



GUIDANCE BULLETIN

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Students can resume making appointments with their Alpha Counsellor using Teach Assist.

There will be NO further changes to Semester 2 timetables.

Course Selection Timelines School Year 2025-2026

February 10	Course Selection presentations Grade 11—Period 2, Grade 10—Period 1
February 11	Course Selection presentations Grade 12—Period 1, Grade 9—Period 2
February 13	Course selection opens at 9:00 am for all grades 8—11
February 21	Course Selection closes for students at 3:00 pm

Students will be able to submit their courses starting on **Thursday, February 13 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 Monday, February 10 and Tuesday, February 11 will be available on the MDHS Guidance Google Site and the MDHS Website Guidance page.



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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 2025/26 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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Important Upcoming Dates!

February 10 & 11	Course Selection assemblies
Feb 11—13	Semester 1 Final Report Card sent to student's gapps accounts — students are reminded to download and/or print their report card before the link expires
February 17	Family Day (School Closed)
February 21	Course Selection submission deadline
March 10 –14	March Break (School Closed)
March 21 –24	Interim report card E-distribution

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.:

- 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.

Guidance Google Classroom

Join our **MDHS Guidance Google Classroom** for all information guidance related: university, college, apprenticeship information, volunteer opportunities, mental health supports and much more.

Join with this code: **g7d6eud**

Community Involvement Hours

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.

*****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.**

Please check our guidance website for updates:

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