



GUIDANCE BULLETIN

VOLUME 10
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Please visit our
Guidance website for
updates:

[http://www.yrdsb.ca/
schools/
markhamdistrict.hs/
guidance/Pages/
default.aspx](http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/markhamdistrict.hs/guidance/Pages/default.aspx)

We also have a
Guidance Google Site:
[https://sites.google.com/
gapps.yrdsb.ca/
mdhsguidance/home](https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/mdhsguidance/home)

(must be in your student's
gapps account to access the
Guidance Google Site)



Course Selection Information 2023-2024

Parents/ Guardians/Students:

Course Selection is fast approaching and we know this is a very important time of year for all of you. If you would like to meet with your guidance counsellor, please contact the appropriate counsellor (based on last name of the student) to set up an appointment.

Ms. G. McGill	gabrielle.mcgill@yrdsb.ca	A - Ja	Ext 516
Mr. J. Buie	james.buie@yrdsb.ca	Je-Na	Ext 517
Mr. M. Weinstein	marc.weinstein@yrdsb.ca	Ne-Si	Ext 519
Ms. E. Kerhoulas	erika.kerhoulas@yrdsb.ca	Sk-Z	Ext 518

Guidance Secretary:

Ms. S. Vlachopoulos	susan.vlachopoulos@yrdsb.ca	Ext 515
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Guidance office hours: Monday - Friday 7:45am - 3:45pm
Phone# (905) 294-1886 plus extension provided above.

Course Selection Timelines School Year 2023-2024

February 9	Course Selection Presentations: Grade 9 during Period 1 Grade 12 during Period 2
February 10	Course Selection Presentations: Grade 10 during Period 1 Grade 11 during Period 2
February 16	Course selection opens at 9:00am for all grades 8—11
February 21	Guidance counsellors are available for students who need support with the course selection process during lunch 11:00am-12:00pm in Room 104A
February 24	Course Selection closes for students at 3:00pm
End of March	Course Selection Verification Forms will be distributed to all feeder schools and all current MDHS students

Students will be able to submit their courses starting on **Thursday, February 16th at 9am**. 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.



GUIDANCE BULLETIN

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 (8 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 Cooperative 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
- ✓ students entering grade 12 are recommended to sign up for 8 courses next year...it is recommended that you have 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)



GUIDANCE BULLETIN

Course Selections

Approval Requests to Parents/Guardians for 2023/2024 Course Selections

The approval process for parents/guardians to approve course selections for the 2023/24 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.

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

Standard First AID/CPR Level C with AED semester 2: March 1st (all day)

Permission forms will be available from Mr. Weinstein beginning February 6th.

Students **must** complete the on-line training prior to the in-person training (link will be provided).

This training is **ONLY** for students enrolled in SHSM - this is required for all SHSM students.