



Newmarket High School



School Start-Up Package 2024-2025

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Inspire Learning!

Newmarket High School

Welcome from the Principal

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year. It is our pleasure to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you all had a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

The professional and dedicated team of staff at our school have a strong commitment to supporting your child's learning, achievement and well-being. We have been working hard to prepare to welcome your child to school, and to create a learning environment where they feel safe, welcome, valued and respected. There are some important things we want to share at the start of the school year:

- This **start-up package** includes important information about our school, and I encourage you to review it.
- The [Guide to the School Year](https://www2.yrdsb.ca/school-year-guide) has been moved online. We encourage families to review this webpage as it includes important information you may need to access throughout the school year. You can use the translation feature on the website to translate this content. It is available at <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/school-year-guide>.
- Each year we ask families to complete **important start-up forms**. You will receive an email in the coming weeks with a link to the online forms. Please review and complete the forms. If you prefer to receive and complete a paper copy, please contact the main office.

We value the relationship and partnership we have with families, and look forward to speaking and working with you throughout the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

There are many ways to stay connected with what's happening in our school:

- Visit our school website for up-to-date information about events and important dates.
- Please be aware that you will receive via email the NHS eBulletin every two weeks.
- You can also find updated information about the Board at www.yrdsb.ca, Twitter @YRDSB, Instagram @yrdsb.schools, or the Board podcast TuneIn YRDSB wherever you listen to podcasts.

I wish you all a happy, safe and successful school year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Godfrey

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Additional Information

You can find information on topics covered in this package and more in the [Guide to the School Year](#) on the board website at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to provide original evidence of their learning and appropriately acknowledge the work of others. Plagiarism refers to representing someone else's ideas, writing or other intellectual property as one's own. For more information, please see the [Equitable Assessment, Evaluation and Communication of Student Learning and Achievement policy](#).

Accessibility

The Board is [committed to providing accessible programs, services and environments](#) that support the four core principles of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA): integration, equality of opportunity, dignity and independence. If you need assistance accessing Board services, speak to a staff member in the school about how they can help or support you. If you require any information or materials on the Board website in an alternative format, please contact Corporate Communications at communications@yrdsb.ca.

Accident Insurance

Student accident insurance provides coverage for injuries due to accidents not covered by government or private health plans (e.g. the cost of expensive dental work as a result of an accident). It is strongly recommended that parents/guardians of students involved in athletics purchase this insurance. If your child is involved in an accident, whether at school or during non-school hours, insuremykids® protects your family from the resulting expenses, which are not normally covered under your government health and group insurance plans. For more information, visit insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437.

Allergies/Medical Conditions

There are students and staff members in our school who have life-threatening allergies to nuts and other allergens. If they smell or come into contact with these allergens, they may have an anaphylactic reaction.

To help create an allergen-safe environment, please refrain from taking nut or nut products into designated allergy-safe areas. For more information on helping to create an allergen-safe environment, please see [information on allergies](#) on the Board website.

If your child has a serious or life-threatening allergy or prevalent medical condition, such as [Anaphylaxis](#), [Asthma](#), [Diabetes](#) or [Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder](#), **please let the school administration know immediately** and speak to the school office staff about completing the appropriate health care plans.

Announcements

Important information is shared with students during the morning announcements. Students are asked to listen attentively and respectfully during the announcements. Announcements are also displayed outside the main office, and via "NHS newscast" every other Friday.

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Attendance

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students aged 18 and older and students who have declared their independence must report all absences, late arrivals and/or changes to departure plans to the school in a timely manner. Where possible, notify the school in advance by calling the school and leaving a message on the answering machine or emailing newmarket.hs@yrdsb.ca.

Regular attendance is one of the most important contributors to success at school. Therefore, it is expected that students attend regularly. A great emphasis is placed on active participation and on the process of learning. Lengthy or frequent absences are detrimental to a student's success. Vacations during regular school time are discouraged. Please do not plan extended absences during exam/summative periods as these assessments cannot be rescheduled. Absences at this time will result in a mark of zero on the exam or summative.

The following information outlines an attendance situation and the process to be followed:

Full Day Absence

- a parent/guardian phones the school with a valid reason. A secretary notes the call on the student's attendance.
- if a parent does not phone the school, a note with a valid reason for the absence must be presented to the Attendance Office upon return.
- the student receives an admit slip. The admit slip is to be shown to each teacher.

Absent For At Least One Class

- a parent/guardian phones with a valid reason or provides the student with a note.
- if the student is late arriving, they proceed to the Attendance Office to sign in and get an admit slip. The admit slip should be shown to the subject teachers of missed classes.

