



ELDER'S MILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL

School Start-Up Package

2024 - 2025

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Inspire Learning!
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TRANSLATION

This guide provides important information about the York Region District School Board. Please take it to someone who can explain it to you.

Arabic:	حول مجلس إدارة مدارس منطقة يورك York Region District School Board يقدم لك هذا الدليل معلومات يرجى منك أخذه لشخص يستطيع شرحه لك.
Chinese:	此指南為您提供有關 York Region District School Board 的資訊。 請您將它拿給可以向您解釋此指南的人。
Farsi:	درباره York Region District School Board فراهم می کند. این راهنما برای شما اطلاعاتی لطفاً آنرا نزد شخصی که بتواند در مورد آن به شما توضیح دهد ببرید.
Gujarati:	આ માર્ગદર્શિકા ચોક્કસ જિલ્લા શાળા બોર્ડ વિષે મહત્વની જાણકારી પૂરી પાડે છે. આ માર્ગદર્શિકા તમે એવા વ્યક્તિની પાસે તમ જાને વંચાવો જેથી તમને મુશ્કેલીમાં સમજાવી શકે.
Hebrew:	הוברת הדרכה זו מכילה מידע אודות York Region District School Board. אנא קחו הוברת זו למישהו שיוכל להסביר לכם את המידע המפורט.
Hindi:	इस गाईड में आपको York Region District School Board के बारे में जानकारी मिलेगी . कृपया इसे किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति को दिखाएँ जो इसे आपको समझा सके .
Khmer:	សៀវភៅណែនាំអំពីក្រុមប្រឹក្សាសាលា York Region District School Board ។ សូមយកវាទៅជូនអ្នកណាម្នាក់ដែលអាចជួយស្រាវជ្រាវអំពីក្រុមប្រឹក្សាសាលា។
Korean:	이 안내서는 York Region District School Board에 대한 정보를 제공합니다. 내용을 설명해줄 수 있는 분에게 보여드리십시오.
Punjabi:	ਇਸ ਗਾਇਡ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ York Region District School Board ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮਿਲੇਗੀ, ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੀ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਕੋਲ ਲੈ ਜਾਓ ਜੋ ਇਸਨੂੰ ਆਪ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਾ ਸਕੇ.
Romanian:	Acest ghid furnizeaza informatii cu privire la scoile din cadrul lui York Region District School Board. Apelati la cineva care va poate ajuta sa-l intelegeti.
Russian:	В данном руководстве Вам предоставляется информация о школьном совете района Йорк – York Region District School Board. Пожалуйста, обратитесь к кому-либо, кто сумеет Вам его разъяснить.
Spanish:	Esta guía le proporciona información sobre el York Region District School Board. Llévesela a alguien que pueda explicársela.
Tamil:	York Region District School Board பற்றிய தகவல்களை இந்த வழிகாட்டி உங்களுக்கு வழங்குகின்றது. தயவுசெய்து இதனை உங்களுக்கு விளங்கப்படுத்தக்கூடிய யாராவது ஒருவரிடம் எடுத்துச் செல்க.
Urdu:	ہمارے میں معلومات فراہم کرتی ہے۔ براہ مہربانی اس فرد کو گائیڈ آپ کو York Region ڈسٹرکٹ سکول بورڈ کے کے پاس لے جائیں جو آپ کیلئے اس کی وضاحت کر سکے۔
Vietnamese:	Tài liệu này cung cấp cho quý vị các thông tin về York Region District School Board. Xin đưa tài liệu này cho người nào có thể giải thích nội dung cho quý vị rõ.

Elder's Mills Public School

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. It is our pleasure to welcome all our new and returning families. We hope you all had a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer.

The professional and dedicated team of staff at our school have a strong commitment to supporting your child's learning, achievement, and well-being. We have been working hard to prepare to welcome your child to school, and to create a learning environment where they feel safe, welcome, valued, and respected.

