



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

VOLUME

9

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

Note: Semester 2 timetables will be sent to students' gapps accounts the week of January 29, 2024.

## CONTACT US

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### APPOINTMENTS

Please note that from Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> (first day of exams) until the first day of Semester 2 Guidance Counsellors will be operating on a **drop in basis**.

Students will not be able to book appointments using TeachAssist during this time. Regular appointment bookings will resume once Semester 2 begins.

### MDHS COURSE SELECTIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

In the first week of Semester 2, important information will be shared with students regarding the process for selecting their courses for the next school year. Once again, submission will be through My Pathway Planner (myBlueprint). Stay tuned for more information.

**Night School On-Line courses:** Registration is open from Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> to Feb. 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>.

**YRDSB Summer School:** Information will be shared once it becomes available (around the middle of March).

## Important Upcoming Dates!

First Semester Exams —	January 25, 2024 — January 31, 2024
OCAS Application Deadline —	February 1, 2024 for equal consideration
PA Day (no classes) —	Friday, February 2, 2024
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>



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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

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP — Due February 1<sup>st</sup>**

Please check the google classroom for the application and instructions on submission.

Graduating Students are encouraged to join our Google Classrooms:

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

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

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

### 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.

## 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](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

