



RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Welcome Letter for Incoming GRADE 9 Students

July 2024

Congratulations for having graduated from elementary school! It is our pleasure to welcome you to Richmond Green Secondary School. In order to ensure a smooth start to your high school career, the information below will assist you in preparing for September. **The first day of school for Grade 9 is Tuesday, September 3, 2024.**

We recognize that the pandemic and shifts to remote learning over the past few years have affected students and families in different ways. As a school community, we are committed to supporting the learning, achievement and well-being of students throughout the upcoming school year. We also continue to prioritize health and safety and follow guidelines and direction from the Government of Ontario and York Region Public Health.

Extended Vacation

Students who will be coming to RGSS but who will NOT be returning to school on the first day or within the first 15 days of the school year (inclusive) need to complete an [RGSS Extended Absence Form](#). By submitting this form, you prevent being demitted from Richmond Green SS.

Online School Start-Up Process

The process for the 2024-2025 school start-up will occur online during the summer. Payment of various school fees (e.g. Engagement Fee, Grade 9 Blast) is made on School Cash Online (*be sure to print a copy of the receipt when you pay online in order to retrieve the items that were purchased*). Visit [School Cash Online](#) to create an account. You will need your student identification number to complete this process. Please complete by **August 29, 2024**. You will receive electronically from the school board start up forms that must be completed. In addition, you will receive the following start-up information from the school by the end of August.

- Locker information
- Student Timetable
- Course Change Procedure
- Student's google GAPPS account.

Engagement Fee

The Student Engagement Fee of \$50.00 which is optional supports numerous opportunities throughout the year. These funds support:

- school events and functions such as semi-formal, prom, grade 9 Blast, orientation, arts & athletic banquets
- 50+ clubs and 25+ teams
- extra-curricular activities
- transportation for teams, clubs and field trips.
- spirit events and year-end Birthday Bash!
- assemblies and guest speakers as well as student conferences – (e.g. HOSA, Model UN)
- student printing and healthy snack program

Thank you for supporting student engagement for all students.

Payment Methods

All fees should be paid starting in July on [School Cash Online](#). A summary of all items available is below:

Student Engagement Items	Fee
Engagement Fee	\$50
Student Price Card (access to deals on items at various locations)	\$10
Yearbook	\$55
Phys. Ed. Clothing (includes 2 shirts and 1 pair of shorts)	\$45/50
Gr. 9 BLAST	\$55

E-mail Accounts

Please note that Hotmail accounts cannot be used to communicate effectively with the school. If you have one of these accounts registered with the school, please contact the Main Office to provide an updated email address.

Grade 9 Orientation Day – Tuesday, September 3, 2024

The first day of school is **ONLY** for Grade 9 students (and supported by senior student mentors). This orientation day will run from 9:20 a.m. - 3:35 p.m. and activities include:

- Welcome Assembly
- Classroom specific and themed workshops
- School Tour
- The cafeteria server will be open and students are also welcome to bring their own lunch

Grade 9 Parents are invited to stay for a short orientation assembly in the cafeteria on this day.

Grade 9 BLAST at Camp Green Acres – Thursday, September 24, 2024

All grade 9 students will be participating in **BLAST—Building, Learning, Achieving and Succeeding Together** at Green Acres Outdoor Camp. This event provides students with an opportunity to:

- connect with grade peers
- build school spirit
- develop leadership skills
- build self-awareness and social skills using cooperative activities.

The cost of **BLAST is \$55.00 per student**, which covers transportation, a full day of organized activities with facilitators and lunch. Departure from school at 9:30 a.m. and departure from Green Acres at 2:00 p.m.

1:1 Bring Your Own Device School

Richmond Green SS is a 1:1 (Bring Your Own Device) school. Our intention is to empower students with effective and productive use of technology in their daily learning that improves Critical Inquiry and Learning Skills. We ask that all incoming grade nine students come prepared on **Tuesday, September 3, 2024** with a digital device, to support an introduction to Teachassist /Google GAPS Accounts and to help them engage fully in the 1:1 experience at RGSS. We have a long-term lending library for students who require a technological device for up to one school year (with opportunities for renewal). Please contact the main office for more information.

School Council

We welcome parent/guardian involvement. Please join us at School Council Meetings that occur monthly. School Council elections will take place at the first meeting of the year. Please check the parent bulletin and school website for the date.

Student Transportation

For information on bus routes, stop locations, times, late arrivals, cancellation, eligibility, registering a complaint, safety and general information, please visit [Student Transportation Services](#) or contact the York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information Line at 1-877-330-3001, accessible 24 hours a day.

Upcoming Important Dates

Date	Event
Late August	Electronic distribution of Timetable & Locker Information
Tuesday, September 3	Grade 9 Orientation Day
Wednesday, September 4	Regular School Day for all grades
Monday, September 16	Photo Day (All day)
Tuesday, September 24	Grade 9 Blast
Friday, October 25	Photo Retake Day (morning only)
Wednesday, November 6	Take Our Kids to Work Day

Summer Office Hours

The summer office hours are Monday to Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The main office is closed every Friday beginning Friday, July 5 to Friday, August 23, 2024. RGSS email address: richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca

It is our hope that you have a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

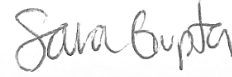
Sincerely,



Daraius Bharucha
Principal



Sayema Chowdhury
Vice-Principal



Sara Gupta
Vice-Principal

