



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

VOLUME

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Guidance office  
hours:  
Monday- Friday  
7:45am—3:45pm

### Timetable Changes

Semester 2 timetable change requests can now be made with your alpha Counsellor. In order to make changes to your timetable, please make an appointment using TeachAssist. Please note, we are only seeing students virtually or via phone.

### Volunteer Hours

For students graduating in the 2020-2021 school year, the community involvement graduation requirement will be reduced to a minimum of **20 hours** of community involvement activities. **All other students are still being asked to complete volunteer hours at this time. For further information, please consult the parent/guardian newsletter that was sent out in October or consult your Guidance Counsellor.**

### Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

It has recently been announced that the Ministry of Education will be waiving the literacy graduation requirement for all grade 12 students graduating during the 2020-21 school year.

### Grade 8 Information Evening

The Grade 8 Information night will take place on **December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm**. There will be a video presentation and then a question and answer opportunity. Links to the presentation and the Q and A will be provided by your elementary school and also posted on the MDHS website closer to the date.

### Upcoming Important Dates

November 19 — mid-term marks distributed to students' Gapps accounts  
November 20 — marks transmitted to OUAC and OCAS  
November 25 — virtual graduation ceremony for June 2020 grads  
December 3 — Grade 8 virtual Information Night  
December 16 — full disclosure



Please check our guidance website for updates:

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



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



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## Scholarship Information

**The Scholarship Report for November – January 2021 has been added to the Scholarship Google Classroom.** This issue contains scholarship listings with JAN-MAR 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.

### School Nominated Scholarships:

The Schulich Leaders Scholarship is due **January 11th** in Guidance either via email or in person.

**Please join the Scholarship Google Classroom with code - [l5zjuvv](#)**

## Post-Secondary Information

### **University Applicants Google Classroom code – [lnatkxp](#)**

REMINDER: Application deadline to an Ontario University is **January 15, 2021**

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

Please check the College Google classroom for videos and information explaining 'How to Apply for College'.

REMINDER: College Application (equal consideration) deadline is **February 1.**



Markham District High School will be hosting their Virtual Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2020 on Wednesday, November 25th, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Students will be asked to pick up their Graduation Packages (Diploma, Transcript, Awards, etc.) and Yearbooks (if previously purchased on School Cash Online) at MDHS in the Blue Zone (front foyer) on one of the following dates:

**Thursday, November 26th – 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm or**

**Friday, November 27th – 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

## Courses outside of YRDSB

If you are currently taking a course outside of the YRDSB, it is very important that you fill out the Private School Intention Form located on the MDHS website, under Guidance.

Complete this form and return it to your Guidance counsellor by the deadlines listed on the form.

A gentle reminder that it is the student's responsibility to ensure their OCAS and OUAC accounts are accurate.



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## Specialist High Skill Major

### **SHSM SECTORS at MDHS**

**Arts & Culture, Construction, Health & Wellness, Horticulture & Landscaping,  
Non-Profit and Transportation**

SHSM Student Website (be sure to open in gapps): <https://sites.google.com/gapps.yrdsb.ca/shsm-student/home>

On the website, students can find opportunities for certifications (currently there is a link there to complete infection control and project management that will count for all sectors), experiential learning, reach aheads and other relevant information. Once completed, students **MUST** complete the self-reporting form to earn credit for completion of the SHSM components.

**Reminder:** Grade 12 SHSM students should check that they are in a position to earn the Red Seal. If you are missing a certification (e.g. Working at Heights for Construction, Standard First AID/CPR Level C), there are opportunities to earn them. If you are missing other SHSM requirements (e.g. courses, Reach Ahead, Experiential Learning), inquire to see how you may be able to complete these requirements. **This year due to COVID, the Ministry will allow students to complete a Standard First AID/CPR awareness course to fulfill this requirement as in-person training is unlikely to happen.**

### **CERTIFICATIONS EARNED:**

If you have earned certificates outside of school (e.g. St. John's Babysitting, Standard First AID/CPR Level C, leadership, customer service, or others), please send us a scanned copy and we will see if it is eligible to count toward your SHSM requirements.

**REGISTRATION FOR SHSM (It is not too late and there are many grade 11 students taking co-op in semester 2 who are eligible to still apply)**

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](mailto: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.

To apply to MDHS SHSM programs, follow the process shown below. If you have difficulty completing your application or have additional questions, please contact Mr. Weinstein.

### **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](http://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](http://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. Stay tuned...**



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## Dual Credit / Night School

### **Dual Credit**

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/dualcredit/Pages/default.aspx>

- Experience college while still in high school at no cost to you
- Earn high school credits AND college credits at the same time in the same course
- Learn in college state-of-the-art facilities
- Explore different pathway options
- Try something new

Dual Credit courses are for Grade 11 & 12 students. As ministry-approved courses, Dual Credits allow students (while they are still in secondary school), to take college or apprenticeship courses that count towards both the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree, or an apprenticeship certification.

