



RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – PARENT BULLETIN

Where Tomorrow Begins

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RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, September 15, 2023



Photo Day

Monday, September 18, 2023 is Photo Day at Richmond Green SS. All students will have the opportunity to have their pictures taken for school purposes. Please see [the attached flyer](#) for more information.

Updating Contact Information

If you need to update any contact information (e.g, home or email address, telephone number, etc., please email: richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca

Engagement Fee

We are proud at Richmond Green to host a vast number of clubs, sports teams and other activities and events for students. The Student Engagement fee supports the operation of these activities for students. The Student Engagement Fee is an optional but recommended fee on [School Cash Online](#). We appreciate your support.

School Start Up Forms

School start up forms were sent to families and students this week. Please see the [Resources and FAQs for families](#) for more information. Secondary students received the following message:

School Start-Up Forms (Message to Secondary Students)

Each year, we ask secondary school students to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information. Students are asked to [complete this form](#) online. If you have any questions about the information in the form, please speak with your teacher, principal or vice-principal.

It is important that all students complete and submit these forms as soon as possible at the start of the school year.

Grade 9 Blast

On **Thursday, September 21, 2023** all grade 9 students are invited to participate in **BLAST-Building, Learning, Achieving and Succeeding Together at Green Acres Outdoor Camp**.

The purpose of this full day, outdoor field trip for all grade 9 students is to:

- develop a sense of belonging
- develop leadership skills
- build school spirit
- provide opportunity for students to become better acquainted

Please if you have not already done so register on SchoolCashOnLine for this event.

The day will be supported by 35 senior student leaders.

We are looking forward to an amazing day!

Attendance



If your child is going to be absent or away from any of their classes, please contact the Main Office **email is preferred** - richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca or by phone 905-780-7858, press option 1. Please let us know your child's student number, full name and grade.

Safety Week

The York Region District School Board's priority is to provide and maintain safe and healthy environments for all students and staff. Each year, Safety Week provides an opportunity to practise safety drills and to draw attention to our roles in providing a safe learning and working environment. Safety Week is scheduled from Monday, September 25 to Friday, September 29, 2023. During this week, we will conduct both Lockdown and Hold and Secure drills.

Additionally, we will practice a bomb threat drill, as the Ministry of Education requires each school board to have a set of emergency procedures, which includes bomb threats. Finally, we will have an accident awareness presentation for grade 11 students.

TeachAssist Parent Portal

Students in Secondary School use TeachAssist to view their schedules and ongoing assessment. They can also schedule guidance appointments. Parent/guardians may also register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal. Through this portal, you will be able to view your child(ren)'s marks, and book interviews with teachers for the Interview evenings held each semester (more information on this semester's interview evening will come closer to the date).

To register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal, please visit:

<https://ta.yrdsb.ca/yrdsb/parents/index.php>

You will need to enter the email address you have on file at the school. You will then be sent a one-time email to confirm your registration.

Medical Information

A reminder if your child has a serious medical condition and has not received the medical forms, please fill out the appropriate form(s) below and return to the Main Office. **Please complete new forms each school year.**

<u>Anaphylaxis HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with a life threatening allergy.
<u>Asthma HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with asthma.
<u>Epilepsy (Seizure Disorders) HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be complete for all students with a seizure disorder (including epilepsy).
<u>Type 1 Diabetes HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with diabetes.
<u>Health Care Plan (Other)</u>	This from should be completed for all other serious and potentially life threatening health conditions that are not already specifically addressed (Asthma, anaphylactic, diabetes, and seizure health care plans).

Guidance

College/University Fair

Aurora Public library will hold a College/University Fair on October 2 from 4:00 to 7:00pm. There will be over 40 institutions from different parts of the world participating this year.

The link of the event and list of participating institutions can be accessed here:

<https://aurora.bibliocommons.com/events/64dbac7f5a7c6130008c42c8>

School Zones

Students will see colour-coded zones in different areas of the school. The Green zones are areas where students may sit, collaborate, socialize and eat. Yellow zones will be for

collaborating and socializing. Red zones will be for walking through only (e.g, stairwells). This system will allow space for students during lunch and spare periods.

