



Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of: Jun 19 - Jun 30, 2023

Trait of the Month: Perseverance

The mission of The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School is to develop literate students who are innovative, well-rounded lifelong learners and critical thinkers. We aim to foster caring global citizens who maintain inclusive and respectful interactions with others.

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS

Administrative Team

Melissa Schmidt, Principal
Susie Mitchell, VP (A-Le)
Andrew Gazaneo, VP (Li-Z)

Contact Us

39 Dunning Avenue
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 1A2
(P) 905-727-3131
(F) 905-727-8067

Phone Extensions:

Reception 0
Attendance 1
Guidance 3
Staff Directory 4

Daily Schedule

Period 1 8:20-9:40

Period 2 9:45-11:00

Period 3 11:05-12:20

Period 4 12:25-1:40

Period 5 1:45-3:00

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>
Email: dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca

Social Media: [@drgwilliams](#) (Instagram & Twitter)
Attendance: drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca

This week:

Jun 19	Grade 12 Period 2 Exams 9:45 am
Jun 20	Grade 12 Period 5 Exams 8:30 am Last day of classes for grades 9-11 students
Jun 21	Grade 9-12 Period 3/4 Exams 8:30 am
Jun 22	Grade 9-11 Period 1 Exams 8:30 am
Jun 23	Grade 9-11 Period 2 Exams 8:30 am

Upcoming

Jun 26	Graduation at Ray Twinney Complex 7 pm, Graduates arrive at 6 pm Grade 9-11 Period 5 Exams 8:30 am
Jun 27	Course Culminating Day and Performance Exams by Appointment
Jun 28	Exam Feedback, morning only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morning will be a modified timetable, all four periods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P1 8:20 – 8:45 P2 8:50 – 9:15 P5 9:20 – 9:45 P4 9:50 – 10:15 P3 10:20 - 10:45 Afternoon will be appointments with individual students Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Information session, 6:30-7:30 pm
Jun 29	Īd al-'Aḍḥá (Festival of Sacrifice) Regular Classes Community Class Last Day
Jun 30	Professional Development Day (No classes) Last day of the school year

To support your family planning, the 2023-2024 YRDSB School Year Calendar is available on the [YRDSB website](#). Additionally, all dates for school events are continually updated on our Google calendar on our [school website](#) and all confirmed events have been updated for 2023-2024 on our website now.

Message from the Principal

This week we had the opportunity to celebrate our student athletes and thank our coaches for their contributions to the Williams School Community over the past year. We would like to acknowledge the coaches of all of our sports teams for the time that they give on an off the field to our student athletes:

Fall Sports-Ms. Bi-Majal, Ms. Draper, Ms. Goodman, Ms. Hoffschmidt, Mr. Iafrate, Mr. Julyan, Ms. Palm and Mr. Seymour

Winter Sports-Ms. Brown, Ms. Denton, Ms. Draper, Mr. Fuller, Ms. Goodman, Mr. Joshi, Mr. Julyan, Ms. Kauffeldt, Ms. Kelly, Mr. Rass, Mr. Ravelle, Mr. Seymour, Ms. Shillum and Ms. Talarico

Spring Sports-Mr. Bulmer, Mr. Carlin, Mr. Collins, Ms. Denton, Ms. Draper, Ms. Goodman, Mr. Julyan, Ms. Kauffeldt, Mr. MacIntosh, Mr. Rass, Mr. Seymour, Ms. Talarico, and Mr. Unger

We were also fortunate to celebrate with our graduates at the first grad breakfast on Tuesday morning. Students enjoyed a 'pancake bar' (similar to a sundae bar) and were able to spend time signing yearbooks, taking photos and visiting with their peers and teachers. We were also able to complete some final preparations for graduation as we confirmed name pronunciations with each graduate, collected locks from lockers and handed out grad gowns. It was a great morning that is likely to become a tradition!! We look forward to celebrating with our graduates and their families at the formal ceremony on June 26 at Ray Twinney Recreation Complex in Newmarket beginning at 7pm.

