



GUIDANCE BULLETIN

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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.

Upcoming Important Dates

- November 16 at 2:50 pm — Queen's Chancellor's scholarship and Lester B. Pearson applications due to Guidance (via email or drop off)
- November 16 Period 5— Financial Aid presentation for Grade 12 students
- November 19 at 6:30 pm— "Post-Secondary Planning" Info Session for parents/guardians presented virtually by MDHS Guidance
- November 19— electronic mid-term report cards will be sent to students
- November 20— marks transmitted to OUAC and OCAS
- December 16— full disclosure



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.

This is a reminder that the **Queen's Chancellor's** scholarship and the **Lester B. Pearson** applications are due on **November 16th at 2:50pm**. These applications can be submitted either in person or via email. No late submissions will be accepted. Please consult the Scholarship google classroom for specific details for each scholarship application.

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

Financial Aid presentation

There will be a live virtual financial aid presentation for all **grade 12** students during **Period 5 on Monday, Nov. 16th from 2:30 pm—3:30 pm**. The link has been provided in the Scholarship Google Classroom.

During this important presentation, students will learn;

- * the cost of College/ University
- * the importance of applying for scholarships & bursaries
- * the new application process for OSAP



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your guidance counsellor.

Post-Secondary Information

"Post-Secondary Planning" Info Session for Parents/Guardians Presented virtually by MDHS Guidance on **Thursday Nov 19 @ 6:30 pm**

Are you and your student interested in more information on the following?

- Differences between college & university
- Researching programs and prerequisites for college & university entrance
- How to apply to college & university
- Apprenticeships and other post-secondary pathways

Please consider joining us. This info session is for all interested parents/students of all grades. A link to the presentation will be provided via email in advance. Following the recorded presentation at 6:30 pm there will be a live Q&A drop-in session hosted by Guidance.

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

Application deadline to an Ontario University—**January 15, 2021**

College Applicants Google Classroom code – [khzz4ox](#)

Please check the College Google classroom **next week** for a new video post explaining 'How to Apply for College'.





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Specialist High Skill Major

SHSM SECTORS at MDHS

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

SHSM LAUNCH EVENT

On **November 10th, 2020 from 1 pm to 3 pm** the YRDSB SHSM Regional team organized a Regional SHSM Launch virtual opportunity. This is a requirement of your child's SHSM program, which when completed will award them their SHSM OSSD. To provide permission or decline permission for the event please complete the following form [SHSM Regional Permission Form for SHSM Launch](#) by **Monday November 8th, 2020**. If your son/daughter are unable to attend during the designated time, a recording of the event will be available on the SHMS google classroom.

Please bookmark the [SHSM Regional Event Calendar](#) document for future reference. Events will be added as they are confirmed.

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 will be 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).

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, use the bit.ly shown below. If you are unable to complete your application, please contact Mr. Weinstein.

1. bit.ly/YRDSBSHSMapp
2. Complete the application and submit

At this time, these steps are not required:

3. Print from your gapps email
4. Obtain parent/guardian signature and return

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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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
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

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.