There are some important things we want to share at the start of the school year:

- This **start-up package** includes important information about our school, and we encourage you to review it.
- The [Guide to the School Year](#) includes important information you may need to access throughout the school year. You can use the translation feature on the website to translate this content. Find the guide at <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/school-year-guide>.
- Each year we ask families to complete **important start-up forms**. You will receive an email in the coming weeks with a link to the online forms. Please review and complete the forms. If you prefer to receive and complete a paper copy, please contact the main office.

There are a few upcoming dates we would like to highlight, including:

- **Meet the Teacher:** Thursday September 26, 2024
- **School Council Meeting:** Thursday October 11, 2024

We value the relationship and partnership we have with families and look forward to connecting and working with you throughout the school year. There are many ways to stay connected with what's happening in our school:

- Visit our school website <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/eldersmills.ps> for up-to-date information about events.
- Follow us on X, (formerly Twitter) [@EldersMills](#)
- Sign up for Edsby. [Information on creating an Edsby account is linked here.](#)
- You can also find updated information about the Board at www.yrdsb.ca, X [@YRDSB](#), Instagram [@yrdsb.schools](#), or the Board podcast TuneIn YRDSB wherever you listen to podcasts.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you. We wish you all a happy, safe, and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Eugenia Korinis

Principal

Ayesha Mondal

Vice-Principal

Contact Information

For Ministry and Board compliance purposes, **please ensure that the school has your up-to-date contact and emergency information.**

Please contact your school's main office to review or update your information, including:

- address, work or home numbers or other contact information
- emergency contacts and telephone numbers
- changes in custody agreements
- medical alert or changes in health condition (e.g., allergies, medications)

If your child has a medical condition that requires emergency intervention, an essential routine health care plan, or any of the following medical conditions: [Anaphylaxis](#), [Asthma](#), [Diabetes](#) or [Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder](#) you must contact your child's school to ensure all information is up-to-date and accurate.

Our School

School Day Organization:

Period	Times	Office hours: 8:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Before school supervision	8:30 – 8:45	Recess and Lunch Schedule:
Learning Block 1	8:45 – 10:25	
Recess	10:25 – 10:55	10:25 - 10:40 Inside for snack
Learning Block 2	10:55 – 12:35	10:40 - 10:55 Outside for recess
Lunch	12:35 – 12:55	12:25 - 12:55 Inside for lunch
Learning Block 3	1:35 – 3:15	12:55 - 1:35 Outside for recess
Dismissal	3:15	

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Additional Information

You can find information on topics covered in this package and more in the **Guide to the School Year** on the board website at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources.

Attendance

Regular and punctual attendance affects school success and is expected of all students.

Late Arrivals

If a student arrives at school after the entry bell, in the morning or after lunch, they are considered late and must check in with the office.

Reporting Attendance

Parents/guardians are asked to inform your child's school if your child is going to be absent or late to school or an after-school event that they planned to attend.

Where possible, notify the school in advance.

Parents can inform the school office of their child's absence in three different ways:

1. Absences can be entered into **Edsby** which is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.
2. Send an email to the school attendance email address at:
elders.mills.ps.attendance@yrdsb.ca.
3. Parents may choose to contact the school office at 905-893-1631 between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on the day of absence.

Safe Arrival and Departure Program

The safety of our students is a priority. Our [safe arrivals programs and safe departures protocols](#) are in place so that we can account for the whereabouts of absent students.

Please provide the school with complete and current emergency contact information.

If you have not informed the school of your child's absence in advance, the school will take the following steps to ensure your child is safe:

- We will call your home.

- If we do not reach you at home, we will call your work and/or cell phone.
- If we cannot reach you at work, we will call your emergency contact number.
- If we cannot get information from your emergency contact about your child's location, we will speak to a sibling if one is in the school.
- If we are still unable to get information, we may check with a friend of your child and other staff members.
- If we are still unable to get information, we will consider your child missing and we may contact York Regional Police.