Next year we will become a "Bring Your Own Device" school. This corresponds with the curriculum work we have already been doing in our classes and based on student surveys of technology use including the number of devices signed out daily across the school should be a fairly seamless transition. More information including accessing supports for technology will be available at the information session on Wednesday June 28th in our library. Information will also be emailed out to the school community for those unable to attend.

We will have one last edition of the Parent Tell on June 30th when we will wrap up the year and provide a snapshot of start-up for September.

Take care,
Melissa Schmidt

School Notices

June 2023 Exam Schedule

***the final exam schedule and exam expectations and guidelines have been emailed to families/students, please check your email**

Final examinations will be written from **Friday, June 16th to Monday, June 26th**. Grade 12 exams will be written prior to Grades 9-11 as per the schedule below. The final day for Grade 12 classes will be June 15th and final day for Grades 9-11 classes will be June 20th to accommodate for exams. Performance based exams are scheduled directly with the teacher. All other examinations begin at the times indicated in the chart below. Students are encouraged to check

with their parents regarding final assessments as not all courses have final exams. The full exam schedule and final exam information will be provided to students/families in an email communication prior to May 30, 2023. Exam review day is scheduled for June 28, 2023 and a modified day schedule will be communicated with families.

Students must write their exam at school on the day and at the time for which it has been scheduled. If a student is absent for an exam, they will receive a mark of zero (0) for the exam. Final examinations will NOT be rescheduled to accommodate alternate activities which conflict with the timing of exams (i.e. vacations, employment commitments, appointments, etc.)

Date	Grade(s)	Period	Exam Start Time
Friday, June 16	Grade 12 Exams	Period 1	8:30am
Monday, June 19	Grade 12 Exams	Period 2	**9:45am**
Tuesday, June 20	Grade 12 Exams	Period 5	8:30am
Wednesday, June 21	Grades 9-12	Periods 3 and 4	8:30am
Thursday, June 22	Grades 9-11	Period 1	8:30am
Friday, June 23	Grades 9-11	Period 2	8:30am
Monday, June 26	Grades 9-11	Period 5	8:30am

Graduation

This year's **graduation ceremony** will be held on **June 26, 2023, 7 pm** at the [Ray Twinney Recreation Complex](#) located at 100 Eagle St W. in Newmarket. Due to the size of the venue there is no official cap on the amount of guests allowed. Students must arrive before 6 pm in order to check in and find their grouping. Doors will open to families beginning at 6 pm. Special accommodations have been submitted by students and are being followed up by Mr. Buono in the library. Please reach out to him if you have any questions. We will have a photographer from Lifetouch that evening capturing all the graduates as they cross the stage.

Return of Technology

All student loaner technology (Chromebooks/laptops) must be returned to the school by the beginning of the exam period. If students require their technology during the exam week, they should stop by the main office and speak with Mr. Gazaneo. All technology must be returned by the end of June.

Bring Your Own Device Program Information Night - June 28, 2023 6:30pm-7:30pm

In September of 2023 Williams will be introducing the Bring Your Own Device Program for all students. We are hosting Bring Your Own Device Program Information Night for grade 8 students planning to attend Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School next year and parents of current students. The information evening will be taking place on **Wednesday, June 28th from 6:30pm - 7:30pm at GW Williams**. This evening we will discuss the Bring Your Own Device Program in more depth and provide helpful information about which technology choices are best suited to support your child's education. YRDSB is partnered with **DELL** and we will be sharing some supports, pricing, and resources for families. More information will be sent to families by email if you are not able to attend the information evening.

YRDSB and Community Notices

Īd al-'Aḏḥá (Festival of Sacrifice)

A main holiday celebrated in Islam. Muslims believe that God told Ibrahim — known as Abraham in Christian and Jewish scriptures — to sacrifice his son, Ismail, as a test of his faith.

