



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

VOLUME 6  
Dec 1 2023

## CONTACT US

905-294-1886  
Guidance x 515

markham.dhs@yrdsb.ca

### DEPARTMENT HEAD

Gabrielle McGill (A—Hs)  
gabrielle.mcgill@yrdsb.ca

### COUNSELLORS

Jim Buie (Hu—Mo)  
james.buie@yrdsb.ca

Marc Weinstein (Mu—So)  
marc.weinstein@yrdsb.ca

Anna Flikas (Sr—Z)  
anna.flikas@yrdsb.ca

### 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.

**The OUAC/OCAS transmission occurred last week. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that their OUAC/OCAS account has accurate educational information which includes their mid-term marks. MDHS is not responsible for transmitting marks received outside of YRDSB. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your transmitted marks, please contact your alpha Counsellor.**

**Semester 2 changes will continue to happen until late January. Once semester 2 starts, no further changes will be made to timetables.**

## Important Upcoming Dates!

Winter Break —	December 25, 2023 — January 5, 2024
First Semester Exams —	January 25, 2024 — January 31, 2024
OUAC application deadline —	January 15, 2024
OCAS application deadline —	February 1, 2024 (for equal consideration)
Second Semester Start Date —	Monday, February 5, 2024



Please check our guidance website for updates:

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



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

## Post-Secondary Information

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

November's copy of the **Scholarship Report** is now available!

<https://seekingscholarships.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/TSR-NOV23-FINAL.pdf>

Please take a few minutes to read through the report. Please see your counsellor if you have any questions. If the PDF requires a password: **scholar58**

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.**

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

## Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

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



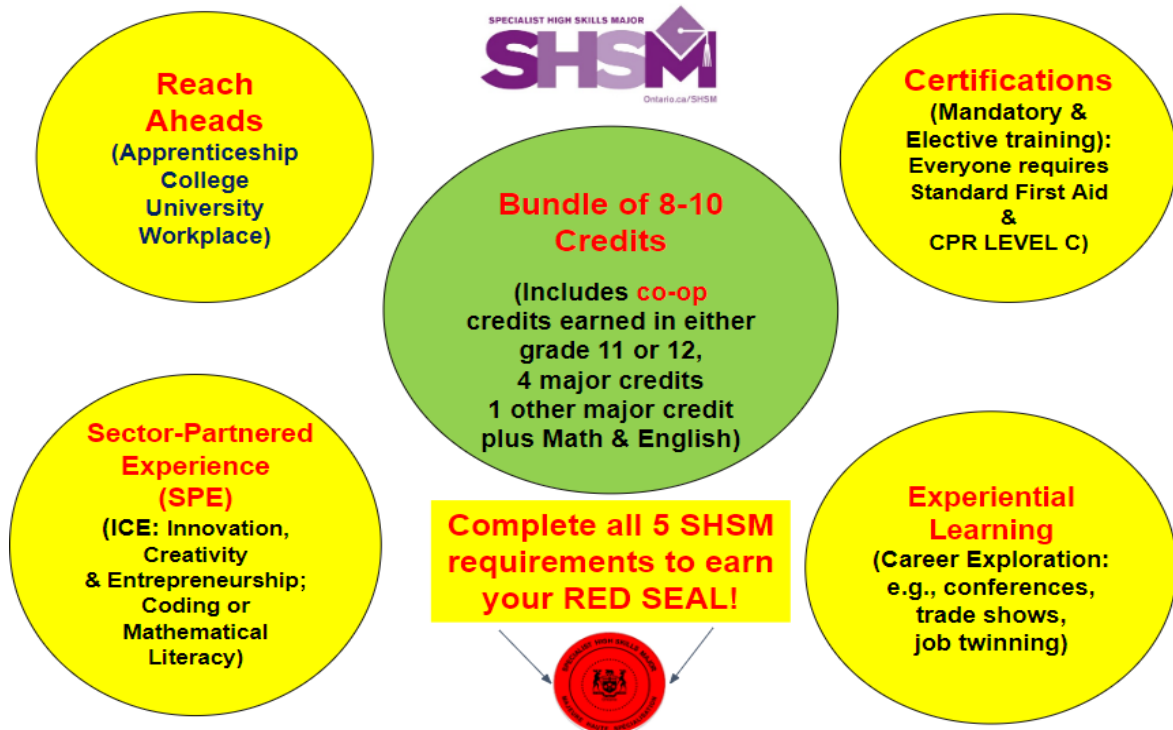
### What is SHSM?

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?

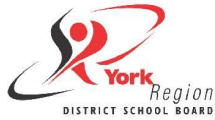
- ◆ Customize secondary school education to suit interests and skills
- ◆ Complete sector recognized certifications to build your resume
- ◆ Prepare for post-secondary opportunities
- ◆ Explore and refine career goals
- ◆ Earn the SHSM Distinction on their OSSD
- ◆ Engage in fun, experiential learning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

## Specialist High Skills Major: **5** Required Components





# GUIDANCE BULLETIN



**YRDSB FAMILIES OF STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-11**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO...**

## **PATHWAYS TO SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY**

Learn about:

- OYAP
- Pathway Planning
- Course selection for skilled trade careers
- Experiential learning opportunities

### **CAREER PANEL**

Hear about career pathways and opportunities from:

- Recent graduates
- Industry partners
- Employment experts

### **IMPORTANT INFO**



Wednesday, December 6, 2023



6:30pm-8:45pm



Bayview Secondary School  
10077 Bayview Ave, Richmond Hill, ON



**REGISTER NOW**  
Limited space



SCAN ME

[yrdsb.cc/PSTTDec6](https://yrdsb.cc/PSTTDec6)