Powley Day

On Tuesday, September 19, 2023, Métis Peoples from all over Canada will celebrate Powley Day. Powley Day is a day of political and cultural significance for Métis communities throughout Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Powley Day marks the anniversary of the 2003 Supreme Court decision in the matter of R v .Powley, a Métis family from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. R. v. Powley was the first major Indigenous rights case concerning Métis peoples. The ground-breaking decision in 2003 affirmed that there were, and continue to be, distinct Métis people and communities on the land now known as Canada prior to 1867. The Powley Decision resulted in “the Powley Test,” which laid out a set of criteria to not only define what might constitute a Métis right but also who is entitled to those rights. The Powley decision recognizes and affirms Métis as distinct Indigenous peoples with a unique culture and identity. Métis’ inherent rights as Indigenous peoples are entrenched within Section 35 of Canada’s Constitution, which has opened the path forward to full Métis self-government.

Caring and Safe Schools Information

Dear Families,

At the start of the new school year, students attended Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentations. These presentations are designed to underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussions about school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Start-Up Presentation.

Presentation topics include:

- Racism and types of discrimination;
- Bullying;
- Progressive discipline; and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

Inappropriate Behaviour

In the Start-Up Presentation, students learned about anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination, and bullying. This learning will continue throughout the school year. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students were also reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

Reporting Behaviour

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;
- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);
- Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868).



Mental Health

We will stress to students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. [Mental health resources for families](#) are also available on the Board website.

Student Discipline

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various 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 the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the [Board's Caring and Safe School Page](#)) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as [vaping, electronic cigarettes](#) and related products) and student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are prohibited on school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to

\$5,000). In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

For More Information

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the [Caring and Safe Schools](#) section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home.

Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

COVID Health and Safety Protocols for 2023-2024

York Region Public Health has advised that schools continue to be required to follow the [Ministry's COVID-19: health and safety measures at schools](#).

All students, staff and visitors need to complete the self-screening tool. Students should complete the [COVID-19 self screening tool](#) and follow instructions and next steps. Masks are optional for students, staff and visitors.

Surfaces in the school building will continue to be disinfected and hand sanitizer is available. Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be promoted throughout the day.

Bussing

Bussing is provided to eligible students through Student Transportation Services (STS). STS operates bus routes for students in JK-12 for both the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board. During the first few days of schools, bus routes are being refined to ensure efficiency and service. More information, including daily late bus reports, can be found at www.schoolbuscity.com.

Indigenous and International Languages

The York Region District School Board offers language learning to elementary students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and language credit courses to secondary students in Grades 9 to 12. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information.

PA Day Agenda for September 22

Length: Half Day - AM

Topic 1: Student Well-being, School Safety, and Violence Prevention

Entity Hosting: All Secondary and Early Start Secondary Schools (except Bill Crothers SS)

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Online modules developed by Board-based personnel. Facilitated by School Administration.

Description: School teams will engage in compliance training including:

- occupational health & safety;
- student safety and violent incident prevention;
- training on supporting student mental health and well-being; and
- understanding cybersecurity and online privacy.

Length: Half Day - PM

Topic 2: Literacy/Mathematics Instructional Strategies

Entity Hosting: All Secondary and Early Start Secondary Schools (except Bill Crothers SS)

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School Administration

Description: School teams will engage School Improvement planning led by school administrators focusing on:

- high-impact instructional practices to support student improvement in alignment with the curriculum,
- developing resources and learning plans to consolidate foundational knowledge and skills in de-streamed grade 9 courses including English, Mathematics and Science and across the curriculum
- supporting Multi Language Learners (MLL) in our classrooms

Additional professional learning activities for educational assistants, office support staff, and library technicians will be available.

YRDSB Podcast

Latest episode: [Transitioning to Secondary School](#)

Students and a staff member discuss strategies and supports to make a smooth transition to secondary school.

News, Tips and Resources for Families

Library Cards – students can complete [this form](#) to register for a Richmond Hill Public Library card. Completed forms can be returned to the library or main office.

Key Dates

- Grade 9 BLAST – Thursday, September 21, 2023
- P.A. Day – Friday, September 22, 2023 – **Students do not come to school.**
- Clubs Fair – Tuesday, September 26, 2023 (Lunchtime in the cafeteria)
- Thanksgiving Day – Monday, October 9, 2023
- Pathway Fairs – Monday, October 16, 2023
- Interim Reports Distributed Electronically beginning – Tuesday, October 17, 2023
- School Council Meeting – Tuesday, October 17, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- P.A. Day – Friday, October 20, 2023 – **Students do not come to school.**
- Parent/Guardian Interview Night – Thursday, October 26, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Take Your Kid to Work Day – Wednesday, November 1, 2023