National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada)

Formerly called National Aboriginal Day, this is a national day of solidarity for First Nations People (Canada). This day is an annual reminder for people across Canada to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations people, Inuit and Métis. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Indigenous peoples. More information are available with this link <https://bit.ly/2HjmcmO>

2023 MACCA Scholarship

Each year MACCA provides scholarships to students graduating high-school and going into a post-secondary program. Please see [website](#) and application for eligibility and application instructions.

Guidance

- **Graduating Students:** We want your feedback! Please take 5 minutes to complete the Grade 12 Exit Survey by June 28.

All students can access the survey through their *My Pathway Planner* accounts by doing the following:

1. Go to www.yrdsb.ca
 2. Click on the "Online Student Tools" button
 3. Click on the "My Pathway Planner" button
 4. Log into their account using their YRDSB credentials
 5. Click on the "Complete Survey" button in the blue banner on the homepage
 6. Complete the survey questions in the Google Form that opens
- **Google Takeout for Graduating/Retiring Students**
Want to save your files from your student GAPPS account? Click on the [link](#) for Google Takeout and review the following instructions. Please complete this by the end of the semester! Make sure you are signed onto GAPPS.
 - a. Select the Google Apps and Services from which you want to export your data and documents, and select the option to receive the file as a download via email (depending on the size of your Google account, this could take several hours). Use the .zip file option.
 - b. Once the Google Takeout email arrives, use the links to download your archived data and documents to your chosen location (e.g. personal computer, USB/external drive and/or personal Google Drive).
 - c. You can "unzip" the archives and then upload the data and documents to a personal Google Account or use the files and documents in Microsoft Office or other applications.
 - **YRDSB Summer Dual Credit - July 2023** - Dual Credits allow students in secondary school to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, or an apprenticeship certification. Students get to experience college while still in high school at no cost, earn high school credits and college credits at the same time in the same course, learn in college state-of-the-art facilities, explore different pathway options, and try something new. Please see course offerings [here](#) and register [here](#).
 - **2023 Summer School Registrations Closes June 9th** - The York Region District School Board will once again be offering acceleration (in-person) and reinforcement (remote) courses during the summer. The hours for all courses are 8:45 a.m to 3:33 p.m. with two 15-minute scheduled breaks and a 40-minute lunch period. Please have your student register on myBlueprint > Continuing Education > Explore Courses and return the signed permission form to the Guidance Office.

- a. Acceleration courses start Wednesday, July 5 and end Friday, July 28.
- b. Session 1 for reinforcement courses start Wednesday, July 5 and end Monday, July 17.
- c. Session 2 for reinforcement courses start Tuesday, July 18 and end Friday, July 28.

Attendance Procedures

Extended Absences

Planned absences of three or more consecutive school days require the completion of an “Extraordinary Absence” form at least one week in advance of the leave. The form is available in the Attendance Office. The process includes obtaining signatures from teachers and a school administrator. It is the student’s responsibility to catch up on all work missed.

Parents/guardians should contact the Attendance Office to indicate when their child will be absent. The Attendance Office can be reached at 905-727-3131 ext. 100. If the attendance secretary is busy please leave a voice message OR send an email to drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca. If a student leaves school resulting in a late or an absence to a class period, they are to go to the attendance office to sign out. If a student arrives late for Period 1 and before 8:45 a.m., they are asked to report directly to their class where their homeroom teacher will let the office know the time of arrival. If the 8:20 bell has rung, students are asked to stand in the hallway for the anthem and announcements to be completed before proceeding to their period 1 class. For any other period, whenever a student arrives at school after the first scheduled class period has begun they are to report to attendance to sign in.

Students are expected to be in class by the times listed above.

