

Stephen Lewis Secondary School

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February 19th, 2019

Principal's Message

I want to take a moment to introduce our administrative team to the Stephen Lewis Community.

After a short parental leave, I started my placement this February as principal at SLSS with a warm welcome from staff and students. This is my 27th year as an educator working in a range of schools across York Region. Before working in York Region I taught in Kuwait, Turkey and Russia.

Walking the halls getting to know the school, I am overwhelmed by the kindness, poise and dedication of the SLSS students. I am excited to be part of the SLSS community and working to ensure that we continue to excel as a school.

I would also like to thank Mr. Glezakos and Mr. Tsourounis who were acting principals first semester during my leave. They did a great job making sure the first semester was a success.



Paolo Burzese, Principal



Antonietta Grieco, Vice Principal

I am fortunate to have a career of 20 plus years as an educator with York Region District School Board. Before becoming an administrator, I was a Mathematics, French, and a Student Success Teacher. This is my fifth year as a vice-principal. In my first semester at Stephen Lewis Secondary School I readily recognized the commitment of teachers and staff to students' well-being and achievement.

I am passionate about learning. As a vice-principal I value the opportunities to be a lead learner sharing my passion and promoting student achievement and well-being. To ground my work, I reflect on the experiences of our students and those of my two teenage children.



Patrick Belmonte, Vice Principal

I have served as vice-principal at Stephen Lewis Secondary School for the past two years. Prior to my arriving at this school, I was the Department Head of English at Bur Oak Secondary School in Markham. It was during my headship that I earned my M. Ed. degree at OISE/UT in curriculum.

I am committed to making all students feel welcome and supported so that they can achieve their personal and academic goals. As a strong proponent of inquiry and inclusive design, I will continue to enjoy working with students and teachers as they innovate and revolutionize learning.

Guidance Message

Course selection for the 2019-2020 school year is currently underway. Students will be using **myBlueprint**, which is our new course selection tool. Students can log in by accessing www.yrdsb.ca and clicking on the “**My Pathway Planner**” icon. The final deadline for submission is **Friday February 22**. Once students submit their courses, they must print off the parent/guardian sign-off sheet, have it signed and bring it to their second semester homeroom teacher.

Immunization

If your child received a letter from Public Health regarding Immunization, and did not receive their vaccination at the school during their Public Health Immunization Clinic, you will need to contact Public Health to update or speak to a nurse about their immunization. The deadline for this **February 28, 2019**. If you have any questions about Immunization or would like to update or book an appointment with Public Health you can contact them at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73456.

Attendance Reminder

Please call/e-mail the school to let us know if your child is or will be absent, whether it is for the entire day or for part of the school day.

Please continue to keep our e-mail address and telephone number handy:

(905)326-7994 ext. 101. You may call 24 hours/day or email us at stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.ca. Please provide the following information:

- your child's name
- spell the last name and first name of the student
- the dates of the absence
- the reason for absence
- how to contact the parent/guardian if we have questions

Signing in/out

If a student must leave during the day for any reason, he/she must sign out at the attendance office with parent/guardian permission. Parents/Guardians are asked to call or visit the attendance office to sign-out a student during the school day. Please do not call/text your child during class time asking them to leave class. The teacher will only allow students to leave class if they receive a call from the attendance office. Without parental/guardian consent, the student will be required to remain in school. Upon return from their appointment, students must sign in at the attendance office.

Important Information for Parents/Guardians Regarding Extraordinary Absences Exceeding 3 days

Students are expected to be in full attendance every regular school day except in the case of illness or court order. Extraordinary absence may occur under certain circumstances. Parents should keep in mind that a very close relationship exists between regular daily attendance and success in school. Some families plan trips during the school year due to scheduling of vacations from work or to take advantage of low travel costs. When this occurs, students miss valuable learning which can impact on their success. Even brief absences can have a negative impact. Family trips can be a wonderful learning experience, but should be saved for school vacation time, such as March Break.

Before withdrawal for any vacation not in the school calendar:

- check with your child's teacher to find out what effect a long vacation may have on your child's progress.
- Complete the Extended Absence Form available in the main office.
- You will be responsible for the continuity of your child's learning when they are absent from school.
- Students must consult with their teacher before the planned absence in order to determine their standing in each of their courses and obtain any assignments that will come due during or immediately following the absence, if available from the teacher. It must be noted that:
- It may not be possible for a student to learn all of the material or complete all of the work that was done in class during their absence.
- Assignments must be submitted on time to be eligible for grading. Tests missed MAY receive a mark of zero ("0") Absences of 15 or more days require a meeting with an administrator

School Council

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend our next meeting on **Monday, March 25th** at 7:15 p.m. in the library.

Online Payments are being accepted

We accept online payments for field trips, fundraisers, sports teams, yearbook, graduation, prom, Student Activity Fee, etc. Please use the following link to register: <https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com>

Community Service Hours

To graduate, students are required to complete 40 hours of community service. It is recommended that students complete these hours early in their high school career. Information regarding community service opportunities can be found on the bulletin boards in the Guidance office. Community Service Hour forms must be submitted for approval BEFORE starting the activities and then submitted again when the community service hours are completed.

YRDSB Mobile App

The York Region District School Board has an app that enables staff, students, parents and community members to quickly access information from their mobile devices.

Get the latest up-to-date news, student resources, school maps and contact information for trustees and senior administration. Users will also be able to access the Report It tool, school year calendars, transportation information and much more. To download the app, visit www.yrdsb.ca or search "YRDSB" in your app store.

Upcoming Events

February 22	deadline for 2019/2020 course selections
March 8	Locker Cleanout prior to Mid - Winter Break
March 11 - 15	Mid - Winter Break
March 18	Interim Reports are sent home
March 21	Parent/Guardian Interviews
March 25	School Council Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Library
March 27	OSSLT Grade 10 students

More information is available on our website. We update our school website frequently.

You can e-mail us any time at stephen.lewis.ss@yrdsb.ca.