Leaving Before the End of the Day

- the student signs out in the Attendance Office with a note from a parent/guardian. In the case of an emergency, the office will phone the parent/guardian.
- an admit slip is shown to the subject teachers of missed classes the following day.

Late for Class (Arriving After the Bell)

- if a student is less than fifteen minutes late, the student will go directly to class and will be marked late accordingly. After 15 minutes, students are to obtain a late slip from the Attendance office. The subject teacher will discuss the tardiness with the student and will call home, then if lates are persistent, refer to an administrator.

Absences for students over the age of 18

- Students 18 years of age or older are adults, and can, therefore, sign in and out of school. They are expected to report their absence to the attendance office before 8:00 a.m. when they are going to be absent. Students arriving or leaving during the school day must sign in/out with the attendance secretary. Students still remain responsible for the completion of class work missed during an absence.

Planned Extended Absences:

- If there is a planned extended absence, students are expected to complete all missed work by a negotiated deadline. Students are expected to obtain an Extended Absence Form from the main office, inform their subject teachers of the absence and have teachers sign the form. The form must then be validated by a parent or guardian and returned to a Vice-Principal at least one week prior to the commencement of the absence.

Please note that if a student is signed out, the expectation is that they leave school property.

Arrivals and Departures/Safe Arrival and Departure Program

Families who live within walking distance are encouraged to use **active travel, including walking or rolling** (cycling, scootering, skateboarding) to and from school. Choosing [active travel](#) can improve physical and mental health and helps

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students start the day alert and ready to learn. It also helps to protect the environment and reduce traffic, making school zones safer for everyone.

Students are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the bell (8:05 am) and move directly to their Period 1 class.

The safety of our students is a priority. Our safe arrivals programs and safe departures protocols are in place so that we can account for the whereabouts of absent students. Please provide the school with complete and current emergency contact information.

1. If you have not informed the school of your child's absence in advance, the school will inform parents/guardians through the automated school attendance system when their child is identified as absent without explanation.
2. If you receive a call that your child is absent and you report back that your child should be in attendance, the school will take the following steps to ensure your child is safe:
 - We will call emergency numbers on file.
 - We will speak to a sibling if one is in the school.
 - If we are still unable to get information, we may check with a friend of your child and other staff members.
 - If we are still unable to get information, we will consider your child missing and we may contact York Regional Police.

Parking Lot Safety

At arrival and departure times the school parking lot can become extremely busy. Parents/guardians who choose to **drive their children to school** are asked to consider parking a block or two away from the school and walking the rest of the way. Plan enough time for your child to enter the school and arrive at their classroom prior to 8:05 am. If you choose to drop off or pick up your child at the school - **Do not park in the fire zone, bus loop or the Daycare Centre parking area, for any reason.** We encourage students to be dropped off by 7:50 am to help with congestion in the parking lot.

To assist with traffic flow, if you are picking up or dropping off your child and you need to enter the school parking lot, please park in an available parking spot. If no parking spots are available please wait for your child on Pickering Crescent or off school property. For safety reasons, idling is not permitted in the lanes between the parked cars.

Please be considerate and careful while using the school parking lot, obey all signage, drive safely, slowly and be alert to pedestrians.

Student Parking Pass

Students who drive to school are reminded that using the school parking lot is a privilege. **Student drivers must display a valid parking pass and park only in the parking lot south of the Theatre.** If there are no spots available, students are to park in the overflow parking lot across from the daycare. To obtain a parking pass please pay the fee on school cash online. You may then present your receipt at the main office, complete vehicle information paperwork, and obtain the parking pass.

Failure to follow parking lot safety guidelines may result in any of the following consequences:

- discussions with administration and parents/guardians;
- loss of the privilege to bring an automobile onto the school property;
- suspension from school; and/or,
- involvement of police and/or bylaw officers

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our parking lot safe for staff, students, and families.

For students who take the school bus/taxi, drop off and pick up will occur in the front of the school. Parents/guardians of students who are eligible to receive school bus transportation per the Board's Transportation Policy should:

- Refer to the Late Bus Report on the Student Transportation Services website at www.schoolbuscity.com before leaving for the bus stop in the mornings and afternoons.

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- Ensure their child(ren) arrives at the bus stop five minutes before the regularly scheduled pick-up and drop-off times (10 minutes during the first week of school).
- Ensure their child/children's safety and conduct while walking to, from and waiting at a designated bus stop.
- Know their child(ren)'s route number.
- Know their child(ren)'s bus stop location.
- Know the school and bus company phone number in the event of an emergency.

