	March 19	April 09	May 14
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Lunar New Year, also called Spring Festival, is the most important holiday in China. The festival is also celebrated in Vietnam (where it's known as Tet), North and South Korea (where it's known as Solnal) and Tibet (where it is called Losar). In 2025, Lunar New Year will begin on January 29, 2025.

Tied to the Chinese lunar calendar, the holiday began as a time for feasting and to honor household and heavenly deities, as well as ancestors. With the popular adoption of the Western calendar in 1912, the Chinese joined in celebrating January 1 as New Year's Day. China, however, continues to celebrate Lunar New Year with the traditional greeting, "Kung hei fat choi."

Extended Absence

If a parent/guardian is planning on withdrawing his/her son or daughter from school to go on a family vacation during school time, support of the vice-principal is required. When considering a request, the vice-principal shall take into account the following criteria:

1. A satisfactory justification is presented
2. The length and timing of the planned absence. Support will not be given to a request for absence during an examination period.
3. The holiday will be in the company of a parent(s)/guardian.
4. The student's attendance has been satisfactory.
5. The student is making satisfactory academic progress.

The student is making satisfactory academic progress.

Note: A contact with parents/guardians by the vice-principal may follow the request.

At least two weeks prior to departure, a parent/guardian must complete the top section of the green absence application available at the Main Office. The student is to ask teachers to complete the "Content to be Missed" section. Once this is done, this student is to submit the form to his/her vice-principal.

Your child's academic achievement may suffer, resulting in a lower final grade, when learning experience are missed because of extended holidays.

Peer Tutoring

This year's Peer Tutoring Program is up and running! This program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday during Periods 2, 3, and 4 in Room 131.

In peer tutoring, students who are strong in certain subjects help their classmates who may need a little extra help. This is a great way for students to understand their schoolwork better, build confidence, and make new friends.

We encourage you to talk to your child about joining if they feel like they need help with improving their grade, catching up on schoolwork, and progressing in their academics.

Thank you for your support!

Denison Cares

Our school has started a Denison Cares Account accessible on www.schoolcashionline.ca

You can donate any amount of money to support students, who may need financial assistance, so that they can participate in sports, club activities or school events (e.g., field trips).

Any donated amount is greatly appreciated and will mean so much to our students.

Thank you for your support.

Mental Health Supports

2024-2025 Vaping and Mental Health

[Vaping and Mental Health Fact Sheet](#)

DENISON'S CHAPTER

JACK.ORG

<https://jack.org/covid>

<https://jack.org/Resources/Find-Support>

Although jack.org is an advocacy group and not a service provider, this page on their site contains links to a variety of different mental health support/information websites.

BE THERE

<https://bethere.org/Home>

<https://bethere.org/Be-There-in-a-Crisis>

KIDS HELP PHONE

<https://kidshelpphone.ca/>

ANXIETY CANADA

<https://www.anxietycanada.com/>

CMHA

<https://cmha-yr.on.ca/>

<https://ontario.cmha.ca/>

<https://toronto.cmha.ca/youth-zone/>

CRISIS SERVICES CANADA: 1-833-456-4566

This hotline deals with crisis support and suicide prevention

Report It

Our schools should be safe, welcoming and inclusive places for everyone. It is important that students know what to do if they witness or experience inappropriate behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination.

- There may be situations when you can safely step in and intervene and help.
- Talk to an adult at school, family member or other trusted adult.
- Report the event without the person involved knowing using our online reporting tool, Report It.

Report It lets you share information about inappropriate student behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination. You can use the online form to report:

- bullying, drugs, cheating, vandalism, harassment, violence or any other inappropriate behaviour
- incidents of discrimination or hate, including anti-Indigenous racism, ableism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Black racism, antisemitism, classism, homophobia, Islamophobia, sexism, transphobia or other forms of hate

You can report events that happen at school, at school-related events, online or off school property if it negatively affects a student or the school climate. You can also choose to make a report anonymously.

Complete reports are shared with the school to investigate and respond.

Acts of discrimination, hate and bullying are never acceptable. Using the Report It tool is a way of standing up for each other and for ourselves.

You can find Report It on the homepage of the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca and on the homepage of every school website.