



GUIDANCE BULLETIN

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DEPARTMENT HEAD

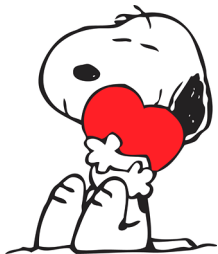
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APPOINTMENTS

Students can make 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.

Course Selection Timelines School Year 2024-2025

February 12	Course Selection presentations Grade 9—Period 1, Grade 10—Period 2
February 13	Course Selection presentations Grade 12—Period 1, Grade 11—Period 2
February 15	Course selection opens at 9:00 am for all grades 8—11
February 21	Guidance counsellors are available for students who need support with the course selection process during Period 3, Period 4 and afterschool in Room 104A
February 23	Course Selection closes for students at 3:00 pm

Students will be able to submit their courses starting on **Thursday, February 15 at 9:00 am**. It is highly encouraged that students have conversations with their guardians/parents in advance regarding their course selections. Students can also visit these important websites when making their course selection decisions (<https://www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca/> and www.ontariocolleges.ca) to be informed about potential post secondary programs and requirements.

Important materials from the course selection student assemblies on Feb 12 and Feb 13 will be available on the MDHS Guidance Google Site and the MDHS Website Guidance page.

Please check our guidance website for updates:

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



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Course Selections

Course Selection Tips for the College Pathway

- √ students entering Grade 11 **must** select 8 courses
- √ students entering Grade 12 often sign up for a full timetable (7 courses) as it is usually easier to drop a course than it is to add one
- √ try to ensure the **majority** of your senior credits are not Open (O) and Workplace (W)
- √ If your college program (e.g. social work) requires documented experience, you may consider taking Co-Op Education courses
- √ take college program prerequisite courses at the college (C) level whenever possible (e.g. take ENG4C rather than ENG4U), unless
 - Your college program factors in a grade differential weighting when making admissions decisions (note: the majority of colleges do not do this), or
 - You are confident you can achieve an equal or better final mark in the U or M course
- √ take courses for which you have the prerequisite credits as well as the academic preparation
- √ consider enrolling in a dual credit course (earn a college and high school credit at the same time)

Course Selection Tips for the University or College Bachelor's Applied Degree Pathway

- √ students entering grade 11 **must** sign up for 8 courses next year
- √ it is recommended for students entering grade 12 to sign up for at least 7 grade 12U and M courses, although only 6 (including prerequisites) are required for admission.
- √ 12 U English is a requirement for all University Degree and College Degree programs
- √ select social science courses in addition to math and science in case you change your program choice
- √ consider attending university and college Open Houses which are often held over March Break
- √ take courses for which you have the prerequisites, interest and academic skills
- √ strong math skills are required for some of the skilled trades (e.g. electrical, automotive service technician)

Course Selection Tips for Apprenticeships

- √ if there is a skilled trade you are interested in, you should investigate co-op opportunities (i.e. construction sector may require you to consider a 4 credit co-op in grade 11 in order to participate in the accelerated OYAP program, second semester grade 12)

The APPROVAL PROCESS for parents/guardians to approve course selections for the 2024/25 school year will be as follows:

- Students will complete their course selections via MyBlueprint. Once they press "submit", students will be prompted with a "Send Approval Email" message. In the space available, students **must** enter a valid email address for their parent/guardian to approve their course selection. **Only one email can be inputted**
- Parents/guardians will then receive a course selection approval request email, which provides the option to "Approve" or "Reject" their students' selections by clicking a link in the email. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that the email address is entered accurately for parents/guardians to receive the approval email.
- It is important that parents/guardians respond to the approval email in a timely manner. Failure to respond will result in the course selections submissions not being submitted to MDHS and this could jeopardize your students' course selections.
- If you have any questions regarding this approval process, please contact your alpha guidance counsellor.



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Mental Health Awareness

If you have an immediate concern and you feel that your child is in crisis, please contact one of the following links or phone numbers.:

- ◆ **NEW Suicide Hotline : Call or text 988** (<https://www.cbc.ca/amp/1.7043603> for more information)
- ◆ 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673)
- ◆ <https://www.yssn.ca/> - available 24/7
- ◆ KidsHelpPhone: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - <https://kidshelpphone.ca> - available 24/7
- ◆ call 911 if immediate assistance is required.

Post-Secondary Information

Graduating Students are encouraged to join our Google Classrooms:

Scholarship Classroom = [mzcxprd](#)

University Application Google Classroom = [e5gz2ra](#)

College Application Google Classroom = [qsyzyr](#)

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 granted for paid work or for hours done in the home.

*****Grade 12 students: as most of you approach your final semester, you must complete/submit your community involvement hours as it is a graduation requirement. Please ensure that you complete these as soon as possible. See your Guidance Counselor if you have questions or concerns.**



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Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

APPLY TO SHSM: 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