Students may earn credits towards the OSSD through courses delivered by publicly funded colleges in Ontario that are participating in the ministry-approved dual credit program. Students may earn up to four optional credits through college-delivered courses.

If you are interested, please **contact your alpha counselor for more details including eligibility.**

### **Semester 2 Night School**

Semester Two - Winter 2021 - Registration will open in January 4, 2021

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/ConEd/Pages/Night-School-Credit-Courses.aspx>

Runs from February 18, 2021 to June 22, 2021

Please be advised that the traditional in class face-to-face Night School program will move to a remote learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time synchronous (real-time).

Before the start of the program, students will receive an email with instructions on how to join the class on the first day. YRDSB students will login with their gapps accounts.

If you are interested, please **contact your alpha counselor for more details including eligibility.** Students may take a maximum of 4 courses in a semester (including night school)

### **Semester 2 Night School (e-learning)**

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/e-learning/programs/Pages/Night%20School%20e-Learning.aspx>

**Winter 2021 information will be available mid December 2020.**

Students enrolled in day school courses, worth less than 4 credits in a given semester, may be eligible. Check with a Guidance Counsellor at your [YRDSB school](#) to find out if you qualify.

**Note:** Night School e-Learning + Day School credits cannot exceed a total of 8 credits in a school year. If you are interested, please **contact your alpha counselor for more details including eligibility.**



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## Mental Health Awareness

We understand that students may be finding these extremely challenging times.

Students may experience feelings of distress as course demands increase. If your student or if you know of a student struggling emotionally, please reach out to the alpha guidance counsellor for support. The school has access to a social worker and mental health nurse that can support students with a referral. We can also refer students to community supports, if necessary.

If your concern is immediate 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

OR call 911 if immediate assistance is required.

## York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities

### York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (YRAACC)

Sankofa Mentoring Program for youth between the ages of 12 and 18

Bridging the past with the present. Navigating the present into the future.

Mentorship, Leadership, Cultural Experience, Field Trips, Life Skills, Retreats, Self-Awareness, Career Exploration, Academic Support

The Sankofa Mentoring Program is rooted in an African Rites of Passage framework that highlights the principles of Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, Faith and Self-Respect.

When we meet: **(During physical distancing we will be online on Thursdays for all students)**

**Tuesdays at Vaughan Secondary School from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. or**

**Thursdays at Bur Oak Secondary School from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

For more information please contact the program manager at [pgmmgr@yorkregionaacc.ca](mailto:pgmmgr@yorkregionaacc.ca)  
or call 647 807-2016.

### **IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION-WE ARE ONLINE NOW!!!**

**During this period of physical distancing due to COVID-19, the program will be delivered online on Thursdays only from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm for all York Region students.**

**The program will continue to offer mentoring, workshops and tutoring. We are also offering laptops and cell-phones to students to support their participation.**





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**SMP** / HEALTH SCIENCES

## SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Summer Mentorship Program (SMP) gives high school students of **Indigenous or African** ancestry a chance to explore health sciences at the University of Toronto over four-weeks in July.

You will:

- Get hands-on experience through experiments, lectures, and special projects
- Discover university education and professional careers in the health sciences
- Enjoy valuable mentoring experiences from a variety of professionals
- Earn a credit towards your high school diploma

APPLICATIONS OPEN IN FALL  
For more information:  
[uoft.me/smp](https://uoft.me/smp)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The Summer Mentorship Program (SMP) gives high school students of Indigenous or African ancestry a chance to explore health sciences at the University of Toronto over four weeks in July. The SMP has a [history](#) in the Faculty of Medicine that dates back more than 25 years.

Participating in the SMP allows you to:

- get hands-on experience through lab work, lectures and special projects
- discover university education and professional careers in the health sciences
- enjoy valuable mentoring experiences from a variety of professionals
- earn a credit towards your high school diploma - GLN40 - Navigating the Workplace (note: you need to have completed a Grade 10 or 11 science, social science or humanities course)
- gain a greater understanding of whether a career in health science is right for you

The [online application](#) is now open for the SMP 2021 and we encourage students to apply early. For the SMP 2021, we have a new access fund intended to offset the cost of participating in the program and/or to support technological needs for the students.

**January 15, 2021** is the first of two application deadlines and we encourage interested applicants to apply early. Students must be **16 years old by June 30, 2021** to be eligible. They will need their transcript and/or their credit counselling summary to apply.