



GUIDANCE BULLETIN

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**Guidance office
hours:**

**Monday- Friday
7:45am—3:45pm**

Follow us on twitter
[@MDHS_guidance](https://twitter.com/MDHS_guidance)



SEMESTER 2 COUNSELLORS BY ALPHA

Guidance appointments can be made through TeachAssist. Counsellors are available to meet either virtually or to have a telephone meeting.

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COURSE SELECTIONS

Course selections are now closed. Guidance will not be re-opening course planners to make any adjustments to courses. The next and final opportunity to make changes to your courses for the 2021-22 academic year, will be at the end of March through the course verification process. We will briefly outline the process in the next bulletin.

FACE-TO-FACE RETURN

With the return to the school building, please note the following changes:

Student will have the choice to either pick up a volunteer form in the guidance office or access it online. Completed volunteer forms can be dropped off in guidance (there will be a basket on a table) or you can email them to your alpha counsellor.

Community Involvement Forms can be accessed from the YRDSB website:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/Guidance/CommunityInvolvement/Documents/FOR-communityinvolvement.pdf>

Students who have completed a private school course must submit their report card to ensure our records for your transcript are accurate. Private schools must mail report cards in a sealed envelope. We will not accept students hand-delivering private school report cards.

SUMMER SCHOOL / E-LEARNING SUMMER SCHOOL

We recognize that there have been many inquiries about summer school courses for 2021. Currently, we do not have information regarding the format of summer school or the courses being offered. When this information becomes available, we will share the option(s) available along with the process for registering for course's and if necessary, the process for replacing a course in your child's course selections for next school year as a result of a summer school registration.



Please check our guidance website for updates:

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



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Scholarship Information

The latest issue of the Scholarship Report has been posted to the google classroom.

This issue contains scholarship listings with APR-MAY deadlines as well as Updates to scholarships listed in previous newsletters. The scholarships are listed according to application submission deadline.

Just a reminder: All scholarships are linked directly to the scholarship's website. Just click on the name of the scholarship.

Scholarship Google Classroom with code - [I5zjuvv](#)

Guidance Classroom Codes

University Applicants Google Classroom code – [Inatkxp](#)

College Applicants Google Classroom code – [khz24ox](#)

The OUAC/OCAS transmissions have successfully gone through. It is the student's responsibility to report any errors regarding their accounts. Courses taken outside of the YRDSB must be reported to the guidance counsellor and the report cards must be submitted asap in order to reflect an accurate transcript.

Course Selection Google Classroom code — [dqysjtq](#)

Volunteer Hours

For the 2020-2021 school year, the Ministry of Education revised the 40-hour community involvement graduation requirement by providing increased flexibility in how hours can be earned for all students, so that they will not be adversely impacted by the ongoing challenges related to COVID-19.

Students Graduating in the 2020-2021 School Year: The community involvement graduation requirement has been reduced to a **minimum of 20 hours** of community involvement activities.

Some possible volunteering opportunities to explore (copy link into browser):

<https://sendingsunshine.ca>

<https://volunteer.ca/index.php?MenuItemID=419> (VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING)

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/volunteering-ontario> (VOLUNTEERING IN ONTARIO)

<http://s643234117.online-home.ca/volunteering/find-my-volunteer-centre>
(ONTARIO VOLUNTEER CENTRE NETWORK)

<http://www.sparkontario.ca>



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Mental Health

If you are concerned about your student's mental health, your guidance counsellor will conduct a "mental health check" which is intended for any student that might need some support and/or encouragement. Please email your counsellor with the student's cell phone number (or best number to reach them) and the best time to call. We will do our very best to call within one business day.

We are continuing to meet with both parents/guardians and students at this time, so please continue to book via teach assist, <https://ta.yrdsb.ca/live/index.php>.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your student academics and/or well-being, we encourage you to reach out to your guidance counsellor. The guidance website is also another great resource to stay updated on various items.

Specialist High Skill Major

SHSM SECTORS at MDHS Arts & Culture, Construction, Health & Wellness, Horticulture & Landscaping, Non-Profit and Transportation

Calling all Grade 10 in particular (as well as eligible grade 11 students):

Benefits of SHSM:

- Participate in free training and field trips for 2 years (grade 11 and 12) to post-secondary institutions, conferences, trade fairs and other experiences related to your pathway and sector
- Eligibility for post-secondary scholarships offered at some college and universities to students who "successfully" complete all components of the SHSM program and earn their Red Seal
- Build your resume through various training opportunities (all SHSM students will receive training in Standard First AID/CPR Level-C - you will be exempt if you hold valid certifications in these already - proof must be provided).
- Engage in fun, experiential real-life experiences
- As SHSM is not a course, you will not have assignments/exams but you must take co-op in either grade 11 or 12 to be eligible

REGISTRATION FOR SHSM :

For Grade 11 students interested in registering for SHSM (and are planning to take co-op in grade 12 or who are enrolled in co-op this year), feel free to contact Mr. Weinstein for information (marc.weinstein@yrdsb.ca).