Arrivals and Departures

Families who live within walking distance are encouraged to use **active travel, including walking or rolling** (cycling, scootering, skateboarding) to and from school. Choosing [active travel](#) can improve physical and mental health and helps students start the day alert and ready to learn. It also helps to protect the environment and reduce traffic, making school zones safer for everyone.

School Bus/Taxi

Information about bus routes and times can be found at www.schoolbuscity.com. Please check for updated times for late buses.

School Bus Safety

When riding school buses, students must:

- Be at the bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up.
- Keep well away from the road until the bus has stopped. Do not move toward the bus until it has stopped.
- Watch for the bus driver's signal before crossing the road. Look both ways and then cross the road.
- Get on the bus safely by using the handrail and go directly to your seat.
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion.
- Not eat or drink on the bus.
- Keep the aisle clear of books, knapsacks, lunch bags and other items.

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- Keep windows closed.
- Never throw anything inside the bus or out of the window.
- Talk quietly so you do not distract the driver.
- Use respectful language.

Shouting, rough play and fighting are strictly prohibited. Students engaging in these activities will have their bus privileges suspended. We expect that all students should treat buses as an extension of the school and follow school rules and policies.

Driving to School

Parents/Guardians who choose to **drive their children to school** are asked to consider parking a block or two away from the school and walking the rest of the way. If you use the Kiss n Ride entrance off Rota Ave., please drive as far up into and along the Kiss n' Ride as possible. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended; there is no parking in this area. Your children should disembark from the passenger side of the vehicle, closest to the curb and they will make their way to the back tarmac for entry.

Please be considerate and careful when using the school parking lot. Do not use the fire zone or bus loops for any reason. Please work with us to keep our students safe.

Cycling or Rolling to School

Students who use bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards, or scooters to travel to school:

- Must wear a helmet.
- Must walk while on school property.
- Should lock bicycles on the bike rack, and store rollerblades, skateboards or scooters in their locker, backpack or school designated area. The school is not responsible for any lost or damaged personal items.
- Are reminded that walk-and-roll shoes and skateboard or rollerblades are not allowed out on school property/in the school.

Weather Conditions

Transportation will be cancelled by 6:00 a.m. if conditions are unsafe or are expected to deteriorate significantly by the time students are to be transported home. Schools will remain open unless otherwise stated. For more information, visit the [Student Transportation section of the Board website](#).

To find out if transportation is cancelled, check: the @YRDSB X (formerly Twitter) account, the YRDSB website, school websites, the Student Transportation Services' (STS) website at www.schoolbuscity.com or hotline 1-877-330-3001, radio and television media outlets.

There may be rare occasions when unprecedented **winter weather events** occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. For more information, please see the [Severe Weather policy and procedures](#). At all times, students and families should be aware of somewhere else they can go or someone to contact if bus services are cancelled or delayed, or if schools are forced to close due to an emergency.

Before/After School Supervision

The safety of our students is our mutual priority and responsibility. Supervision for students in the morning begins 15 minutes before the bell. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children until staff are on duty. At the end of the school day, staff will supervise students' safe exit from the school upon dismissal.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to provide original evidence of their learning and appropriately acknowledge the work of others. Plagiarism refers to representing someone else's ideas, writing or other intellectual property as one's own. For more information, please see the [Equitable Assessment, Evaluation and Communication of Student Learning and Achievement policy](#).

Accessibility

The Board is [committed to providing accessible programs, services and environment](#) that support the four core principles of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA): integration, equality of opportunity, dignity and independence. If you need assistance accessing Board services, speak to a staff member in the school about how they can help or support you. If you require any information or materials on the Board website in an alternative format, please contact Corporate Communications at communications@yrdsb.ca.

Accident Insurance

Student accident insurance provides coverage for injuries due to accidents not covered by government or private health plans (e.g. the cost of expensive dental work as a result of an accident). It is strongly recommended that parents/guardians of students involved in athletics purchase this insurance. If your child is involved in an accident, whether at school or during non-school hours, insuremykids® protects

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your family from the resulting expenses, which are not normally covered under your government health and group insurance plans. For more information, visit insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437.