More information about bus routes and times can be found at www.schoolbuscity.com.

Note: Only students eligible to ride a school bus have permission to take the school bus. We cannot give authorization to anyone that is not assigned to the bus.

School Bus/Taxi Safety

When riding school buses, you must:

- Be at the bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pick up.
- Keep well away from the road until the bus has stopped. Do not move toward the bus until it has stopped.
- Watch for the bus driver's signal before crossing the road. Look both ways and then cross the road.
- Get on the bus safely by using the handrail and go directly to your seat.
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion.
- Not eat or drink on the bus.
- No vaping/smoking, or use of alcohol/drugs on the bus.
- Keep the aisle clear of books, knapsacks, lunch bags and other items.
- Keep windows closed.
- Never throw anything inside the bus or out of the window.
- Talk quietly so you do not distract the driver.
- Use respectful language.

Shouting, rough play and fighting are strictly prohibited. Students engaging in these activities will have their bus privileges suspended. We expect that all students should treat buses as an extension of the school and follow school rules and policies.

Cycling or Rolling to School

Students who use bicycles, rollerblades, skateboards or scooters to travel to school:

- Must wear a helmet.
- Must walk while on school property.
- Should lock bicycles/scooters on the bike rack, and store rollerblades, skateboards or scooters in their locker. The school is not responsible for any lost or damaged personal items.
- Are reminded that walk and roll shoes, rollerblades, skateboards and/or scooters are not allowed to be used in the school (e.g. walk and roll shoes, skateboards, etc.).

Driving to School

Families who choose to drive their children to school are asked to consider parking a block or two away from the school and walking the rest of the way. Please be considerate and careful when using the school parking lot. Do not park in the fire zone or bus loops for any reason. Please work with us to keep our students safe.

Transportation will be cancelled by 6:00 a.m. if road conditions are unsafe or are expected to deteriorate significantly by the time students are to be transported home. To find out if transportation is cancelled, check: the @YRDSB Twitter account, the YRDSB website, school websites, the Student Transportation Services (STS) website at

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www.schoolbuscity.com or hotline 1-877-330-3001, radio and television media outlets. Schools will remain open unless otherwise stated. For more information, visit the [Student Transportation section of the Board website](#).

More information about bus routes and times can be found at www.schoolbuscity.com.

There may be rare occasions when unprecedented winter weather events occur and we need to close all schools and Board locations. For more information, please see the section on Weather Conditions in the Guide to the School Year. At all times, students and families should be aware of somewhere else they can go or someone to contact if bus services are cancelled or delayed, or if schools are forced to close due to an emergency.

Athletics

NHS has a variety of athletic teams for students to try out for. A list of current teams and the coaches can be found on our school website. To participate, students will need to pay an athletic fee for each team. This covers the cost of uniforms, transportation and contributes to refereeing at games. Please note that to participate on any team, students must have paid their Student Engagement fee, in addition to the team fees. All payments will be processed via School Cash Online. Once a student is a member of a team, more specific information will be sent home by the coach(es).

Awards and Recognition Program

Honour Roll – awarded to students in grades 9-11 achieving an average of 80% or higher in **Newmarket High School courses** in the previous school year. (Grade 9 – a minimum of 8 credits, Grade 10 – minimum of 8 credits, Grade 11 – minimum of 7 credits).

Ontario Scholar - awarded to graduating students who obtain an aggregate of at least 480 marks in any combination of [Ministry approved grade 12 courses](#) that provide a total of six credits, as defined by Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999 (OSS) and/or Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions (Grades 7– 12/OACs): Program and Diploma Requirements, rev. ed., 1989 (OSIS).

Subject Awards – awarded to students in recognition of outstanding academic achievement in a particular subject (e.g. Grade 10 math) in the previous school year. Subject criteria may vary depending on the Department.

Caring and Safe Schools

Every student has a right to learn in a safe, caring and supportive environment. We ask all students and families to review our [Caring and Safe Schools policy and procedures](#), which address a number of topics including:

- student progressive discipline
- bullying prevention and intervention
- student suspensions and expulsions

Students will review this important information during the Caring and Safe School Start Up and mid-year presentations.

To enhance caring, safe, and inclusive school climates, positive student behaviour supports are provided and inappropriate behaviour is addressed using a [bias-aware progressive discipline](#) approach that takes into account mitigating factors.

