



# MARKHAM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

89 Church Street  
Markham, ON L3P 2M3

Tel: 905.294.1886  
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April 15, 2020

Dear Students and Families,

Markham District High School Staff and Administration have been made aware that some of our students are behaving online in inappropriate and unexpected ways. Although these times are new to all of us and many things have changed with respect to school and our daily lives, we must always maintain our character, sense of care for others and community. We have many individuals in our community who are vulnerable and isolated. Cyberbullying/Bullying harm may be psychological, social or academic harm or it may be harm to the victim's reputation. We expect all members of our community to pull each other up and be sensitive to each individual's well-being. We collectively have a responsibility to act; as it takes courage to stand up and stop cyberbullying/bullying.

We are investigating online postings that go against who we are as a school. This behavior is contrary to the MDHS Code of Behaviour and the YRDSB Caring and Safe Schools Policy. Students who are involved in bullying or cyberbullying may be suspended or expelled. This is a serious matter and we have been in contact with York Region Police who will also be investigating. We expect better at Markham District High School. We ask that if you have posted a post that is inappropriate – remove it. Students, we encourage you to report any cyberbullying to the administration, guidance, teacher or the Board's Report It button and to look after each other during these challenging times.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank our community and students who are standing up to bullying, reporting it and looking after those who have been harmed.

Thank you, as we can rise up and do better...

Action is required by all members of our community:

## Parents

[Use the Tips for Families to Support Online Learning](#). Please monitor all of your child's online activity. There are multiple platforms being used including some social media sites that you think may be safe. Please consult the [YRDSB Guidelines for Acceptable use of Technology](#);

Talk with your child about demonstrating good character at all times;

Discuss proper use of Social Media and other electronic platforms;

Contact a Vice-Principal if your child is a victim – please gather as much evidence specific to your child as possible but do not engage online with those responsible. Access [mental health and community support resources](#) as needed;

Contact a Vice-Principal if your child is responsible for this behavior. Coming forward now demonstrates understanding of wrong-doing and goes a long way to reducing consequences.

## Students

Do not engage in any online behavior that puts others down. Follow the [YRDSB Guidelines for Acceptable use of Technology](#). Your "liking" of a post makes you part of the problem and you may also face consequences;

If you are a victim, speak with your parents and contact your Vice-Principal – please gather as much evidence specific to your situation as possible but do not engage online with those responsible. Access [mental health and community support resources](#) as needed;

If you are responsible for this behavior, STOP now, speak with your parents and contact your Vice-Principal.

Coming forward now demonstrates understanding of wrong-doing and goes a long way to reducing consequences.

I am sharing this information with all school staff who will be vigilant in monitoring the comments in their online platforms and provide supports to all students who need them.



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This is difficult time and we all need to work together to support one another. Together, we are, and always will be, Markham District High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Schouten".

Brian Schouten - Principal [brian.schouten@yrdsb.ca](mailto:brian.schouten@yrdsb.ca)

Vice Principals:

A-L – Georgia Clifford ([georgia.clifford@yrdsb.ca](mailto:georgia.clifford@yrdsb.ca))

M-Z – Corey McArthur ([corey.mcarthur@yrdsb.ca](mailto:corey.mcarthur@yrdsb.ca))

Additionally if you would rather speak with a Guidance Counsellor, please contact yours:

Last name	Counsellor	Email
A-F	Ms. McGill	<a href="mailto:gabrielle.mcgill@yrdsb.ca">gabrielle.mcgill@yrdsb.ca</a>
G-La	Mr. Buie	<a href="mailto:james.buie@yrdsb.ca">james.buie@yrdsb.ca</a>
Le-R	Mr. Weinstein	<a href="mailto:marc.weinstein@yrdsb.ca">marc.weinstein@yrdsb.ca</a>
S-Z	Ms. Kerhoulas	<a href="mailto:erika.kerhoulas@yrdsb.ca">erika.kerhoulas@yrdsb.ca</a>