Allergies/Medical Conditions

There are students and staff members in our school who have life-threatening allergies to nuts and other allergens. If they smell or come into contact with these allergens, they may have an anaphylactic reaction.

To help create an allergen-safe environment, **please refrain from bringing nuts or nut products to school**. For more information on helping to create an allergen-safe environment, please see [information on allergies](#) on the Board website.

If your child has a serious or life-threatening allergy or prevalent medical condition, such as [Anaphylaxis](#), [Asthma](#), [Diabetes](#) or [Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder](#), **please let the school administration know immediately** and speak to the school office staff about completing the appropriate health care plans.

Caring and Safe Schools

Every student has a right to learn in a caring, safe and inclusive environment. We ask all students and families to review our [Caring and Safe Schools policy and procedures](#), which address several topics including:

- student progressive discipline
- bullying prevention and intervention
- student suspensions and expulsions

Students will review this important information during the Caring and Safe Schools start-up and mid-year presentations.

To enhance caring, safe, and inclusive school climates, positive student behaviour supports are provided and inappropriate behaviour is addressed using a [bias-aware progressive discipline](#) approach that takes into account mitigating factors.

We use a bias-aware progressive discipline approach when inappropriate behaviour occurs. This means we consider a range of options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. [The Ontario Education Act](#) and our Board's [Caring and Safe Schools Policy](#) outline the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim(s) and their families to the extent that legislation allows.

Report IT

[YRDSB's online Report IT](#) button lets you share information about inappropriate behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination. It is available on the Board and school website.

Code of Conduct

YRDSB's Code of Conduct sets standards of behaviour for students and members of the school community that support a caring, safe, and inclusive school environment. All school members must respect and treat others fairly, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, creed, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability.

The Code of Conduct applies to all members of the school community including students, parents or guardians, school bus drivers, volunteers, school staff and community groups whether they are on York Region District School Board property, in a virtual learning environment, on school buses, at school-authorized events or activities, in before- and after-school programs including co-curricular activities and field trips, and may be applied to any other circumstances connected to the school that may have an impact on the school climate.

The [Code of Conduct](#) is part of the *Caring and Safe Schools Policy*.

EMPS Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct sets standards of behaviour for students and members of the school community that support a caring, safe, and inclusive school environment. All school members must respect and treat others fairly, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, creed, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability. The Code of Conduct applies to all members of the school community including students, parents or guardians, school bus drivers, volunteers, school staff and community groups whether they are on York Region School Board property, in a virtual learning environment, on school buses, at school-authorized events or activities, in before- and after-school programs including co-curricular activities and field trips, and may be applied to any other circumstances connected to the school that may have an impact on the school climate.

Class Placements

Due to late registrations and enrolments over the summer, there may be staffing changes and class reorganization during the first few weeks of school. We do our best to keep these changes to a minimum and to support students during any transitions.

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Communication between School and Home

Parents/guardians are our most important partners in educating children. We communicate with you as a school in a variety of ways throughout the year. You are also encouraged to communicate with your child's teacher. Speak with the teacher about what method of communication is preferred. You are welcome to request an interpreter to assist with some communication with your child's school, such as interviews and meetings.

Agenda/Handbook

Some teachers have chosen to use agendas to support communication and reminders for families and students. If your child's teacher has chosen to use an agenda in their class, please check it daily. We also communicate through weekly community newsletters via email.

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) prohibits sending any type of electronic message that is commercial in nature (e.g., registration fees, pizza days, field trips, fundraising, etc.) unless the recipient has provided specific and informed consent. CASL does not apply to electronic information messages or to hard copy formats. **To subscribe or unsubscribe to commercial electronic messages**, visit the school website or Family Resources page at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources and, using the link provided, submit a valid email address.