We use a bias-aware progressive discipline approach when inappropriate behaviour occurs. This means we consider a range of options to determine the most appropriate responses to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The [Ontario Education Act](#) and our Board's [Caring and Safe](#)

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[Schools Policy](#) outline the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim(s) and their families to the extent that legislation allows.

Report It

[YRDSB's online Report It](#) button lets you share information about inappropriate behaviour or incidents of hate or discrimination. It is available on the Board and school website.

Code of Student Conduct

A positive school climate is essential for students to succeed in school, as it promotes a safe, respectful and welcoming learning environment. The Code of Conduct sets standards of behaviour for students and members of the school community that support a caring, safe and inclusive school environment. All school members must respect and treat others fairly, regardless of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, creed, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability.

The [Code of Conduct](#) applies to all members of the school community including students, parents or guardians, school bus drivers, volunteers, school staff and community groups whether they are on York Region School Board property, in a virtual learning environment, on school buses, at school-authorized events or activities, in before- and after-school programs including co-curricular activities and field trips, and may be applied to any other circumstances connected to the school that may have an impact on the school climate.

Code of Student Conduct - NHS

Students are expected to demonstrate behaviour that is respectful and courteous at all times. This includes demonstrating respect for each other and our community. These expectations are indicated in our Code of Student Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct is based on the YRDSB Policy #668.0, Caring and Safe Schools. The Board's policies are based on the standards of behaviour as established in the Provincial Code of Conduct and the Ontario Human Rights Code. Students are expected to follow these rules of behaviour on school property and during Board or school-sponsored events and activities.

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to make Newmarket High school a comfortable learning experience for students and teachers.

It is the student's responsibility to show respect for learning by:

- ☐ attending all scheduled classes
- ☐ arriving to class on time
- ☐ being prepared for class with required homework and assignments complete
- ☐ bringing the required equipment and materials to class

It is the student's responsibility to respect themselves and others by:

- ☐ treating the school building and grounds with care
- ☐ treating school equipment and learning material with care
- ☐ respecting the property of others
- ☐ observing the York Region District School Board policy on Caring and Safe Schools

It is the student's responsibility to show respect for school policies and procedures by:

- ☐ working together with staff members to create a comfortable learning environment
- ☐ abstaining from the use of alcohol or drugs on school property
- ☐ observing the York Region District School Board policy on smoking/vaping/chewing tobacco

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The [Board Code of Conduct](#) is part of the Caring and Safe Schools Policy.

We use a progressive discipline approach when inappropriate behaviour occurs. This means we consider a range of options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and our Board Caring and Safe Schools Policy outline the situations in which suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. When inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the victim and parents/guardians of the victim to the extent that legislation allows.

Communication between School and Home

Parents/guardians are our most important partners in educating children. We communicate with you in a variety of ways throughout the year.

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) impacts how schools, staff and school councils communicate electronically to parents. CASL prohibits the sending of any type of electronic message that is commercial in nature (e.g., registration fees, pizza days, field trips, fundraising, etc.) unless the recipient has provided specific and informed consent. CASL does not apply to electronic information messages or to hard copy formats.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to commercial electronic messages, visit the school website or Family Resources page at www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources and, using the link provided, submit a valid email address.

Email

To improve communication between home and school and reduce paper use, we coordinate an email distribution list. The list will be maintained and used only by school staff to communicate electronically to parents/guardians. Your email will not be sold, distributed or publicly posted.

Texts

Families can now receive text messages in emergency situations only, for example, in the rare occasion of schools being closed due to [emergency winter weather](#). Ensure your school has your correct cell phone number captured to participate. Families can opt out at any time.

Stay Connected Online

You can also stay connected online through our school website, Instagram @newmarkethighschool and @nhsparentscouncil. Some classrooms also have Google Classrooms, Twitter feeds or newsletters to help you stay connected. Your child's teacher will provide more information.

In addition, you can follow Board news and updates through:

- www.yrdsb.ca
- Instagram @yrdsb.schools
- Twitter/X @YRDSB
- [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#)
- the Board app YRDSB Mobile
- [TuneIn YRDSB](#), the Board's podcast, available on most podcast platforms

Teach Assist

Teachers at NHS use a program called TeachAssist to record and share information about student achievement. Students will be informed by *each* teacher how to access information on TeachAssist for their course. Parents/ Guardians may also

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check TeachAssist for progress updates (when available). Access to the [Parent Portal](#) is through the email address on file with the school and will open in September.

