



MARKHAM DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

89 Church St.
Markham Ontario
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<http://markhamdistrict.hs.yrdsb.ca>

June 2018

Welcome to Markham District High School

Welcome to MDHS - A learning community of excellence! It is our pleasure to welcome all grade 9 students. We know that this is an exciting yet sometimes anxious transition and we are here to support you. Our first responsibility is to maximize your potential throughout your secondary school career. Today's modern world requires students to be prepared to solve messy, complex problems by thinking critically, collaborating constantly and using creativity and innovation in a globally connected world. We will support this goal by offering students the diversity of learning they require to be successful. MDHS has a longstanding tradition of excellence in academics as well as presenting an amazing array of extra- curricular and co-curricular activities. We encourage all students to explore the many opportunities we offer to develop your interests, spark a passion, engage with a variety of students and balance your social, emotional and academic wellness. MDHS is indeed a place where opportunities abound! One of our greatest strengths is the support we receive from our school community, especially our parents/guardians who are critical in supporting our students. We look forward to continuing our learning together to ensure the success of all of our students. Enjoy your summer, and see you in September!

Grade 9 Welcome Day Tuesday, Sept 4th, 8:00 a.m.

Welcome / Orientation Day takes place for Grade 9 students on Tuesday, September 4th. All parents and/or guardians are invited to spend the first part of the school day with their son/daughter. An information session will be held for parents/guardians to provide an opportunity to ask questions.

Students will attend a Welcome / Safe Schools assembly and travel to each of their classes, plus participate in activities. Many student mentors will be on hand to help everyone find their class. During period 5, students will attend an additional presentation.

A BBQ Lunch will be provided free of charge. (Details to follow. See School Cash On-line.)

Grade 9 Camp Day Arrive as strangers; leave as friends.

On Tuesday October 2nd, 2018, all Grade 9 students are encouraged to participate in this special day to promote social-emotional learning and well-being as students transition to high school. The Grade 9 Camp Day is devoted to fostering school spirit and nurturing lasting friendships. Students participate in a variety of team building activities that help to build self-esteem and leadership. This year the camp day will be held at Camp Green Acres.

Options available on School Cash Online

1	Student Activity Fee	\$45.00
2	Yearbook (early bird price, increases as of January 1, 2019 to \$55.00)	\$50.00
3	SPC Card	\$10.00
4	Grade 9 Camp Day (includes lunch)	\$26.00
5	Physical Ed T-shirts	\$12.00
6	School Council Donation (Tax Receipt provided for amounts of \$25.00 or more)	Various
7	MDHS Spirit Wear (samples will be available for sizing in September)	Various

Health and Physical Education Uniform:

Students must purchase and wear a Markham District Physical Education T-Shirt (\$12) during their Physical Education classes.

We encourage students to purchase at least two T-Shirts to allow for laundering after each wearing.

YRDSB Mission Statement:

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

Student Activity Fee – A Message for Parents and Guardians

Your support of the Student Activity Fee is needed for Markham District High School to continue to provide a vast array of opportunities that respond to the diverse interests of our students. We know that parents and guardians of MDHS students appreciate the value of extracurricular activities in building school spirit, fostering a sense of community and support positive mental health and well-being within our students.

The Student Activity Fee helps to fund engaging opportunities that occur before school, at lunch and afterschool. Monies collected cover or subsidize costs of events and activities – including those run by the Student Activity Council (SAC) – that build school spirit, promote inclusivity, create memories and enrich the learning experience beyond the classroom and the designated subject curriculum. Our Student Activity Council (in collaboration with Staff Advisors and Administration) manages the allocation of the Student Activity Fees collected at registration.

Here are some examples of how SAC allocates Student Activity Fees (SAF) at MDHS:

Clubs & Committees:

- To provide start up operational funds for clubs and committees;
- To defray costs of organizing or participating in special events (such as student conferences, competitions, celebrations) related to the club or committee; and
- To support special initiatives that clubs have requested funding for via a written proposal.

Teams:

- To pay the cost of one tournament per team (students on teams are required to pay the SAF);
- To provide awards/trophies for athletic excellence and sportsmanship at the annual Athletic Banquet; and
- To provide funding support for teams that qualify for OFSAA.

Student Council – Whole School Activities/School Climate Support:

- Grade 9 Welcome Day
- Spirit Week Activities
- Monthly Spirit Theme Days
- Clubs Day
- Conferences
- Prizes/Awards for Academic Pep Rally
- Hallowe'en Activities
- Fall Dance, Semi-Formal and Prom
- Valentine's Day Activities
- May Day Event
- Guest Speakers for Assemblies
- Purchasing items for the Student Body

Other:

- The Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Classics programs have co-curricular clubs and activities which receive funding from SAC through the SAF.

Please note that even if you choose not to pay the \$45 Student Activity Fee it means that your child will pay higher entrance fees for tickets to school events.

Thank you for your support. We hope that all of our students and their families enjoy a safe and happy summer. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Information

Registration

Registration for the 2018-2019 school year will be available ONLINE at the following website: <https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/>. Online registration will be open from July 13, 2018 to August 30, 2018.