Email/Electronic Communication

To improve communication between home and school and reduce paper use, we coordinate an email distribution list. The list will be maintained and used only by school staff to communicate electronically to parents/guardians. Your email will not be sold, distributed, or publicly posted. Families may receive electronic communication from the school through different platforms, such as Edsby or email.

Texts

Families can now receive text messages in emergency situations only - as part of our elementary school safe arrivals program or in the rare occasion of schools being closed due to [emergency winter weather](#). Ensure your school has your correct cell phone number captured to participate. Families can opt out at any time.

Stay Connected Online

You can also stay connected online through our school website, X (formerly Twitter) feed [@EldersMills](#), and the Edsby app or website (<https://yrdsb.edsby.com/>). Some classrooms also use Edsby, Google Classroom, Twitter feeds or newsletters to help you stay connected. Your child's teacher will provide more information about any communications tools they are using.

In addition, you can follow Board news and updates through:

- www.yrdsb.ca
- Instagram [@yrdsb.schools](#)
- X (formerly Twitter) [@YRDSB](#)
- [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#)
- [TuneIn YRDSB](#), the Board's podcast, available on most podcast platforms

Dress Code

For more information, see the [Student Dress Code Policy and Procedure](#).

Students should dress in a manner that is mindful of safety and respect. To maintain a positive school climate, we ask that students refrain from wearing clothing with inappropriate messages, or clothing that reveals undergarments.

It is essential that all children wear shoes in school. Where possible, please provide a pair of labeled, lace-up or Velcro, non-marking gym shoes that can be left at school for indoor purposes. Please reach out to the administration if you have concerns about providing a second pair of shoes to be left at school.

Emergency Preparedness

The Board has several policies and procedures in place to address emergency situations if normal school operations cannot continue or where student and staff member safety may be at risk. This could include a fire, flood or acts of violence. All schools have individual plans and conduct drills throughout the year. There will be six fire, one hold and secure, one bomb threat and two lockdown drills annually so students become familiar with emergency preparedness procedures. These drills are important so that in the case of an actual emergency, students and staff members know what to do to be safe.

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Excursions/Community Walkabouts

Our outdoor spaces are learning spaces. We recognize that playing and learning in the outdoors supports student learning and well-being through the seasons. Opportunities for students to build connections to the land have meaningful, long-term, positive health implications, especially on mental health and well-being. Community walks are not field trips. They are defined as community excursions that take place off school property, which last less than one day and do not require transportation.

Family Resources

Visit www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources or click on the link from the Board's homepage to access a variety of resources for families, including start-up forms (when available), IT support for families, translation tools, links to community resources and student supports, assistance accessing online tools like Google Classroom, Edsby and School Cash Online and more. Click on the "Need Help?" link for access to tips and resources..

Homework

The Board has a homework policy that supports student learning and recognizes the importance of personal and family well-being. The amount, frequency and nature of assigned homework will vary depending on the student's strengths and needs, well-being, grade, subject and other factors. For more information about time guidelines and how parents can provide support, please see the [Board Homework Policy and Procedure](#). **For homework help**, visit the [Online Student Tools and Resources](#) page for links to homework tips and learning resources, including Mathify Homework Help.

How Can We Help You?

Most concerns can be resolved with dialogue and cooperation. We are committed to addressing concerns in a fair, equitable and timely manner. If you have a school-related question or concern, please follow these steps:

1. Arrange a meeting with your child's teacher or the appropriate school staff member.
2. If you need further assistance, the school principal or designate may be contacted to review the matter, mediate, and help facilitate the process.
3. Contact the superintendent for our school if the matter remains unresolved.

You can also [contact your local trustee](#). Trustees are committed to open dialogue with the community. You are encouraged to share your views on policy issues and Board governance with your local trustee. You are also welcome to attend and observe any [public Board, Advisory or Board Committee meeting](#). Meeting information is available on the Board website.