Co-Curricular Activities (non-athletic)

Students are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities beyond the academic program. Joining a club provides an opportunity to meet additional friends, and to develop a variety of skills. For club membership students must:

- have paid the school engagement fee;
- have a Student Card, which will enable them to participate in all school activities;
- have regular school attendance; and
- have paid any club fee to offset costs (e.g. transportation, material, officiating etc.).

Consent for Information Sharing – Students at the Age of Majority

Once a student reaches the age of majority (18) all communications regarding their school matters (e.g., absences, etc.) will cease to go to the parents/guardians, as the student is deemed an adult for the purposes of the Education Act. A student may complete the [Consent for Information Sharing – Students at the Age of Majority Form](#) available through the school to provide express approval for the school to contact parent(s)/guardian(s).

Contact Information

For Ministry and Board compliance purposes, **please ensure that the school has your up-to-date contact and emergency information.** Please contact your school's main office to review or update your information, including:

- address, work or home numbers or other contact information
- emergency contacts and telephone numbers
- changes in custody agreements
- medical alert or changes in health condition (e.g., allergies, medications)

If your child has a medical condition that requires emergency intervention, an essential routine health care plan, or any of the following medical conditions: Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes or Seizures you must contact your child's school to ensure all information is up-to-date and accurate.

Dress Code

We understand that clothing is a form of self-expression. When making clothing choices for school, we ask students to respect that school is a place for diverse learners.

To this end, ensure that clothing worn to school:

- Demonstrates respect for yourself and others
- Is appropriate for a learning and working environment
- Does not display pictures or messages that reference drugs, alcohol, smoking, etc.
- Does not contain language or images that are obscene, offensive, of a sexual nature, racist, and/or discriminatory.

Your choice of clothing plays a factor in helping to create a caring, safe, comfortable and inclusive classroom community and school culture. For more information, see the [Student Dress Code Policy and Procedure](#). The Board has a number of policies and procedures in place to address emergency situations if normal school

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Emergency Preparedness

The Board has a number of policies and procedures in place to address emergency situations if normal school operations cannot continue or where student and staff member safety may be at risk. This could include a fire, flood or acts of violence. All schools have individual plans and conduct drills throughout the year. There will be six fire, one hold and secure, one bomb threat and two lockdown drills annually so students become familiar with emergency preparedness procedures. These drills are important so that in the case of an actual emergency, students and staff members know what to do to be safe.

Excursions/Community Walkabouts

Our outdoor spaces are learning spaces. We recognize that playing and learning in the outdoors supports student learning and well-being through the seasons. Opportunities for students to build connections to the land have meaningful, long-term, positive health implications, especially on mental health and well-being. Community walks are not field trips. They are defined as community excursions that take place off school property, which last less than one day and do not require transportation

Family Resources

Visit www.yrdsb.ca/familyresources or click on the link from the Board's homepage to access a variety of resources for families, including start-up forms (when available), IT support for families, translation tools, links to community resources and student supports, assistance accessing online tools like Google Classroom, Edsby and School Cash Online and more. Click on the "Need Help?" link for access to tips and resources.

Guidance

The Guidance Department offers a number of services, including support for academic and career planning, personal counselling, referrals to community resources, and support for the development of study habits and life skills. For more information, contact the Guidance Department.

Homework

The Board has a homework policy that supports student learning and recognizes the importance of personal and family well-being. The amount, frequency and nature of assigned homework will vary depending on the student's strengths and needs, well-being, grade, subject and other factors. For more information about time guidelines and how parents can provide support, please see the [Board Homework Policy and Procedure](#). For homework help, visit the [Online Student Tools and Resources](#) page for links to homework tips and learning resources, including Mathify Homework Help.

How Can We Help You?

Most concerns can be resolved with dialogue and cooperation. We are committed to addressing concerns in a fair, equitable and timely manner. If you have a school-related question or concern, please follow these steps:

1. Arrange a meeting with your child's teacher or the appropriate school staff member.
2. If you need further assistance, the school principal or designate may be contacted to review the matter, mediate and help facilitate the process.
3. Contact the superintendent for our school if the matter remains unresolved.

You can also [contact your local trustee](#). Trustees are committed to open dialogue with the community. You are encouraged to share your views on policy issues and Board governance with your local trustee. You are also welcome to

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attend and observe any [public Board, Advisory or Board Committee meeting](#). Meeting information is available on the Board website.

If you have a human rights related concern and/or complaint, the first step is to engage with the school or the superintendent. If your concern and/or complaint remains unresolved, your matter can then be referred to the Board's [Human Rights Commissioner's Office](#) (HRCO), or you can contact the HRCO directly. The Independent Office of the Integrity Commissioner may also be engaged to address concerns related to trustee behaviour. Contact information can be found on the Board website, or by contacting the school. More information is available [on the Board website](#).

