

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope this email finds you and your family well. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we communicate information to you.

In this email, you will find information about:

1. Online tools
2. [Student Timetable](#)
3. [Schedule for Sept. 10 and 11 - Adaptive Model](#)
4. [September 14, 2020](#)
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Over the summer, staff have been preparing for the safe return of your child to school. In August, families indicated their decision to send their children back to school following the adaptive or virtual model of learning.

Staff have reviewed families' choices and have processed cohorts, calendars and timetables. To support learning this year, students will become familiar with and access a number of digital resources and tools.

Google and TeachAssist

The first step for all students is to ensure that they have access to the Google Applications (GAPPS). All secondary students (Grades 9-12) will need access to their Google email and the [Google Learning Platform](#).

All students have been provided with a unique email and password for their ease of access and security. All student passwords follow the similar format:

User Name: [12345568@gapps.yrdsb.ca](#)

Password: XXXXXXXXXXXX

Students who are new to the board, or have forgotten their Username or Password, should contact their "home school" office staff to retrieve their Username and Password.

On September 8 or 9, students will receive an email to their GAPPS email account. They will receive a separate invitation for each course.

Students in Grades 10-12 are likely familiar with the [TeachAssist](#) program used in all our schools. TeachAssist is available to all students in Grades 9-12 and provides easy access to course timetables, teacher contacts, calendars and course grades. In TeachAssist, students use their student number as their user ID, and their password is the same board provided password.

[Tip sheets, videos and resources](#) to support families using some of these digital platforms are available on the Board website, including [how to access your GAPPS email account](#).

Grade 9 Students

After 5:30 p.m. on September 8, students in Grade 9 are now able to login to [TeachAssist](#) using their Username and Password to access their school timetable information. Cohort information will be provided at this time. All students were placed in either Cohort A or B, identifying which days they will attend face-to-face. Please note that new cohorts were created for each face-to-face class.

Students in **Cohort A** will have classes with section numbers from 1 through 49 and students in **Cohort B** will have classes with section numbers from **51 - 99**.

For example:

Cohort A **Cohort B**

First Day of School

September 10 September 11

English ENG1D1 - **01** ENG1D1 - **51**

French FSF1P1 - **03** FSF1P1 - **53**

Grade 9 Students in Cohort A (section numbers 1-49) will attend school on Thursday, September 10 for their first face-to-face class. In the afternoon, students will continue learning online for their blocks 2 - 4 classes. Students in Cohort A return to school and begin their regular schedule on Monday, September 14.

Grade 9 Students in Cohort B (section numbers 51-99) will attend school on Friday, September 11 for their first face-to-face class. In the afternoon, students will return home and continue to learn remotely for their blocks 2 - 4 classes. Students in Cohort B return to school and begin their regular schedule on Tuesday, September 15.

TeachAssist will also provide a student calendar to assist students. Students moving from Grade 8 to Grade 9 can use their existing Username and Password to access information through TeachAssist.

Grades 10-12 Students

On September 9, after 5:00 p.m, students in Grade 10-12 will be able to login to TeachAssist using their Username and Password to access their school timetable information. Cohort information will be provided at this time. All students will be placed in either Cohort **A** or **B**, identifying which days they will attend face-to-face.

Students in Cohort A will have classes with section numbers from **1 through 49** and students in Cohort B will have classes with section numbers from **51 - 99**.

For example:

SAMPLE	Cohort A		Cohort B	
	ENG2D1 -	01	ENG2D1 -	51
English				
	Class	Section	Class	Section
	AWQ201 -	06	AWQ201 -	56
Visual Arts				
	Class	Section	Class	Section

Students in Grades 10 - 12 will start school remotely on September 10. Classroom teachers will individually email students invitations to their GAPPS accounts.

Cohort A (section numbers 1-49) begin Face-to-Face school starting on Monday, September 14.

Cohort B (section numbers 51-99) begin Face-to-Face school starting on Tuesday, September 15.

Student Timetable

Our guidance team, office staff and administration team have been working hard over the past two weeks finalizing student timetables.

