



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

**VOLUME 1**  
Sept. 22  
2023

## CONTACT US

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## COUNSELLORS

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### APPOINTMENTS

**As of Wednesday, September 20th, students can begin making appointments online using Teach Assist.**

- Have your child log in to their Teach Assist account
- Under the sub-heading "Appointment Bookings"
- Click on the day and time the student wants to have their appointment (if the appointment slot is highlighted in blue). If there are no appointments displayed, then you will have to select another day, as all counsellors have been booked for that day.
- You will see shaded in blue "All open appointments". Choose the appropriate alpha Guidance counsellor (based on your child's last name) from the list on the left.
- If the student needs to cancel their appointment for any reason, click "cancel".  
If your child has any trouble making their online appointment, please let us know.

Please note: If guardians/parents wish to make an appointment with their student's guidance counsellor, please feel free to give us a call at 905-294-1886 ext. 515.

**Please note that the alpha breakdown has changed from last year:**



Ms. McGill  
Mr. Buie  
Mr. Weinstein  
Ms. Flikas

A—Hs  
Hu—Mo  
Mu—So  
Sr—Z



### TIMETABLE CHANGES

Timetable changes for semester 1 are now complete. No further changes will be made to timetables for semester 1 unless it is a level change.

You may begin making semester 2 changes with your alpha counsellor. Please make an appointment.

**Guidance office hours: Monday- Friday 7:45am—3:45pm**

**Phone# (905) 294-1886 plus extension provided above**

## Important Upcoming Dates!

October 4th — Post-Secondary Info session #1 — during period 1  
This presentation is for all **grade 12 students**

October 26 — MDHS Post-Secondary Fair - 6:00pm—8:00pm

Please check our guidance website for updates:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/markhamdistrict.hs/guidance/Pages/default.aspx>



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

## Post-Secondary Information



### Post Secondary Fair

(featuring various Ontario College and University representatives)

Date: Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>

Location: Markham District High School (cafetorium)

Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm

### Scholarship Classroom = mzcxprd

Please see the first installment of *the Scholarship Report*, this report contains important deadlines for **upcoming scholarships**. It is an extremely valuable resource that not all schools have access too.

Please copy and paste this link into your browser :

<https://seekingscholarships.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TSR-SEPT-2023-FINAL.pdf>

Password is **scholar58** if prompted.

The **University of Toronto Book Award** application deadline is **Thursday, October 5th at 2:50 pm**. The application can be found on the Scholarship Classroom. Please submit applications to the Guidance office by the deadline.

## Community Involvement/Volunteering

The community involvement graduation requirement is a minimum of **40 hours**.

The ministry is updating the Community Involvement Graduation Requirement policy. Community involvement is an important educational opportunity that allows students to develop skills and gain experiences to become successful and contributing members of society now and in the future.

**Therefore, there will no longer be any hours used for work or any hours done in the home.**

Here are the steps you must follow in order to ensure your hours are approved:

- Step 1: Review the list of eligible activities as set out on the YRDSB website.
- Step 2: Select an activity. Students may want to contact one or more of the following charitable organizations; community agencies · community centers · government offices · service clubs · volunteer centers **Contact your guidance counsellor if you are unsure if your activity will count. In the event that you do not discuss the volunteer activity with your guidance counsellor, then you run the risk of your hours not counting.**
- Step 4: Complete your volunteer activities
- Step 5: Submit the completed form. Ensure that all sections are completed, including parent signature, supervisor name, title and contact details. Then submit the completed form to Guidance.



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

## Night School

### **Semester 1 Night School 2023-2024**

There are two night school formats (each with their own course offerings)

### **Remote Learning “SYNCHRONOUS”**

#### **Semester One - Fall 2023: Classes: October 5, 2023 to February 1, 2024**

- The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous).
- Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30-9:45 p.m.
- Before the start of the program, students will receive an email with instructions on how to join the class on the first day logging in with their gapps account.
- **\*Decisions to run courses are based on student enrollment and teacher availability.**
- **Students should discuss this with their alpha counselor to ensure eligibility.**

Students register online on [My Pathway Planner](#) .