Lockers

School lockers are the property of the York Region District School Board. Lockers are on loan to students and can be opened and searched by school personnel at any time. Lockers are loaned to students to store textbooks and personal belongings. Students will be issued a shared locker at the beginning of each school year. Students are expected to:

- maintain the locker in a clean and orderly fashion;
- keep the locker locked using the assigned lock;
- be aware that the school cannot assume responsibility for lost or stolen articles; and
- leave valuable items at home.

Personal and School Property

The school and the Board are not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items. You can reduce the risk by leaving valuable items at home. Always secure items. **Students are cautioned against leaving money and/or valuables in lockers or in the Physical Education change rooms.** Should it be necessary to bring money or other valuables to school, they may be left in the office for safe-keeping. Articles found in and around the school should be brought to the office, and students should inquire at the office regarding lost articles.

Students are expected to show respect for school property and materials at all times. Students, together with their parents/guardians, are responsible for ensuring that school items are returned in good condition. Textbooks, lockers, desks and chairs should not be vandalized (e.g., writing inside school books, torn pages, holes in desks, etc.). Lost or damaged textbooks, library books or other school materials are the responsibility of the student. Restitution will be expected and outlined by each school.

The York Region District School Board Policy #194.5 supports the loan of portable board-owned equipment to students for educational purposes. Such loans are to be monitored by school administrators in accordance with Board policy. The policy states that individuals borrowing equipment provided by the Board will be held responsible for any loss or damage that may occur. In the event of any loss, theft or damage to the equipment, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to cover the cost of repairs, or replacement.

Requests for Faith Accommodation

There may be circumstances where students and families request accommodation for religious beliefs in curriculum areas including the Arts and Physical Education. Accommodations may include different instruction and assessment opportunities, or full withdrawal. If you are interested in discussing an accommodation based upon your religious beliefs, speak with your child's teacher and school principal or complete the **Faith Requests for Curriculum Accommodations Form** available through the school. By providing a range of accommodations, we are building a sense of community and belonging for all students. For more information, see [Board Procedure on Equity and Inclusivity: Religious Accommodation](#).

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School Council

There are [many ways you can be engaged in your child's learning](#) at home and at school. This includes getting involved with the school council. The school council provides advice on school matters and helps to strengthen the important relationship between schools, families and their communities. The council includes family members, school staff and community members.

How do I join?

At the beginning of the school year, all parents/guardians have the opportunity to become a voting member of council. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, fill out the **School Council Nomination Form that will be part of your start-up forms** by September 13, 2024. Elections shall occur within the first thirty days of the start of each school year. All family members (voting member or as an attendee) are encouraged to attend school council meetings.

School Timetable

Description	Times
Period 1	8:05 am - 9:25 am
Period 2	9:30 am - 10:45 am
Period 3	10:50 am - 12:05 pm
Period 4	12:10 pm - 1:25 pm
Period 5	1:30 pm - 2:45 pm
Approx. bus departure	3:00 pm

Significant Faith Days

York Region is rich in culture and diverse in religious beliefs and practices based on faith. The dates listed below are some faith holidays of particular significance to members of the major faith communities in our Board. We affirm and value equally the faith diversity in our schools, therefore, events such as field trips, school concerts, conferences, meetings, workshops, other professional events, co-curricular activities and exams/tests will not be scheduled on these dates:

2024-2025	Faith Day	Faith
October 3-4, 2024	Rosh Hashanah ²	Judaism
October 12, 2024	Yom Kippur ²	Judaism
November 1, 2024	Diwali	Hinduism
December 25, 2024	Christmas	Christianity (Western)
January 7, 2025	Christmas	Christianity (Eastern)

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January 29, 2025	Lunar New Year	Buddhism
March 31, 2025	Eid-ul-Fitr ^{1 2}	Islam
April 13, 2025	Pesach/Passover ²	Judaism
April 14, 2025	Vaisakhi	Sikhism
April 18, 2025	Good Friday	Christianity (Western)
April 18, 2025	Holy Friday	Christianity (Eastern)
April 20, 2025	Ridvan	Baha'i
June 6, 2025	Ed-ul-Adha ^{1 2}	Islam

¹ Dates are subject to the sighting of the moon each month

² All Jewish and Islamic Holy Days commence on the preceding evening at sundown or sunset

Please note that in addition to the above listed dates, we will take reasonable steps to accommodate students and staff members of a faith group for whom the Board's and the school's operations or requirements create undue hardship and interfere with their ability to exercise their religious beliefs and practices.