If you have a human rights related concern and/or complaint, the first step is to engage with the school or the superintendent. If your concern and/or complaint remains unresolved, your matter can then be referred to the Board's [Human Rights Commissioner's Office](#) (HRCO), or you can contact the HRCO directly. The Independent Office of the Integrity Commissioner may also be engaged to address concerns related to trustee behaviour. Contact information can be found on the Board website, or by contacting the school.

More information is available [on the Board website](#).

Lunch Time Agreement

All students from grade 2-8 will remain at school during the lunch hour. Students who leave school property for lunch must be signed out by a parent/guardian, otherwise students must stay at school. The School Start-Up Permissions Form must be completed for all students and returned to the school.

Personal and School Property

The school and the Board are not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items. You can reduce the risk by leaving valuable items at home. Always secure items.

Students are expected to show respect for school property and materials, at all times. Students, together with their parents/guardians, are responsible for ensuring that school items are returned in good condition. Textbooks, lockers, desks and chairs should not be vandalized (e.g., writing inside school books, torn pages, holes in desks, etc.). Lost or damaged textbooks, library books or other school materials are the responsibility of the student. Restitution will be expected and outlined by each school.

Pets on School Property

Except for trained service animals, pets such as dogs or cats, are not permitted in a school, a classroom, or onto school property.

Recess

All students are expected to go out for recess and lunch hour to support their well-being, weather permitting. If a student is well enough to attend school, then they will benefit from short periods of outdoor exercise. Schools do not have supervised health room facilities. Recess, entry, dismissal times, and lunch time are supervised. Students should dress comfortably and appropriately according to [weather conditions](#).

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Requests for Faith Accommodation

There may be circumstances where students and families request accommodation for religious beliefs in curriculum areas including the Arts and Physical Education. Accommodations may include different instruction and assessment opportunities, or full withdrawal. If you are interested in discussing an accommodation based upon your religious beliefs, speak with your child's teacher and school principal or complete the **Faith Requests for Curriculum Accommodations Form** available through the school and in the start-up forms. By providing a range of accommodations, we are building a sense of community and belonging for all students. For more, see [Board Procedure on Equity and Inclusivity: Religious Accommodation](#).

School Council

There are [many ways you can be engaged in your child's learning](#) at home and at school. This includes getting involved with the school council. The school council provides advice on school matters and helps to strengthen the important relationship between schools, families and their communities. The council includes family members, school staff and community members.

How do I join?

At the beginning of the school year, all parents/guardians have the opportunity to become a voting member of council. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, fill out the **School Council Nomination Form that will be part of your start-up forms by Thursday October 3, 2024.**

Elections shall occur within the first thirty days of the start of each school year. All family members (voting member or as an attendee) are encouraged to attend school council meetings.

Significant Faith Days

York Region is rich in culture and diverse in religious beliefs and practices based on faith. The dates listed below are some faith holidays of particular significance to members of the major faith communities in our Board. We affirm and value equally the faith diversity in our schools, therefore, events such as field trips, school concerts, conferences, meetings, workshops, other professional events, co-curricular activities, and exams/tests will not be scheduled on these dates:

2024-2025	Faith Day	Faith
October 3-4, 2024	Rosh Hashanah ²	Judaism
October 12, 2024	Yom Kippur ²	Judaism
November 1, 2024	Diwali	Hinduism
December 25, 2024	Christmas	Christianity (Western)
January 7, 2025	Christmas	Christianity (Eastern)
January 29, 2025	Lunar New Year	Buddhism
March 31, 2025	Eid-ul-Fitr ^{1 2}	Islam
April 13, 2025	Pesach/Passover ²	Judaism
April 14, 2025	Vaisakhi	Sikhism
April 18, 2025	Good Friday	Christianity (Western)
April 18, 2025	Holy Friday	Christianity (Eastern)

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April 20, 2025	Ridvan	Baha'i
June 6, 2025	Ed-ul-Adha ^{1 2}	Islam

¹ Dates are subject to the sighting of the moon each month

² All Jewish and Islamic Holy Days commence on the preceding evening at sundown or sunset.