Timetables and locker information will be emailed to students (to their Gapps account as well as the email provided by parents) on August 31, 2018, by 5:00 p.m.

Parents - For Safety Reasons

Parents are asked to drop off or pick up students at the front entrance of the school. Please obey the signs and be mindful of pedestrians. Safety is our first concern! The bus loop is used only for school buses. The back entrance is for deliveries, service vehicles, and MDHS staff.

We request that all visitors, parents or guardians register in the main office.

Traffic is quite slow in the pre-school and after school hours. Please leave sufficient time to allow your child to arrive at school so that he or she can be on time for Period 1. If your child lives within walking distance of the school, we encourage him or her to walk, bike, or skate for personal well-being, health and fitness.

Student Absences

Parents are asked to call the attendance office, (905) 294-1886 option 1, on each morning of their child's absence. Failing that, please send a note with your child when he or she returns to school. Your child should present the note at the attendance office to receive an admit slip for his/her classes.

Allergies

Some MDHS students have severe allergies to peanuts and/or peanut products. We ask that you refrain from bringing such products into the building. **Parents or guardians are asked to notify the school administration if their son or daughter has any medical condition or carries medication (i.e. inhaler, EpiPen, etc.)**

Cell Phones & Personal Electronic Devices

Full engagement and participation in all classroom activities is crucial to student success. To support this, **it is an expectation that cell phones are turned off in classrooms.** Students take responsibility for any devices they choose to bring to school. Devices should not be left in the change room, on desks or tables and should remain with a student or be locked in their locker at all times if they are brought to school. **The school is not responsible for lost or stolen devices.**

Dress Code

MDHS students are expected to dress appropriately for school to ensure a focus on learning. Clothing that demonstrates respect for self and others is expected at all times. Appropriate dress is in effect while at school, on field trips, and during any other school-related activities or events. The full MDHS Dress Code can be found on the school website and within the Student Information package that will be emailed to each student and their parent/guardian.

Lockers

Students who are new to MDHS will be assigned a locker and a lock for the duration of their time here. The locker and lock are school property. The locker must be emptied each year prior to exams and the assigned lock must remain on the locker at all times. Students will be charged to replace the assigned lock if it does not remain on the locker.

E-mail Bulletins

MDHS sends out a bi-weekly e-mail bulletin to parents and guardians highlighting the events and activities. If you are not receiving this bulletin, please update your e-mail address in the main office.

EQAO

All students in Grade 9 applied and academic mathematics courses will be participating in the province wide Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics. The tests will take place during your child's regular Grade 9 Mathematics class towards the end of either semester 1 or 2. Results of this test will comprise 5% of students' final mark in Grade 9 Mathematics. Please ensure that your child has no appointments on those dates as attendance is mandatory.

This assessment, administered by Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), measures each student's achievement against the expectations of *The Ontario Curriculum*. The results show how each student performed in relation to the provincial standard. EQAO results are an additional tool to help students, parents and schools evaluate student progress. They provide valuable information that supports strategies for improving the quality of public education in Ontario.

MDHS DAILY SCHEDULE

School begins at 8:10 a.m. Please encourage your child/children to arrive by 8:00 a.m. so they can visit their lockers and get organized for the day.

Period 1	Opening Exercises/Announcements/ Homeroom 8:10 – 9:30
Period 2	9:35 – 10:50
Period 3	10:55 – 12:10
Period 4	12:15 – 1:30
Period 5	1:35 – 2:50

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Guidance Services:

All grade 9 timetables have been checked for balancing of courses. Guidance counsellors will be available on Tuesday, September 4th, if you have any questions or concerns. Please note that courses are full and changing course selections at this time is not possible. Timetable changes will be made for exceptional reasons only and solely by appointment.

Office Hours:

The office is open Monday to Thursday throughout the summer. Normal office hours will resume on Monday, August 27th. Please call if you plan to visit as there may be periodic closures.

Textbooks:

Teachers will distribute textbooks during the first few weeks of each semester. Students are responsible for keeping them in good condition and returning them at the end of the semester. Replacement costs for lost or damaged textbooks are the responsibility of the student.

Procedures and Policies:

Detailed information about behavioural and course expectations, student responsibilities and various school procedures is provided on our website, and will be available as part of the MDHS Student information package emailed to each family. Parents and students will be required to sign-off that you have reviewed the school policies and procedures at the start of the school year.

Tips to Prepare for Secondary School

Now that your child has graduated from elementary school, an exciting new experience awaits him or her at MDHS. Although they are now older, the passage from elementary school and preparation for the next level will still come with some anxieties. For parents who are preparing for their first experience with secondary school, there may be many questions and concerns.