Smoking/Vaping/Chewing Tobacco

There is no smoking, vaping or chewing tobacco on any York Region District School Board property. Students found to be smoking, vaping, or holding lit tobacco products on school property may be fined in excess of \$300, as per a Newmarket municipal by-law. School consequences may include detentions/suspensions.

Student Engagement Fee

Student Council, Athletic Council, Music Council, Arts Council, and Healthy Schools Council plan events and activities throughout the school year for the benefit of all students, based on the collection of the student engagement fee. These activities foster school spirit and develop a greater sense of community within the school.

To engage in any student engagement events and activities, there is a student engagement fee. Payment can be made via School Cash Online. While many events are offered at no cost, additional fees may be required, depending on the event. If students/parents choose not to participate in the engagement fee, individual costs may be higher. ***In order to participate in a school club or athletic team this fee is required.***

Student Personal Information

Schools routinely collect, use and release student personal information, in keeping with the Education Act and other laws. Whenever your child's personal information is collected, its use will be explained to you.

Parents/guardians, please sign the **Student Personal Information Consent Form** in the start-up package and see the section on Privacy and Information Access in the Guide to the School Year for more information.

If you have any questions about your child's privacy protection, please contact the school principal or the Information Access and Privacy Office at 905-727-0022 ext. 2015.

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Student Threat-Risk Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice and Process

Fair Notices

Reporting Children and Youth In Need Of Protection

All school board staff have a legal responsibility to notify a child protection agency if there are concerns for the well-being of students under the age of 16 years. Staff may report suspicions of a protection concern to a child protection agency for youth aged 16 and 17 years. Any suspicions of physical or sexual abuse, neglect or lack of care by a parent/guardian must be reported immediately to the administrator for all students under the age of 18 years. Parents/guardians will not be consulted in these situations.

Threat Assessment and Intervention

The well-being and safety of members of the school community are a shared responsibility. This includes preventing and responding to the risk of violence.

Our Student Threat-Risk Assessment Protocol was developed with community partners to respond to behaviours, including actions, statements and other indicators that suggest that a student may be “at risk” of harming others. To keep school communities safe and provide support to everyone, staff, families, students, and community members must report all threatening situations to the school administrator or police as soon as possible. Note – other procedures and protocols are in place to deal with threats from adults in the school community.

What is the purpose of the Threat Assessment Protocol?

- Ensure the safety of students, staff, parents/guardians, and other members of the school community
- Ensure an effective and timely response when there is a threatening situation
- Understand the factors that contribute to a threatening situation
- Assist in the development of an intervention plan
- Promote the emotional and physical safety of everyone involved

What is a threatening situation?

A threatening situation is defined as an indication of impending harm or violent acts against someone or something. Threats may be implied, verbal, written, drawn, posted on the internet, sent electronically or by information technology of any type, made by gesture or reasonably inferred from the surrounding circumstances of events. Threats may be direct, indirect, conditional or veiled.

What behaviours activate the Threat Assessment Protocol?

The protocol will be initiated when behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Serious violence with intent to harm or kill;
- Verbal/written threats of serious violence to harm or kill others (clear, direct and plausible);
- Use of technology to communicate threats to harm/kill others.
- Possession of weapons (including replicas);
- Bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices);
- Fire setting;
- Sexual assault;
- Criminal Harassment;
- Gang-related occurrences.

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What happens when a threatening situation is reported?

All threatening behaviours by a student shall be reported to the school administrator who will activate the Threat Assessment protocol.

Once a threatening situation has been reported to a school administrator, interviews will be conducted. These interviews may include students, staff, family members and/or others as appropriate. This will be done to determine the level of risk, and develop an effective and timely response to the incident. After the immediate safety risk has been addressed, support and intervention plans will be developed with input from parents/guardians.

Who is a member of a Threat Assessment team?

Each school will have staff trained in the Threat Assessment protocol. A multi-disciplinary Threat Assessment team will assess the situation and support the development of an intervention plan. The team includes a School Administrator, a School Social Worker and/or a Psychological Services staff member, a York Regional Police officer, and appropriate members of the student's circle of care.

Is parental/guardian or student consent required?

Consent is not required to respond to an emergency situation. When there is a risk that someone may be harmed, it is important that the incident be addressed as quickly and effectively as possible.