Please note that in addition to the above listed dates, we will take reasonable steps to accommodate students and staff members of a faith group for whom the Board's and the school's operations or requirements create undue hardship and interfere with their ability to exercise their religious beliefs and practices.

Student Personal Information

Schools routinely collect, use and release student personal information, in keeping with the Education Act and other laws. Whenever your child's personal information is collected, its use will be explained to you. Parents/guardians, please sign the **Student Personal Information Consent Form** in the start-up forms for more information. If you have any questions about your child's privacy protection, please contact the school principal or the Information Access and Privacy Office at 905-727-0022 ext. 2015.

Technology Use

All students and their parents/guardians are expected to read the [Use of Technology Agreement](#). They are also required to sign the **School Start-Up Permissions Form** to acknowledge that they have read, understand, and will support the conditions/rules concerning the use of school/Board and personal technology as it supports learning. This agreement is designed to ensure a safe and supportive school environment and network integrity.

We believe the classroom is the ideal place to teach students how to use digital tools effectively and responsibly, and how to stay safe online. Google Suite for Education is one of the tools educators may use to engage students in online learning and teach students how to stay safe and be responsible using technology. Through Google Suite, students have access to a Google Suite Gmail. This Gmail access is customized for appropriate age levels. We have also put strict measures in place to prevent SPAM and block inappropriate language and websites for students using email through Google Suite. For more information, please visit the Board website or speak to your child's teacher about the tools they are using in the classroom.

We all have a role to play in helping students to become responsible digital citizens. [Digital citizenship at home resources](#) are available on our Board website.

Use of Non-Board Electronic Devices

We recognize that learning can be enhanced by technology, and we have created opportunities in our classrooms to leverage digital tools to enhance teaching, learning and communication. Students may not use personal mobile devices (including cell phones) during instructional time except under the following circumstances: for educational purposes, as directed by an educator; for health and medical purposes; and to support special education needs.

Discussions will take place in our classrooms throughout the year about the impact of digital footprints and how a positive attitude towards using technology supports collaboration, learning and productivity. Camera and/or video functions on mobile devices are not permitted for use on school property without clear permission from the principal or teacher. Infractions will be dealt with as student discipline, under the Caring and Safe Schools Policy and its related procedures. At no time may electronic devices be used in washrooms or changerooms.

Students are responsible for the care and security of their personal devices. The school is not responsible for any damage, loss or theft. There are exceptions for students who need specific devices as per their Individual Education Plan, such as voice recorders and other mobile technology. Board staff manage the use of these tools.

Visitors

All visitors (including parents/guardians) must:

- Use the main entrance of the school, buzzing to enter all elementary schools.
- Check in at the main office when they arrive.
- Only visit classrooms, including portable classrooms or other locations within the school, with permission from the principal or their designate.
- Follow the direction of the principal at all times.

The office staff will get important messages and materials to your child.

Volunteering in the School

We welcome and encourage the important role that family and community members play in education. There are many opportunities for you to get involved at the school. For more information, contact the

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school office staff or review [Volunteers in Our Schools Policy and Procedure](#). If you are interested, please complete the **Volunteers in Our Schools Form** and return it to the school office.

Fair Notices

Reporting Children and Youth In Need Of Protection

All school board staff have a legal responsibility to notify a child protection agency if there are concerns for the well-being of students under the age of 16 years. Staff may report suspicions of a protection concern to a child protection agency for youth aged 16 and 17 years. Any suspicions of physical or sexual abuse, neglect or lack of care by a parent/guardian must be reported immediately to the administrator for all students under the age of 18 years. Parents/guardians will not be consulted in these situations.

Student Threat-Risk Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice and Process

Threat Assessment and Intervention

The well-being and safety of members of the school community are a shared responsibility; this includes preventing and responding to the risk of violence.