- Consider attending events at the school such as School Council, sporting events, music concerts, visual arts nights, dance or theatre productions. This will provide you with an opportunity to get to know the school, its routines and extra curricular offerings. It's also a great way to meet other parents, the staff, and the principal of the school.
- Talk about any anxieties your teen may have before the school year begins. Reiterate how, as with all new situations, high school will take some getting used to, but will provide many new and exciting experiences for them. Discuss choices and consequences as they relate to new friends.
- Discuss expectations for homework, assignments and tests, and how each of these will be more demanding at the secondary level. Consider all the extra-curricular community events your teen is currently involved in to determine what, if anything, may have to be dropped or scaled back in order to meet the time demands of school.
- Make sure that there is a good workspace available for your teen. She or he will likely need additional supplies this year - have them ready before the school year begins. While school projects now require the use of computers and Internet access, it isn't necessary to buy a top end computer for the home.
- Review the school's start-up package. Find out what extra-curricular activities are offered and encourage your teen to get involved. There are so many opportunities available in high school to help your teen become an active and involved member of the student body.
- Discuss lunch plans, particularly if your son or daughter will be eating in a cafeteria for the first time. Discuss where you expect your child to eat their lunch and where to spend their free time after lunch, as students in secondary school are given more freedom to leave school property. Reiterate the importance of healthy eating and how it affects learning.
- If your teen will be travelling to school by public transit, ensure that he or she is familiar with the route. Have an emergency contact available in case there is a problem during the first weeks.
- Before school begins, start a night time routine that will allow your teen to get up on time. Most teens stay up late and sleep in late. Remind the student that getting to school on time will require getting up earlier than he or she may be used to. Even teens need 8-12 hours of sleep each night to perform well in school.
- Set clear expectations about attendance and the consequences of skipping classes. Students need to understand that truancy will not be tolerated by the school, and may result in missed lessons and lower achievement. MDHS requires a call from parents in advance if a student will be away, or a follow-up note on the student's return. Make it clear to your teen that you will be attending all Information and Parents' Nights and that you will maintain an open dialogue with teachers. Please call teachers when you have questions or concerns about your child's academic progress.
- As a parent, get involved in the School Council and other parent-related events. This will provide great opportunities to become an active and informed part of your child's school. The first School Council meeting will take place on Monday, September 17th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Community Involvement Hours

As part of secondary school diploma requirements, students must complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement in order to graduate from secondary school.

Students may now complete these hours beginning in the summer immediately following their Grade 8 year.

The purpose of the community involvement requirement is to encourage students to develop an understanding of civic responsibility and the role they can play in supporting and strengthening their communities. Community involvement increases awareness of community needs and shows students how they can make a positive difference. Helping others enhances self-image and fosters a greater sense of belonging.

With summer fast approaching it is a great time for parents/guardians to encourage students to seize this opportunity to serve and to develop those lasting ties within their communities.

Before selecting an activity, students should review the lists of eligible and the ineligible activities. Questions may be directed to your guidance councillor.

When choosing an activity, students may wish to consider their personal interests and possible career paths, as well as the needs of the community. There are many local **NON-PROFIT** organizations which will help find volunteer placements. Students may want to contact one or more of the following:

- charitable organizations;
- community agencies;
- community centres;
- government offices;
- service clubs; and
- volunteer centres.

Students are expected to use the *Notification and Completion of Community Involvement Activities Form* to plan and track the completion of activities. **Please ensure that the information for activities is documented and signed by a school representative PRIOR to engaging in the volunteer activity.** Additional forms are available through your elementary school office, or secondary school guidance office. Elementary schools will accept the notification forms and forward them to your secondary school. Completed forms will be accepted in the secondary school guidance office after school begins in September.

For more information about Community Involvement Hours, please visit our website:
www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/communityinvolvement

Remember:

- begin community involvement activities as soon after Grade 8 graduation as possible;
- secondary school guidance departments offer supports for finding a suitable volunteer opportunity;
- obtain the *Notification and Completion of Community Involvement Activities Form* from your elementary school office or secondary school guidance office;
- have a school board representative sign the form **prior** to beginning the volunteer activity;
- only hours completed with **NON-PROFIT** organizations will be considered / granted.

Hello from the MDHS Library

In September, drop by the library to say hello!

Did you know?

- All you need to sign out resources is your **student card**
- Books may be signed out for **three weeks**
- You can **renew** your books--just bring them to the front desk to renew

***Check out [our website](#)! Go to the Markham District High School website; click on the library tab.

We have a large selection of fiction so it should be easy to find something that appeals to you—but until we meet in September, here are some suggestions:

- Your local public library is a great place to start. There are suggestions on their website: look at the database **Novelist** to see recommendations—or go browse the shelves at the library.
- There are many sites dedicated to offering reading suggestions. A few are: **Goodreads**, **Amazon.ca**, **Indigo.ca**, **Teen reads** or **Reading Rants**. The last two sites provide an excellent archive of recommended reads for teens.

School Council

Education is a partnership involving parents, students, teachers, principals, community and school boards.

MDHS' School Council provides advice on school matters and helps to strengthen the important relationship between schools, parents/guardians and our communities.

All members of the school community are welcome to attend council meetings. Parents/guardians and community members are key to a successful school council. Getting involved gives you the opportunity to be part of a team working to ensure a high quality of education.

School Council Meeting Dates:

- September 17, 2018 @ 7pm
- October 15, 2018 @ 7pm
- November 19, 2018 @ 7pm
- February 19, 2019 @ 7pm
- May 21, 2019 @ 7pm