**If a student registers, they MUST inform their counselor to ensure that approval is granted.**

**Refer to this link to read further details on courses and registration:**  
<https://www2.yrdsb.ca/schools-programs/adult-learning/night-school>



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## Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

**APPLY TO SHSM: [bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp](http://bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp)**



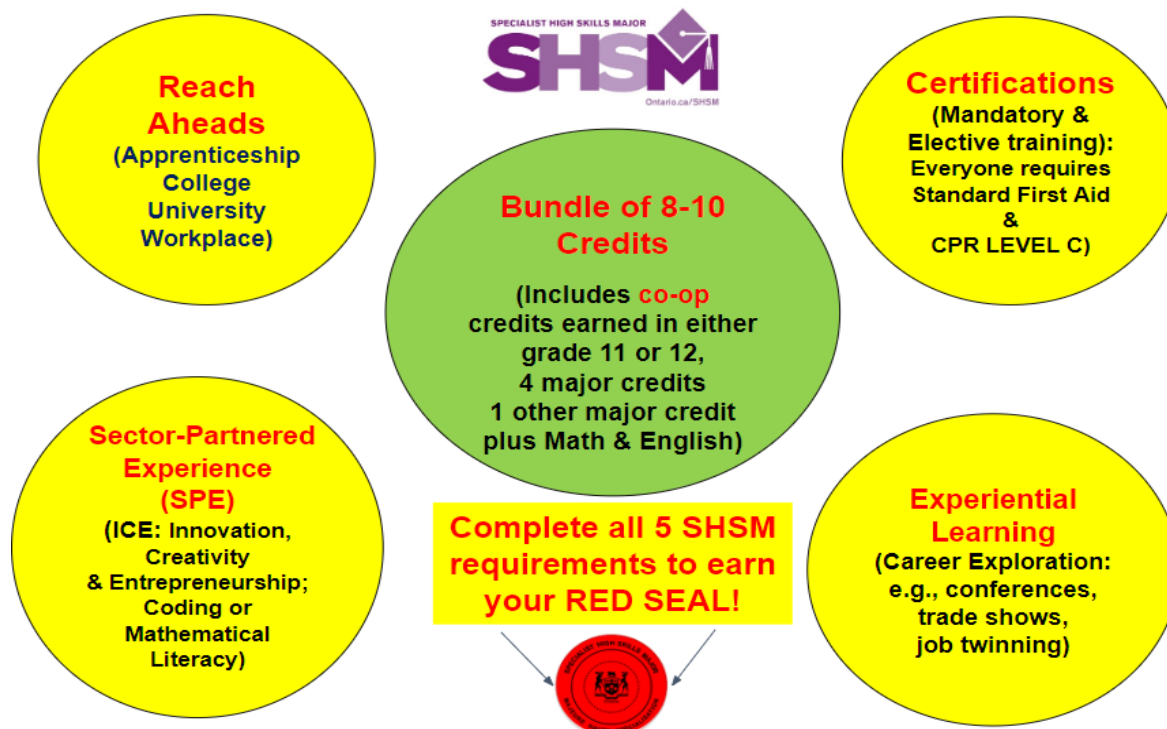
### What is SHSM?

A Specialist High Skills Major lets students focus on a career path that matches their skills and interests while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

### Why consider SHSM?

- ◆ Customize secondary school education to suit interests and skills
- ◆ Complete sector recognized certifications to build your resume
- ◆ Prepare for post-secondary opportunities
- ◆ Explore and refine career goals
- ◆ Earn the SHSM Distinction on their OSSD
- ◆ Engage in fun, experiential learning with like-minded peers
- ◆ Participation in the training and field trips is **free**.

## Specialist High Skills Major: 5 Required Components





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## Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

### SHSM Sectors at MDHS

**ARTS & CULTURE**

**CONSTRUCTION**

**HEALTH & WELLNESS**

**HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPING**

**NON-PROFIT**

**TRANSPORTATION**

### SHSM Application for September 2023

- Grade 11 students interested in registering for SHSM as well as grade 12 students who are taking coop this year are welcome to sign up for SHSM.
- If you are in grade 11 and are either planning to take coop this year or next year, you may be eligible to participate in the SHSM program.

**Please note, if you are already in SHSM, you do NOT have to reapply**

**Complete the application from this link:  
[bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp](https://bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp)**