



Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School

February 6-10, 2023

Timetable

Homeroom	8:30 – 8:35 a.m.
Period 1	8:35 – 9:50 a.m.
Period 2	9:55 – 11:10 a.m.
Lunch	11:10 – 12:20 p.m.
Period 3	12:25 – 1:40 p.m.
Period 4	1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Exam Review Day – Timetable

Exam Review Day - Morning - February 6, 2023

Semester 2 Begins - Afternoon - February 6, 2023

Students have the right to review their completed examination after it has been evaluated. This opportunity is on the Examination Review Day and will take place on the morning of February 6, 2023.

February 6, 2023	
8:30-8:35	Homeroom
8:35-9:11	Sem 1 Period 1
9:16-9:52	Sem 1 Period 2
9:57-10:33	Sem 1 Period 3
10:38-11:13	Sem 1 Period 4
11:13-12:13	Lunch
12:18 - 12:55	Sem 2 Period 1
1:00 - 1:37	Sem 2 Period 2
1:42 - 2:19	Sem 2 Period 3
2:24 - 3:00	Sem 2 Period 4

Important Dates

Feb. 1: Black History Month
Feb. 6: Exam Review Day- AM
Feb. 6: Semester 2 Begins - PM
Feb. 21: Family Day
Feb. 28: Grad Photo Retakes
Mar. 13-17: March Break

School Contact Information

Principal

Alex Corry

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

Visit the Denison Webpage

[Morning Announcements](#)

To Report an Absence

call **(905)836-0021** or
email dr.j.m.denison.ss@yrdsb.ca

Message from Our Trustees

February 2023

We hope everyone has had a wonderful start to 2023, and enjoyed their winter break.

One of the most important roles of school board trustees is **communicating with the public**. We hope to use this newsletter as one way to keep you updated on Board news, to communicate our role as trustees and how we can support you, and to answer some of the questions we are often asked as trustees.

Communicating with the public includes both sharing information and attending events to build relationships with families.

We have been attending as many school events as we can, and it has been wonderful to meet students and families and make those connections. We are also planning to attend **school council meetings**, and encourage you to check the date for your next meeting and come out and join us. We are also looking at additional opportunities to engage with families and will continue to communicate those with you.

Communicating with the public also means ensuring we are available to you. If you have questions about Board policies or budget, concerns about your community, ideas and suggestions, or have a question and don't know [who to call](#), please feel free to reach out. We are happy to assist you.

Our Board of Trustees is made up of 12 trustees elected during the municipal election process, and one Indigenous trustee appointed through a separate process. Eight of the 12 elected trustees are new this term, and we are all looking forward to connecting with families and fulfilling our roles to support student achievement and well-being.

What do Trustees Do?

In addition to communicating with the public, we are also responsible for:

Establishing a Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This [plan](#) sets out our priorities as a school board and guides our direction and decision making as a system.

Setting policy. [Policies](#) govern the operation of our schools and organization, including field trips, school transportation, homework, caring and safe schools and much more. You can find out which policies are up for review in our [meeting agendas](#), or which [policies are out for comment](#) on the website. Your participation in this process is important to ensuring our policies are serving our communities and align with our priorities.

Setting an annual budget. We look forward to sharing more information about this process with you in the coming months as we engage in [budget](#) consultations.

Participating on Board and Advisory Committees. You can find the dates and agendas for these meetings on the Board website. You are welcome to attend and observe any [public Board, Advisory and Board Committee meetings](#).

Hiring the Director of Education. This process is governed by the [Director of Education Selection Policy](#), and we will keep you updated as this process progresses. In the meantime, we are deeply grateful to Interim Director of Education Scott Yake for his commitment and service.

Advocating for quality public education. We became school board trustees because we believe in public education. We believe in the potential of each and every one of our students and our responsibility to nurture their learning, growth and achievement. Our decisions as a board are centred on our commitment to deliver the best for our students.

What's Happening in YRDSB

[Kindergarten](#) registration opened January 20 for families with children who will start Kindergarten in September 2023.

[French Immersion registration](#) is open from January 20-February 6 for students entering Grade 1 in September 2023.

[Student trustee elections](#) are currently underway. All students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity to vote for the student trustees who will represent them next school year.

In February, we recognize Black History Month, celebrating the contributions of Black people to the fabric of our society. We encourage you to visit the Board's [Centre for Black Student Excellence webpage](#) and [newsletter](#) to learn more about upcoming events during Black History Month and what's happening in the Board to celebrate Black excellence.

