

# Dr. Denison Secondary School

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December 2019

## Guidance News

Dear Parents,

We are excited to be looking at course planning for next year with Grade 9, 10 and 11 students. As part of our process to avoid cancelling courses and giving our student's voice, we are running a "trial" course selection, looking at what students are "intending" or planning to take for next year.

This process will begin on Thursday with an assembly and then a rotation to Departments to hear about courses and ask questions. Friday will be a rotation through the library where students will pick courses on a trial basis. It will be supported by Guidance to answer any pathway questions.

Our trial course data will be used as one piece of information in building our calendar for the actual course selection in February.

## Student Council

### Holidays

During the week of December 16, we will be celebrating the holidays. There will be spirit days throughout the week:

Monday, December 16: **Ugly Sweater Day**

Tuesday, December 17: **Holiday Character Day**

Wednesday, December 18: **Candy Cane Day**

Thursday, December 19: **Under the Tree**

Friday, December 20: **Pajama Day**

Another House Competition will be held on December 20, this competition will be the Holiday Singing Competition. Students from each house will volunteer to sing a Holiday song.

## Important Dates to Remember:

Dec 16: Music Showcase  
Dec 23 - Jan 3: Winter Break  
Jan 6: Return to School  
Jan 13: School Council  
Jan 14-15: Gr. 9 Math EQAO  
Jan 23-29: Exams  
Jan 30: Exam Review Day  
Jan 31: PA Day

## School Contact Information:

### Principal

John Glezakos (interim)

### Vice-Principals

Michelle Godfrey

Candice Mott

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

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

### Superintendent

Dianne Hawkins (interim)

### Trustees

Linda Gilbert

Elizabeth Terrell-Tracey



## Music Department

Our Winter Showcase concert will be held on Monday, December 16th at 7pm at New Roads Centre for Performing Arts (formerly Newmarket Theatre). This concert will feature our band classes, vocal class, Vocal Remedy, the Dr. Denison Concert Band, Jazz Band and the Dr. Denison Wind Ensemble. Our program includes popular music by Kansas, Bruno Mars and Michael Buble, as well as music from the movies Avengers and Black Panther! We'll also play some holiday favourites to get you in the spirit of the season!

Reserved tickets for this concert are available through School Cash Online or from Mrs. Hamilton in the Music Department for \$10/adults and \$8/students and seniors.

## Husky Athletics Winter is Coming!

It's late November and the snow is starting to fall and with this our new sports teams are beginning. Boys' Basketball (Junior and Senior), Girls' Volleyball (Junior and Senior), and the Nordic Ski (Varsity) teams take centre stage. Our gym and our fitness rooms will be very busy places indeed as our Huskies take on the rest of York Region. **Go Huskies!!!**

## Denison Fitness Club Get Fit and Have Fun!

Our Denison Fitness Club is available to students after school Monday through Friday from 3:15 to 4:30 in the fitness room. Students can sign up through Cash Online for a \$5 fee and can access the club when they want to get in a workout. We have 100 members already; get involved!

## Graduation Photos

Grad photos are coming! Edge Imaging will be at Denison beginning Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to book your appointment. Please sign up online at [www.bookmygrad.ca](http://www.bookmygrad.ca) School code is: YDD

Sign up early to get the time that works best for you.

## Operational Hours

Please be aware that when dropping students off in the morning for practices and other school events that the building isn't open to staff and students until 6:30 a.m.

## OSSLT

Grade 10 students have been receiving ongoing preparation for the March 31, 2020 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. More information to come.

## Volunteer Hours

Volunteering resource:  
[www.yorkinfo.ca](http://www.yorkinfo.ca)

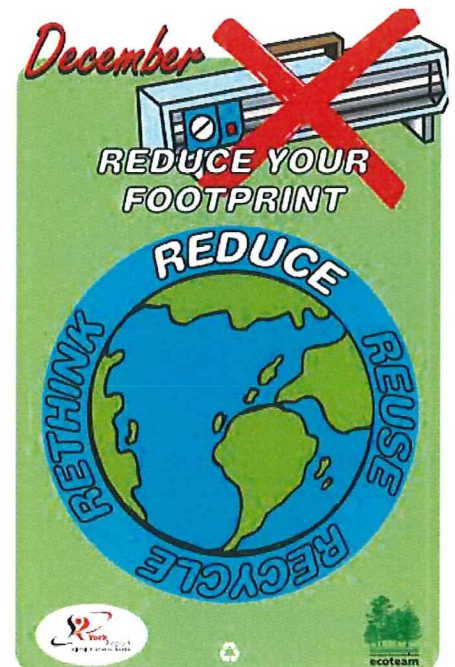
Volunteer opportunities are posted on the wall outside of the Guidance office.

