



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

**VOLUME 7**  
Dec 15  
2023

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### MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

We understand that students may find the holidays to be a challenging time. 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.

**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!

<b>OUAC Holiday Closure -</b>	<b>December 22, 2023 to January 2, 2024, inclusive.</b> The OUAC website and online applications will be available during this time.
<b>OCAS Holiday Closure—</b>	<b>The Contact Centre (emails and phone calls) will be closed from December 25 to January 1 and will reopen on Monday January 2, 2024.</b>
<b>Winter Break —</b>	<b>December 25, 2023 — January 5, 2024</b>
<b>First Semester Exams —</b>	<b>January 25, 2024 — January 31, 2024</b>
<b>OUAC application deadline —</b>	<b>January 15, 2024</b>
<b>OCAS application deadline —</b>	<b>February 1, 2024 (for equal consideration)</b>
<b>Second Semester Start Date —</b>	<b>Monday, February 5, 2024</b>

Please check our guidance website for updates:

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



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## Night School

Night School On-Line course registration is open from December 18<sup>th</sup> until February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Students who registered early have received an email to indicate that they are NOT registered yet and need to register starting December 18<sup>th</sup>

## Post-Secondary Information

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



**SCHULICH LEADERS Scholarship— Due: January 16th, 2024 (2:50pm)**

Deadline for application to be received in Guidance (for school sponsorship consideration).  
All details have been posted on the Scholarship Google Classroom.

### COURSES OUTSIDE OF YRDSB

It is the responsibility of non-YRDSB schools (ie. private schools) to enter their course code and midterm mark on OUAC and OCAS. Graduating students are reminded to ensure their OCAS and OUAC accounts are accurate. Please book an appointment with your alpha counsellor if there are any questions or concerns with your OCAS or OUAC account.



Graduating Students are encouraged to join our Google Classrooms:

**Scholarship Classroom = [mzcxprd](#)**

**University Application Google Classroom = [e5gz2ra](#)**

**College Application Google Classroom = [qsyzygyr](#)**

## 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.**



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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