Family Day and the March Break are also approaching and we hope everyone enjoys the break.

There are a number of other events for families coming up and we encourage you to check the [Board calendar](#).

New and Replacement Schools

One of the other questions we are asked, particularly in growing communities is about new schools or capital projects. We can let you know that in our municipalities the following [capital projects](#) have received approval: In East Gwillimbury:

- [Sharon Public School replacement](#), proposed to open September 2024
- [Queensville Elementary School](#) replacement. Proposed to open September 2026

There are many ways you can stay up-to-date with what's happening in our school board. Visit the [newsroom](#) or website homepage at www.yrdsb.ca. Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow the Board on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#). Read your school newsletters and emails. We look forward to staying connected with you.

Carolyn Butterworth
Trustee, Georgina and East Gwillimbury
Carolyn.butterworth@yrdsb.ca
(905) 251-7959

Pamela McCarthy
Trustee, Newmarket
pamela.mccarthy@yrdsb.ca
(289) 716-3359



St. John Ambulance - Therapy Dog Program

Visiting DDSS on Wednesday February 8, 2023



During lunch, students are encouraged to visit a St. John Ambulance Dog! This event has been organized by the Jack.org Chapter at Dr. Denison SS. (Sign ups will be available outside the cafeteria on Feb 6th and 7th.)

About the Program

The St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program builds on our proud tradition of community service by bringing the benefits of pet companionship to students stressed from exams and the start of a new semester.



St. John Ambulance Therapy Dogs are part of a team consisting of a volunteer handler and their pet companion dog. These teams have undergone screening for suitability that includes criminal record checks, references, dog evaluations and canine vaccinations. Members are volunteers that dedicate their personal time to bring the companionship of a dog to those that would benefit from some comfort and touch from a canine.

The Benefits of the Program

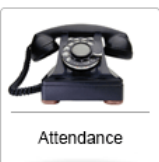
St. John Ambulance has set out to fulfill a single mission: improving the health, safety and quality of life of Canadians. Aiming to satisfy this mission, the Therapy Dog Program yields many benefits. Studies have shown that holding or petting an animal helps lower blood pressure, calm people who are agitated and refresh the mind. A dog can give comfort that sometimes no words can offer. They provide more than just a warm furry body; many dogs instinctively understand when someone needs comfort and offer it unconditionally - without judgment and without obligation.

Whether improving children's reading skills, helping anxious students unwind for exams, or visiting patients in senior facilities, the Therapy Dog teams are on-hand to bring warmth and comfort where it is needed most.

Attendance

Parent(s)/guardian(s)/students age 18 and older, and students who have declared their independence, must report all absences, late arrivals and/or changes to departure plans to the school in a timely manner. Where possible, notify in advance by calling the school at **(905)836-0021** and leaving a message on the answering machine or emailing the school at

dr.j.m.denison.ss@yrdsb.ca



The Attendance icon can also be accessed on our Denison school website.

An automated call/email will go home after Period 1 to notify parents/guardians of any absences or lates that haven't been approved. This call/email will also help as a reminder to guardians to please notify the school for any absences. An automated call/email will also go out at the end of the day for absences and lates that haven't been excused for the day.

If a student has been marked absent because they were late in error, they should speak with their teacher to have it revised.

Every Student Counts Survey

As was previously communicated, York Region District School Board will be engaging students (Grades K-12) in the [Every Student Counts Survey](#) from April 24, 2023 - May 12, 2023 to help us better understand our student population and school communities.

As part of the survey development process, our Research and Assessment Services team are engaging our external and internal stakeholders in a robust consultation process to gather feedback and input to help inform the survey development.

In order to gain valuable feedback from families, we ask that you please take sometime to review our draft surveys that are available on the [Board website](#) and provide your feedback through this [form](#). The form will be open from February 3, 2023 - February 10, 2023. Responses made through the feedback form are voluntary, confidential and anonymous. Families will receive a communication in advance of the survey implementation with details on how to opt students out of participating in the survey.

Student and family feedback is critical to the survey development process and helps to ensure that the survey is an accurate reflection of our school communities.

Thank you in advance for your input.