You never know when a moment and a few words can have an impact on a life.

Zig Ziglar

## Helpful Technology

myHomework is an app – a digital planner where students can manage their school life



## Exams

**January 23rd to January 29th**

Evaluation Review Day January 30th

Exams are an integral part of the final evaluation that occurs in January. Semester one exams run from January 23 – January 29, 2020, inclusive. January 30th is Evaluation Review Day.

**January 23 – Period 1 courses**

**January 24 – Period 2 courses**

**January 27 – Period 3 courses**

**January 28 – Period 4 courses**

All exams begin at 9:00 a.m. and most are complete by 10:30 a.m. Some senior exams are 2 hours in length and performance exams are scheduled on an individual basis with the teacher. Please plan appointments and holidays around the examination dates. All examinations must be written on the specific date and time and in the location scheduled. They will not be rescheduled for individual students. The ONLY exceptions to this will be for **Medical Emergencies, Court Appearance, or Bereavement**, and appropriate documentation will be required. Students who miss an examination without such documentation will receive a mark of zero for the examination portion of their final mark.

## Dangers of Laser Pointers

We are seeing a resurgence of the use of laser pointers by students in schools. These are easy to acquire as many stores are marketing them as 'pet toys'. We have found that students are using them to disrupt lessons, distract learning and target students. We are concerned about possible injuries that may occur with prolonged exposure to a laser. Lasers, depending on wavelength, power, exposure time, spot size and localization, can cause permanent damage to eye and retina.

You can help us by ensuring that your child does not bring laser pointers to school. If there is a complaint, we will ask your children to empty their backpacks, confiscate any laser pointers and contact you. As with any school rule, we will use progressive discipline and counselling conversations to help educate our students about the dangers surrounding the misuse of laser pointers.

If you have any questions, or concerns, please contact administration.

## Inclement Weather

School bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and Environment Canada forecast. For information on cancellations, visit your local news or [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com)

## Grade 9 EQAO Math Assessment

Our Grade 9 students currently in Math classes will write the EQAO Math tests on January 14 & 15, 2020. The Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics measures how well students have met the expectations in the Grade 9 Mathematics curriculum for Applied and Academic courses. Student achievement in this assessment is reported using a four-level scale that is aligned with the scale used in The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Mathematics and the Provincial Report Card, Grades 9-12, In the Ontario Curriculum. The results from this assessment provide baseline information that will assist in board and school improvement planning. Letters outlining test dates will be sent home during week of December 9th. The students' results on the test comprise 5% of the students' final mark in Math.

## Message from Our Trustee

One of our top priorities as a school board is creating an environment that enables our students to focus on learning and be successful. That means creating environments where students are safe and feel safe, where all of our students know that they are welcome and supported, and where they see their identities reflected, valued and celebrated.

### Championing Equity and Inclusivity

Championing Equity and Inclusivity is one of the priorities outlined in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). We are fortunate to live in one of the most diverse regions of Canada, and welcome students, staff and families with a broad range of identities and experiences. There has been much work underway at the Board in the past few months to ensure we are providing all of our students with a safe, equitable and inclusive learning environment, including:

Providing [Board-wide training](#) for over 12,000 school staff on anti-Black racism.

- Bringing together over 250 students and staff at our annual [SpeakOut conference](#) for the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Acknowledging [Treaties Recognition Week](#), and learning about the importance of treaties and treaty relationships in Canada from First Nations community members.
- Hosting a labour market information night for parents to learn about current and future career opportunities and employment trends.
- Bringing together hundreds of members of the education community for three days of learning focused on Indigenous Education and Equity at our world-renowned [Quest conference](#).

This is in addition to the ongoing work taking place in our schools. It is also important that our families know and feel that they are a valued, respected and important part of our school community. We recently held regional school council forums that brought together school council members from across the region to learn and share together on important topics such as engaging families, vaping and more. It was wonderful to see so many family members there.

The Board of Trustees was also pleased to receive and commit to taking action on the recommendations in response to the Anti-Black Racism, Antisemitism, Classism and Islamophobia community consultations.

### Winter Months

With the winter weather already upon us, I also want to remind families that school transportation may be cancelled on [extreme cold or inclement weather days](#), and there may be rare occasions when emergency weather conditions result in school closures. To ensure families are aware, last month, we tested a new system to send text messages to families in emergency situations only. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will also be available on Board and school websites, Board social media channels and local media.

Many of our students and families will be celebrating days of significance and holidays in the coming weeks and months, and I wish you all the very best for the season. I hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.