



# GUIDANCE BULLETIN

## VOLUME 6

Dec. 4  
2020

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

#### Timetable Changes

Semester 2 timetable change requests are on-going. In order to make changes to your timetable, please make an appointment with your alpha Guidance counsellor using TeachAssist. Please note, counsellors are only meeting with students virtually or by phone.

#### Community Involvement Reminder for Graduating Students

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.

We have many potential graduates who are missing some or all of their community involvement hours. Please contact your alpha counselor if you have any questions and/or if you would like to confirm that your hours meet the graduation requirement criteria.

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

<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>

#### Upcoming Important Dates

December 16 — full disclosure  
January 15 — deadline to apply to Ontario Universities  
February 1 — deadline to apply to College  
(for equal consideration)



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 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 11, 2021** in Guidance either via email or in person.

**Please join the Scholarship Google Classroom with code - [15zjuvv](#)**

## 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, 2021.



## 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, 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.

### **CERTIFICATIONS EARNED:**

If you have earned certificates outside of school (e.g. St. John's Babysitting, Standard First AID/CPR Level C, 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 :**

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.

### **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](https://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](https://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.**

## 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.



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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 (e-learning)**

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

**Winter 2021 information is now available and registration is scheduled to open December 7, 2020.**

**Note:** Students enrolled in day school courses, worth less than 4 credits in a given semester, may be eligible. 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.**

**Application Process:** Eligible students may apply online by visiting the [e-Learning website](#) after receiving permission from their home school.

#### **Registration Details:**

- **Course dates:** February 17- June 10, 2021
- **Registration fee:** No fee, the \$20 fee has been waived for the winter 2021 session

For assistance, please contact your Guidance Counsellor.

### **Semester 2 Night School** (runs from February 18, 2021 to June 22, 2021)

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

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





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## **Calling all Grade 9-11 Girls!**

There is an exciting opportunity for you to join an amazing organization! Girls E-Mentorship (GEM) is a registered charitable organization in Toronto that offers an innovative mentorship program for high school girls facing multiple barriers. If you would like to learn more, indicate interest at [tiny.cc/gemsignup](https://tiny.cc/gemsignup)

**Info Session: Dec. 9th**

**3:00 – 3:30 PM**

**Google Meet: [uuo-sjwf-xsi](#)**

**OR**  
**[bit.ly/mdhsgem](#)**



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## Hello, Future

*(write your dream career below)*



Girls E-Mentorship (GEM) is a charitable organization that offers an innovative mentorship program for high school girls in Grades 10 – 12.

As part of our program, GEMgirls will benefit from:

- ✓ A 9-month relationship with a career mentor
- ✓ Exclusive professional development seminars
- ✓ Paid internship opportunities
- ✓ Access to scholarships
- ✓ A community of exceptional women
- ✓ And more!

Interested? Visit [www.girlsementorship.com](http://www.girlsementorship.com) and join our mailing list for notification when applications open.



girlsementorship



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girls-e-mentorship-innovation