For Grade 10 students interested in registering for SHSM for next year (and are planning to take co-op in grade 11 or grade 12), feel free to contact Mr. Weinstein for information.

Apply to SHSM

After attending an SHSM information session, or speaking with Mr. Weinstein or Mr. Butler, you can begin the following application process.

Step 1: Login to your YRDSB @gapps account

Step 2: Complete the Regional application: bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp

Step 3: Monitor your YRDSB @ gapps email for all SHSM related communications. If you wish to forward your YRDSB@ gapps email to a preferred email account, see: bit.ly/gappsforward

Students are asked to check the SHSM google classroom for opportunities being offered centrally. Students are asked to self-report their participation using the forms posted in the google classroom. Some opportunities have already been posted by sector with many others still to come.



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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The [Summer Employment Opportunities \(SEO\)](#) Program provides up to 5,000 students with the opportunity to gain valuable work experience through supervised summer employment in the OPS. To be eligible to participate in the program, students must be currently enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary institution, be at least 15 years old, be living in Ontario during the summer and be legally entitled to work in Canada.

Positions for the summer of 2021 will be posted on **February 25, 2021** with different **closing dates** between **March 10** and **June 1, 2021**. The 2021 employment period for students is from May to September.

To participate, students must apply online at www.ontario.ca/careers.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, the OPS will be monitoring what program adaptations may be necessary for the summer of 2021. We continue to remain flexible in our approach. To the extent possible, proposed changes will be communicated prior to the screening and hiring of students.

Follow us on our social media channels. We are on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) with the account name of [@ServiceOntario](#). You can also follow the Ontario Ministry of Government and Consumer Services on [LinkedIn](#).

If you require additional information, contact us at SEO@ontario.ca.

A.B.L.E. Scholarship

The Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) created its Scholarship Program to commemorate the contributions of Rose Fortune (1774-1864) and Peter C. Butler III (1859- 1943) – the first Black police officers in Canada. By awarding scholarships, A.B.L.E. assists Black and visible minority students in achieving their educational and career aspirations.

A.B.L.E. is committed to ensuring that the criminal justice system is reflective of the entire Canadian mosaic, by providing opportunities for our young people to serve, protect, and correct.

Please share the following information with graduating Students accepted at a designated educational institution that may be interested in this scholarship opportunity:

[Application Form](#)
[Candidate Letter](#)
[Selection Criteria](#)

Application deadline has been extended to **March 22, 2021 at 5:00pm**.

For any questions, students may contact the Scholarship & Awards Committee Chair at ablescholarship@gmail.com.





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**Calling all York Region High School Students—Youth Homelessness is real.
Get Involved and Earn Volunteer Hours**



This is a great way to get involved as high school students, from the safety of their home property that helps our community. Spend a night out (5 hours) in the cold and experience some of the harsh realities young people face who find themselves homeless on any given night. Build your Shelter for the Night. Try to Stay Warm. Learn About Homelessness.

We've launched our new "At-Home" 360°Experience – our new virtual event for this year that we are hoping schools will share with their student bodies to participate in and pledge your support to helping raise the valuable fundraising dollars that support our work at 360°kids.

360°kids is the largest youth serving agency in York Region. Whether kids are reaching out for emergency housing because they've had family breakdown, or need counselling to deal with issues, need help finding a job, or need help with basic necessities like food, clothing, or hygiene items. 360°kids is there. And we have been for almost 32 year now!

This year's event has had to change slightly due to the lockdown situation we are all in but we are still planning to have an interactive, educating and fundraising event on **Thursday March 4th – 5th from 8pm – 1:00am**. We will be remotely engaging with all participants throughout the night and sharing videos of our work, our community agencies that also provide supports to our most vulnerable and how this pandemic has really impacted their ability to access services, and supports.

Participants will register as in past and collect pledges from their peers online and can do their own personal "At-Home" event from their front porch, maybe pitch a tent in their backyard, sleep in their car, building their own shelter around their property somewhere and experience the harsh elements of the winter outside for 5 hours on the evening of **March 4th**.

INCENTIVES – we will be offering incentives this year based on fundraising levels, and we will still be offering the 360°Experience jacket for those participants who meet the \$2,000 fundraising level. There will be other incentives at the \$150 (toque), \$400, \$750, and \$1,000 levels as well.

Please register using this link: [Register for the At-Home 360Experience Here](#)