- Most up to date timetables can be accessed through [TeachAssist](#)
- Grade 9 students' timetables were available on Tuesday September 8, 2020 after 5:00 p.m.
- Grade 10-12 students' timetables will be available on Wednesday September 9, 2020 after 5:00 p.m.
- If your child does not know their YRDSB GAPPS or TeachAssist Username or password, please email us at dr.j.m.denison.ss@yrdsb.ca.

Students considering timetable changes must complete the Google form: [Course Change Request Form 2020-2021](#). The Google Form will be open on the morning of Thursday, September 10th. **Please have your child log into their YRDSB Gapps account before clicking on the “Course Change Request Form” link.** Course change requests will be dependent upon space and program availability. Please note that this form is only a request, and may not be able to be processed as classes are very full. Guidance will be keeping wait lists for 1 week based on these forms. If a request cannot be actualized it will be deleted as courses move forward very quickly due to the adaptive model of classes.

Schedule for September 10 and 11 - Adaptive Model

The transition days for Grade Nine cohorted students will focus on learning the layout of the building, initiating classes and developing skills for success. Our students in some of the Community Classes will attend all day commencing September 10, 2020 with information to follow for each student.

Please refer to the Board Website for information regarding [supported entry](#). You will find the Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School schedule for September 10 and 11 below.

Thursday Sept 10 th - Compressed Timetable	
Period 1 8:30-11:00 (F2F) Grade 9 Cohort A only (Grade 9 Cohort B has no programming)	Grades 10-12 Both Cohort A&B No morning block
Lunch (and/or travel home)	
	Period 1 – 12:25-1:00
Period 2 – 1:05-1:40	Period 2 – 1:05-1:40
Period 3 – 1:45-2:20	Period 3 – 1:45-2:20
Period 4 – 2:10-3:00	Period 4 – 2:10-3:00

Friday, Sept 11 th - Compressed Timetables	
Period 1 8:30-11:00 (F2F) Grade 9 Cohort B only (Grade 9 Cohort A has no programming)	Grades 10-12 Both Cohort A&B No morning block
Lunch (and/or travel home)	
	Period 1 – 12:25-1:00
Period 2 – 1:05-1:40	Period 2 – 1:05-1:40
Period 3 – 1:45-2:20	Period 3 – 1:45-2:20
Period 4 – 2:25-3:00	Period 4 – 2:25-3:00

September 14, 2020

The regular school schedule for all secondary school students will begin on September 14, 2020. **Students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:15 a.m. and asked to go directly to their class.** At 11:00 a.m. students will be dismissed from school and will have time to travel home, have lunch and prepare for their online course commencing at 12:30 pm.

The first rotation of 8 starts on Monday, Sept. 14th.

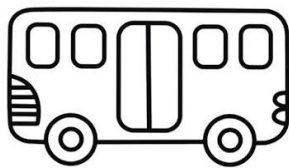
Monday, September 14th	Tuesday, September 15th
#Cohort A – all Grades	#Cohort B – all Grades
Period 1 – 8:30-11:00 (F2F) (Cohort B is working online)	Period 1 – 8:30-11:00 (F2F) (Cohort A is working online)
Lunch – 11:30 – 12:30	Lunch – 11:30 – 12:30
Period 2 – 12:30-1:20 (*online – whole class)	Period 2 – 12:30-1:20 (*online – whole class)
Period 3 – 1:20-2:10 (*online – whole class)	Period 3 – 1:20-2:10 (*online – whole class)
Period 4 – 2:10-3:00 (*online- whole class)	Period 4 – 2:10-3:00 (*online – whole class)

#Cohorts apply to face to face (F2F) in class portions only.

*Period of learning is 50 minutes. Expectation is that first 40 minutes are synchronous learning and last 10 minutes is asynchronous. This will allow for teacher and student break or transition between periods.

