



Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School

January 29, 2021

Semester 2 – Week 1 February 1 to February 5, 2021

Feb. 1: PA Day

Feb. 2: Credit Conferencing and Rescue Day

Some students will be involved in activities to support completion of Semester 1 courses. Students are expected to attend only as directed by their teacher.

Feb. 3: Online morning classes only

In the morning, all students will attend classes online in 30 minute blocks following their regular start time. Students will receive an invitation to their digital classrooms before their first period class.

In the afternoon, there are no classes scheduled.

Period 1	8:30 – 9:00
Period 2	9:05 – 9:35
Period 3	9:40 – 10:10
Period 4	10:15 – 10:45

Feb. 4-10: Current School Closure - All Classes Online (more information next page)

Period 1	8:30 – 9:45
Period 2	9:50 – 11:05
LUNCH	11:05 – 12:25
Period 3	12:25 – 1:40
Period 4	1:45 – 3:00

School Contact Information:

Principal

Alex Corry

Vice-Principal

Michelle Godfrey
Candice Mott

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

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

135 Bristol Road,
Newmarket, ON,

Superintendent

Erik Khilji

Trustee Name

Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey
Linda Gilbert

Visit the Denison Webpage

[Announcements & Calendar](#)



Feb. 4-10: Current School Closure - All Classes Online

For the duration of the school closure, Adaptive (face-to-face) schools will follow a revised school schedule. Students will follow a semester schedule and will attend their classes online in 75 minute periods with a five minute break between the morning periods and between the afternoon periods. This change is based on feedback from students and families about the 150 minute period students are currently experiencing. Once schools reopen, the schedule will return to an adaptive model as used in the fall. Details will be provided at that time.

Adaptive (face-to-face) schools will be providing students with a revised daily schedule. School start and end times remain the same. An 80-90 minute lunch break will occur between period 2 and 3. Schools will be providing students with a revised daily schedule.

Feb. 11-16: Report Cards sent home

Semester 1 Report Cards will be sent home via students' GAPPS accounts.

We recognize that you and your child may have questions regarding this information. Please contact the school administrator to discuss any questions.

If you have concerns about how your child may be affected by the current circumstances, including any concerns related to mental health, help is available. Resources and supports related to student mental health can be accessed through [YRDSB COVID-19 Mental Health Resources for Students and Families](#). If you ever have an immediate safety concern for your child, including risk of suicide, please contact your local hospital or emergency services by calling 911 immediately.

We remain deeply committed to supporting our students and families as we continue to navigate the effects of COVID-19 on education. If our school can support your family, we encourage you to connect with us.

Night School Registration Information – Winter Session

Night School registration for the winter session is now open through my Pathway Planner and will close at noon on Thursday, February 11.

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

Learning Material Return Process

Students and families may now arrange to safely return items that belong to the YRDSB (including textbooks, musical instruments, etc.) on **February 1st or 2nd, 2021.**

In order to schedule a time to drop off the materials at the school, students will use a tool familiar for our school: **TeachAssist.**

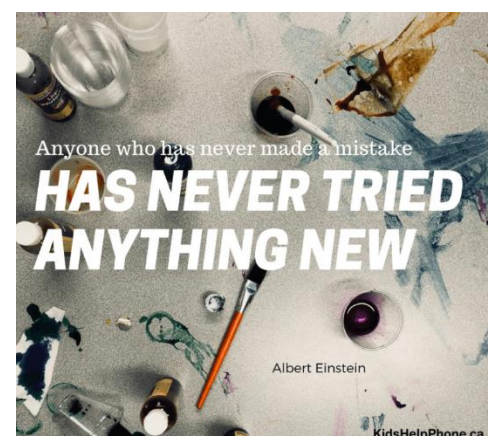
<https://ta.yrdsb.ca/studentAppointments.pdf>

See attached Letter for full details of return process.

Student Trustee application

Deadline has been extended to Wednesday, February 3 at 4pm. Apply here: [Student Trustee Nomination Package](#)

Quote of the Week



Message from Our Trustee

Dear families,

I hope that you and your families are healthy and doing well. I want to thank all of our students, families and staff members for their flexibility, patience and perseverance during the school closures. We understand that the pandemic is creating challenges and hardships, and we will continue to prioritize and do our very best to support the well-being, learning and achievement of our students during these difficult times.

There are resources on the Board website that students and families may find helpful, including tips for speaking with your child about COVID-19, support using technology, community and mental health resources and more at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

One of our [priorities](#) as a Board of Trustees is to Champion Equity and Inclusivity: we aim to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to remove barriers in support of all learners.

Anti-Black Racism

We want each and every one of our students to know that they are valued, welcome, safe and respected in our schools. We know that sadly that is not the reality for some students and that incidents of anti-Black racism continue to occur in our community and our schools. These incidents cause pain, make our students feel unsafe and affect their well-being and achievement. This is not acceptable.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing information and inviting you to participate in the *Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy: Creating anti-racist and Black affirming learning and working environments* virtual event. During this event we will be unveiling our Anti-Black Racism Strategy, which was developed in coordination with families, students, community partners, educators and members of our senior leadership team. The strategy was developed in response to continued evidence of anti-Black racism, and it will be a critical tool to support positive change in the system and to improve the experiences of Black students and staff.

A series of training sessions, webinars and opportunities for learning will also be made available. Future communication will provide registration options.

I want to thank the members of the Anti-Black Racism Committee for generously giving their time, sharing their difficult experiences and their voice. We are committed to ensuring that this strategy is more than a piece of paper and are committed to doing the work to create more equitable learning environments.

I also want to acknowledge that February is Black History Month, and while we take this opportunity to highlight and celebrate the incredible contributions made by Black Canadians, we will also be looking forward to launching our Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy. We will also be continuing our [celebration of Black excellence](#) in our community and I encourage you to take the time to read the stories of some of the inspiring individuals learning and working here in York Region.

We all have a role to play in creating a community that enables everyone in it to thrive, and in doing this work, we will create a more inclusive and positive environment for *all* of our students and families.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SEMESTER 2 COURSES AND COURSE CHANGES!

With some students choosing to attend virtual school semester 2, our Denison S.S. timetable had to be revised. Changes in school programming by our students resulted in some courses and/or sections with low subscription rates. These classes were removed and other sections have moved periods to balance the schedule and provide enhanced access for all students.

At this time, we do not have the VIRTUAL SCHOOL class schedule available for semester 2.

On **Friday, January 29** you will receive your semester 2 timetable. If you wish to request a timetable change, complete the **NEW GOOGLE FORM** that will be available in the Guidance Google classroom on January 29th.

If you have already submitted a request, please **update** the request by **RE-SUBMITTING** on the new form. We will be posting an **ALL AVAILABLE COURSES BY GRADE AND PERIOD** file that will show which courses/sections have openings at this point. You will note there are **limited** options so please look at the **GRADE AND PERIOD** file, to see if your request could be facilitated.

There are also opportunities to access different senior level courses at Virtual Night School and Elearning for semester 2. You must have an incomplete timetable without the ability to schedule the course at day school to be eligible for Night School or Elearning approval.

The links have been provided on the Guidance Google Classroom and are below.

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/Night-School-Credit-Courses.aspx>

<http://www.coned.elearning.yrdsb.ca/>

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. Any student's interested in joining Denison's chapter of jack.org can contact sarah.vickers@yrdsb.ca or roda.jama@yrdsb.ca



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/>