Guidance Notes

Wednesday, February 8 during Period 1 and 2: Grade 9 – 11 Assemblies

Grade 9's	Period 1	8:40 – 9:10 am
Grade 10's	Period 1	9:15 – 9:45 am
Grade 11's	Period 2	10:00 – 10:30 am

Monday, February 13 to Wednesday, February 15 during Period 2: Grade 12 Class Visits

** Grade 12 students will need their devices

Grade 12's	Period 2	Mon. Feb. 13	10:00 – 10:20 am	Co-op, MCV4U1
			10:30 – 10:50 am	NDW4M1, ENG4C1
	Period 2	Tues. Feb. 14	10:00 – 10:20 am	ENG4U1, PPL4O1
			10:30 – 10:50 am	MDM4U1
	Period 2	Wed. Feb. 15	10:00 – 10:20 am	Cafeteria for all Gr.12's not in a period 2, Gr.12 class

Wednesday, February 16 - Students can begin locking in course selections, in MyPathway Planner at 9:00 am

Friday, February 24 - Course Selection due in MyPathway Planner by 4:00 pm
No paper copy is required, parent approval through email via Pathway Planner

Husky Athletics




February is an exciting time for Denison Athletics with playoffs and OFSAA around the corner. The Senior Girls Volleyball and Senior Boys Basketball teams begin their playoff runs with the goal of an OFSAA bid. The Nordic Ski team is continuing with ski meets in preparation for OFSAA which is being held in Lakefield at the end of February.

The Junior Girls Volleyball team begins their season on February 9 and will play up until March Break. The girls are enthusiastic to take on the rest of the teams from the North of York Region.

Junior and Senior Coed Badminton tryouts will be beginning in a couple of weeks. Please listen to the announcements and look for signs for more information.

Go Huskies!!!




IYC FEBRUARY PROGRAM SCHEDULE


WE OFFER PROGRAMS IN TORONTO AND YORK REGION

CICS IMMIGRANT YOUTH CENTRE


Our Mission: To enhance immigrant youth's sense of community that is youth-led, youth-centered, and youth-developed in an inclusive, supportive, and diverse environment!




ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ACADEMIC SUPPORT




SELF-UNDERSTANDING & EXPRESSION




PRE-EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION SUPPORT



LEADERSHIP & LIFESKILLS TRAINING




HEALTH & WELLNESS



VOLUNTEERING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT


All programs and services are offered at no cost for immigrant youth ages 6 to 24!

WHAT WE OFFER:




Group Programming

- English language & academic support
- Pre-employment & education pathways
- Leadership opportunities & life skills training
- Community engagement and volunteering
- Field trips and community connections
- Summer and March Break Camps




One-on-One Supportive Services

- Settlement document support
- Post-secondary applications & resources
- Pre-employment and job search
- Homework and study skills support
- Supportive counselling and community referrals



Tutoring and Mentorship (Homework Club)

- Enhance English communication skills
- Individualized homework and study skills support
- Improve social skills and expand networks
- Learn about daily life in Canada



IYC Community Action Network (iCAN)

- Provide IYC youth a voice by developing initiatives to enhance engagement opportunities within the local community
- Build various skills and expand social networks
- Obtain hands-on leadership experience

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION:

infoiyc@cicscanada.com

647-209-1883

FUNDED BY:



Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



United Way
Greater Toronto



Ontario



COMMITTEE

YOUR GRADUATION PHOTO DAY IS HERE

Graduation Portraits at your school will be starting on:

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

To book an appointment please visit:

<https://www.brightpics.ca/bookyourappointment>

Create an account and book an appointment using the
JOB ID and GRAD ID provided below:

JOB ID: N9004R GRAD ID: fy8sKD5M

Each student is required to pay \$20.00 Sit Fee to the Photographer on Photo Day. This fee includes digital proofs as well as an 11" x 14" composite of the Graduating Class.

Your digital proofs will be sent to the email address used to register for your appointment

Your Graduation Portrait session should be a memorable event. Please take time to look your best! We recommend all graduates wear a white collared shirt for the best results!

Graduates may also wear a tie if they choose.

Please be on time for your appointment!

If you need to make a change or cancel your appointment please contact us at:

studio@brightpics.ca



Breakfast Program



Denison has a breakfast program for anybody who wants to get something to eat in the morning. It doesn't matter if you didn't have time to eat, or weren't hungry when you left home. From 8:00 a.m. -8:25 a.m. in Room 153, there will be cold cereal, hot oatmeal, bagels, yogurt, cheese, fruit, coffee, tea, juice, and hot chocolate (and occasionally other foods). Come and start the day with a good breakfast!

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.

Mental Health Supports

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://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