Rotation	Date Range	Period Order
1	September 14-25	F2F 1; Online 2, 3, 4
2	September 28- October 9	F2F 2; Online 1, 3, 4
3	October 13- 26	F2F 3; Online 4, 1, 2
4	October 27-November 9	F2F 4; Online 3,1,2
5	November 10- November 26	F2F 1; Online 2, 3, 4
6	November 27- December 14	F2F 2; Online 1, 3, 4
7	December 15- January 13	F2F 3; Online 4, 1, 2
8	January 14 - 29	F2F 4; Online 3, 1, 2

This information will be added to our Google calendar for students and families to access through the school website. <http://denison.ss.yrdsb.ca/>



To support arrival to and from school, York Region Transit has adjusted the bus schedules. If you need to drop your student at the school, please do so in the back parking lot (north west end of the school) to leave our bus loop open for students arriving by Board transit.



Start-Up Package

This year all students will finalize their registration using an electronic Start Up package. We will send this information about the package soon.

Health Care Plans

At the beginning of each school year, parents must inform the school in writing of any special health conditions or concerns that affect their child(ren). **If a student has a prevalent medical condition, Parents / Guardians must update the relevant Health Care Plan form for their child each year.**

If your child has one of the prevalent medical conditions listed below, please contact the respective Vice-Principal. i.e., Students with the last name starting from A to L contact Ms. Mott (candice.mott@yrdsb.ca) and last names starting from M to Z contact Ms. Godfrey (michelle.godfrey@yrdsb.ca).

- Anaphylaxis
- Asthma
- Diabetes – Type 1
- Epilepsy
- “Other” - some other health condition that requires monitoring and/or supportive environments.

Students should also advise each of their teachers about their needs.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important consideration in support of your child’s health.

Lunch/Study Hall:

The purpose of lunch and study hall is to provide a space for students who do not have consistent access to broadband Wi-Fi at home and are in school that day for their in-person morning class. During lunch and study hall, students will not have in-person access to their own classroom teachers.

Students who need to stay must be working on afternoon online courses while being supervised by a staff member. Students will be supervised to ensure safety. Supervision will focus on participants’ adherence to all Public Health requirements including sitting 2-meters apart only with students in their morning class.

During study hall, students must be respectful of the learning needs of all participants engaging in online classes. Students should use earphones and an appropriate volume while focusing on their learning. Students may not leave for lunch then re-enter school for study hall.

Students will need to complete a survey about intentions to access the study hall <https://forms.gle/yp4AKHjBm227ZD4g7> through the students gapps account on September 10 or 11, 2020

Items from Locker

At this point, lockers are not accessible to students. Items that were left at the end of the school year are safely stored in the lockers. New students will have lockers assigned once access to the lockers has been initiated.

Student Supports

Among the many supports available to students include the following:

Mr. Alex Corry (alex.corry@yrdsb.ca), Principal

Mr. Candice Mott (candice.mott@yrdsb.ca), Vice-Principal (Primarily working and supporting families of students with Last Names that start with **A-L**)

Ms. Michelle Godfrey (michelle.godfrey@yrdsb.ca), Vice-Principal ((Primarily working and supporting families of students with Last Names that start with **M - Z**)

Ms. Kim Spiller (kim.spiller@yrdsb.ca), Head of Guidance (Supporting students with Last Names that being with **M - Z**)

Mr. Joe Zicaro (joseph.zicaro@yrdsb.ca), Guidance Counsellor (Supporting students with Last Names that start with **A - L**)

Ms. Jackie Zicaro (jackie.zicaro@yrdsb.ca), Student Success Team

Family/Guardian/Parent Meetings

We will be meeting virtually with the families of grade 9 students on **Wednesday, September 16, 2020, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** To attend; please click on the link

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/419674821>

School Council Transition Meeting

On Monday, September 21, 2020, we will hold our first **virtual** School Council transition meeting. More details to come.

The school year promises to be filled with learning, challenges and excitement. Our first priority is to ensure student health and safety and as such we are implementing a staggered start. During the start-up, we will direct students on how to be safe within the school and the community. Strategies for enhanced hygiene, movement within the building and the mandatory wearing of a mask will be reviewed.

Sincerely,

The Denison Team (Alex Corry, Michelle Godfrey and Candice Mott)