Fair Notice

Please consider this as "fair notice" to all members of the school community that any report of a threatening situation will be investigated. The Threat Assessment protocol is part of our strategy to create a safe, secure and supportive school environment for everyone.

YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol Fair Notice

York Region District School Board is committed to student well-being and mental health. YRDSB has developed a Student Suicide Intervention Protocol to help keep students safe in the event of suicidal thoughts or actions. Youth suicide is a complex, emotionally-charged and sadly real problem in Canada. It is the second leading cause of death amongst young people. It's important to recognize that those who struggle with mental health have personal strength and resilience and the potential to overcome difficulties to ultimately thrive.

The YRDSB Student Suicide Intervention Protocol is designed to address the six steps involved when responding to current and present thoughts of suicide, as well as actions related to suicide. In addition, the Protocol is governed by a set of guiding principles which are underpinned by a culturally responsive and reflective practice.

Suicide is not culturally neutral. Our cultural and ethnic backgrounds will inform how each of us understands suicide. To see all the guiding principles, see the [Student Suicide Intervention Protocol on the Board website, or request a copy through the school office.](#)

Given the urgent need to help keep students safe from suicide, each school has access to Board staff trained in suicide intervention. In the urgent situation of suicide intervention, staff trained in suicide intervention do not require parental / guardian consent to intervene. However, we do make every effort to contact parents/ guardians to apprise you of your child's situation and the assistance provided. Parents/guardians are an integral part of keeping their children safe. In the event that the intervention protocol is used, a record of the intervention will be shared with you (student consent to share information is required for those over the age of 18 years) and a copy will be created and stored in a private and confidential on-line records management system. In accordance with privacy and health records legislation, a copy will be retained for one year plus a day following the intervention. As per the protocol parental/guardian (student if 18 or over)

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consent will be sought to share the intervention plan with those members identified in the record. If you have any questions about the Student Suicide Intervention Protocol please contact your school principal.

Technology Use

All students and their parents/guardians are expected to read the [Use of Technology Agreement](#). They are also required to sign the **School Start-Up Permissions Form** to acknowledge that they have read, understand and will support the conditions/rules concerning the use of school/Board and personal technology as it supports learning. This agreement is designed to ensure a safe and supportive school environment and network integrity.

We believe the classroom is the ideal place to teach students how to use digital tools effectively and responsibly, and how to stay safe online. Google Suite for Education is one of the tools educators may use to engage students in online learning and teach students how to stay safe and be responsible using technology. Through Google Suite, students have access to a Google Suite Gmail. This Gmail access is customized for appropriate age levels. We have also put strict measures in place to prevent SPAM and block inappropriate language and websites for students using email through the Google Suite. For more information, please visit the Board website or speak to your child's teacher about the tools they are using in the classroom.

We all have a role to play in helping students to become responsible digital citizens. [Digital citizenship at home resources](#) are available on our Board website.

Textbooks/Library Materials

Textbooks and library materials are the property of the YRDSB. All students must return all items and materials in good condition or pay the replacement cost.

Use of Non-Board Electronic Devices

We recognize that learning can be enhanced by technology and we have created opportunities in our classrooms to leverage digital tools to enhance teaching, learning and communication. Students may not use personal mobile devices (including cell phones) during instructional time except under the following circumstances: for educational purposes, as directed by an educator; for health and medical purposes; and to support special education needs.

Discussions will take place in our classrooms throughout the year about the impact of digital footprints and how a positive attitude towards using technology supports collaboration, learning and productivity. Camera and/or video functions on mobile devices are not permitted for use on school property without clear permission from the principal or teacher. Infractions will be dealt with as student discipline, under Caring and Safe Schools Policy and its related procedures. At no time may electronic devices be used in washrooms or changerooms.

Students are responsible for the care and security of their personal devices. The school is not responsible for any damage, loss or theft. There are exceptions for students who need specific devices as per their Individual Education Plan, such as voice recorders and other mobile technology. Board staff manage the use of these tools.

Visitors

All visitors (including parents/guardians) must:

- Use the main entrance of the school.
- Check in at the main office when they arrive.
- Only visit classrooms or other locations within the school, with permission from the principal or their designate.

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- Follow the direction of the principal at all times.

The office staff will get important messages and materials to your child.

Volunteering in the School

We welcome and encourage the important role that parents/guardians and community members play in education. There are many opportunities for you to get involved at the school. For more information, contact the school office staff or review [Volunteers in Our Schools Policy and Procedure](#). If you are interested, please complete the **Volunteers in Our Schools Form** and return it to the school office.