Students, parents, and staff have a role to play in ensuring that students attend classes regularly and punctually. Students are responsible for:

- attending all scheduled classes, and being on time;
- being prepared for classes, and participating fully in the planned learning activities;
- reporting absences (preferably in advance), and presenting proper documentation to staff, and covering the material missed when they are absent.

Absences must be both valid and authorized by a parent. Examples of valid reasons include illness, bereavement, medical appointments, court appearance, etc. If no phone call, e-mail, or note is received by the school, the absence will be considered “truant”. Truancies are unacceptable.

Students who have been signed out of classes by a parent/legal guardian cannot remain on school property.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students aged 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 the school in advance by calling the school and leaving a message on the answering machine or emailing the school’s attendance address.

If a student is unable to attend school and will miss more than two school days, homework may be requested from the Guidance Department and picked up at the school. Teachers require 24 hours to complete homework requests. If a student is absent due to a prolonged illness, he/she may be required to provide a medical note.

School Calendar for 2022-2023

- Please use this [link](#)

Website Resources for Families and Students

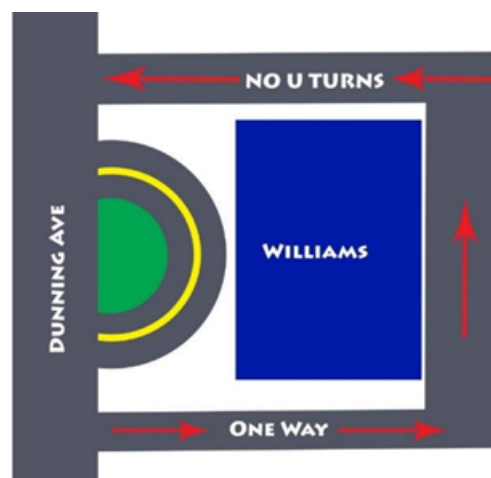
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

Driveway and Parking Lot

At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm. Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 3:10, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distance, we ask that you make arrangements to meet your students at the nearest exit from their classroom (in one of the parking lots) or off school property (down the street, around the corner, etc.). Please see the maps below to support your efforts.

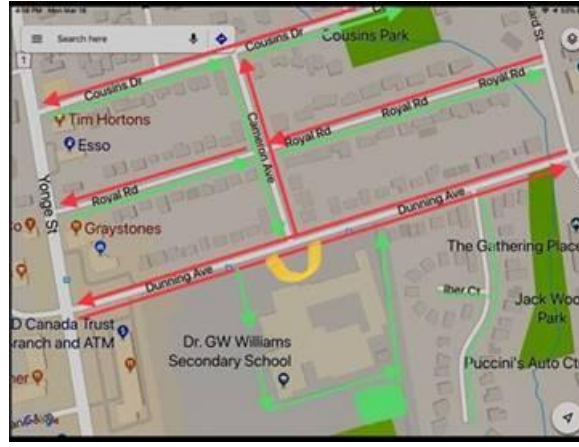


There is one-way traffic in our front driveway loop. In the front driveway loop, drop off/pick up students on the right side; drive through only on the left side. For safety reasons, do not drop off/pick up students on the left side.



If you **MUST** come to the school, enter via the West lot (beside the track, closest to Yonge Street) and drive around the school to meet your child. **DO NOT** block the driveway waiting. There is one-way traffic in the west entrance and on the south (back) side of the school. **It is two-way traffic on the east side of**

the school, however, during the end of the day pick-up time you will notice the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot ONLY so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot. This makes a significant positive impact on safety for all and makes it easier and less stressful for everyone. When you are able to enter the east lot, do not make U-turns anywhere in the east parking lot from Dunning Avenue to the south parking lot. Making a U-turn in this area creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians and other vehicles. If you need to turn around, please pull into a parking spot and carefully back out.



Please note that Dunning Avenue is a **no stopping zone**. This is noted by the signage along the street and on the map above you can see the red arrows on both sides of the street.

PA Days for Williams (but not necessarily for elementary schools in our area) are:

- June 30