



GUIDANCE BULLETIN

VOLUME 11
Feb. 17
2023

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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)



The Guidance Alpha has changed slightly for Semester 2. Please note the following breakdown when booking a registration appointment:

Ms. G. McGill	gabrielle.mcgill@yrdsb.ca	A—Hi	Ext 516
Mr. J. Buie	james.buie@yrdsb.ca	Ho—Me	Ext 517
Mr. M. Weinstein	marc.weinstein@yrdsb.ca	Mi—St	Ext 519
Ms. E. Kerhoulas	erika.kerhoulas@yrdsb.ca	Su—Z	Ext 518

Guidance Assistant:
Ms. S. Vlachopoulos susan.vlachopoulos@yrdsb.ca Ext 515

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 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.

Important materials from the course selection student assemblies on Feb 9 and 10 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 (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)

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.



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Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)

Standard First AID/CPR Level C with AED: **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.

Centennial College: **March 21st (all day)**

Space is limited for SHSM students in the Construction, Transportation and Horticulture and Landscaping sectors.

Tentative Timeline:

8:30 am – Depart Markham District High School

9:00/9:15 am - Arrive at Centennial College – Downsview Campus (DAC)

9:15 – 10:15 am – Tour DAC and return to the bus to head to Ashtonbee Campus

10:45-10:50 am – Arrive at Ashtonbee Campus for a pizza lunch, presentation, and receive and to receive safety glasses

11:30 am – 12:45 pm– ½ tour / ½ sampler (experiential learning)

12:45 pm – 1:55 pm – Switch groups and return to homeroom at 2 to depart.

2:45 pm – return to MDHS

University of Guelph: **Monday, April 24, 2023**

There is space for SHSM students in the Health & Wellness, Non-Profit and Horticulture and Landscaping sectors.

Tentative Timeline for the Day:

7:00 am sharp – Depart Markham District High School

9:00 am approximately - Arrive at University of Guelph campus

Workshop 1

Lunch on campus (students to purchase or bring lunch if desired)

Workshop 2

2:00 pm– Depart

3:30 pm approximately – return to MDHS

Workshops (subject to change depending on the university):

Ice Cream Basics

This activity will cover the basic concepts of ice cream making-- from understanding the importance of the ingredients in the ice cream mix, to uncovering the reason behind the type of freezer used. Students will get the opportunity to use a semi-electric ice cream maker to freeze ice cream.

Plant DNA Extraction Lab

Introduction to plant genetics with the [Department of Plant Agriculture](#). Students will extract DNA from plant tissue accompanied by an informative lecture on applications in plant research and breeding.

Additional SHSM field trips are being planned.