Our Student Threat-Risk Assessment Protocol was developed with community partners to respond to behaviours, including actions, statements and other indicators that suggest that a student may be "at risk" of harming others. To keep school communities safe and provide support to everyone, staff, families, students, and community members must report all threatening situations to the school administrator or police as soon as possible. Note – other procedures and protocols are in place to deal with threats from adults in the school community.

What is the purpose of the Threat Assessment Protocol?

- Ensure the safety of students, staff, parents/guardians, and other members of the school community
- Ensure an effective and timely response when there is a threatening situation
- Understand the factors that contribute to a threatening situation
- Assist in the development of an intervention plan
- Promote the emotional and physical safety of everyone involved

What is a threatening situation?

A threatening situation is defined as an indication of impending harm or violent acts against someone or something. Threats may be implied, verbal, written, drawn, posted on the internet, sent electronically or by information technology of any type, made by gesture or reasonably inferred from the surrounding circumstances of events. Threats may be direct, indirect, conditional or veiled.

What behaviours activate the Threat Assessment Protocol?

The protocol will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Serious violence with intent to harm or kill.
- Verbal/written threats of serious violence to harm or kill others (clear, direct and plausible);
- Use of technology to communicate threats to harm/kill others.
- Possession of weapons (including replicas).
- Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices).
- Fire setting.
- Sexual assault.
- Criminal Harassment.
- Gang-related occurrences.

What happens when a threatening situation is reported?

All threatening behaviours by a student shall be reported to the school administrator who will activate the Threat Assessment protocol.

Once a threatening situation has been reported to a school administrator, interviews will be conducted. These interviews may include students, staff, family members and/or others as appropriate. This will be done to determine the level of risk and develop an effective and timely response to the incident. After the immediate safety risk has been addressed, support and intervention plans will be developed with input from parents/guardians.

Who is a member of a Threat Assessment team?

Each school will have staff trained in the Threat Assessment protocol. A multi-disciplinary Threat Assessment team will assess the situation and support the development of an intervention plan. The

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team includes a School Administrator, a School Social Worker and/or a Psychological Services staff member, a York Regional Police officer, and appropriate members of the student's circle of care.

Is parental/guardian or student consent required?

Consent is not required to respond to an emergency situation. When there is a risk that someone may be harmed, it is important that the incident be addressed as quickly and effectively as possible.

Fair Notice

Please consider this as "fair notice" to all members of the school community that any report of a threatening situation will be investigated. The Threat Assessment protocol is part of our strategy to create a safe, secure, and supportive school environment for everyone.

YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol Fair Notice

The York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a Student Suicide Intervention Protocol to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. Youth suicide is a complex, emotionally charged and sadly real problem in Canada. It is the second leading cause of death amongst young people. It's important to recognize that those who struggle with mental health have personal strength and resilience and the potential to overcome difficulties to ultimately thrive.

The YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol is designed to address the six steps involved when responding to current and present thoughts of suicide, as well as actions related to suicide. In addition, the Protocol is governed by a set of guiding principles which are underpinned by a culturally responsive and reflective practice.

Suicide is not culturally neutral. Our cultural and ethnic backgrounds will inform how each of us understands suicide. To see all the guiding principles, see the [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol on the Board website, or request a copy through the school office.](#)

Given the urgent need to help keep students safe from suicide, each school has access to Board staff trained in suicide intervention. In the urgent situation of suicide intervention, staff trained in suicide intervention do not require parental / guardian consent to intervene. However, we do make every effort to contact parents/ guardians to apprise you of your child's situation and the assistance provided. Parents/guardians are an integral part of keeping their children safe. In the event that the intervention protocol is used, a record of the intervention will be shared with you (student consent to share information is required for those over the age of 18 years) and a copy will be created and stored in a private and confidential on-line records management system. In accordance with privacy and health records legislation, a copy will be retained for one year plus a day following the intervention. As per the

protocol parental/guardian (student if 18 or over) consent will be sought to share the intervention plan with those members identified in the record. If you have any questions about the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol, please contact your school principal.