

International Education Services

International Student Handbook

York Region

District School Board



January 2019

York Region District School Board
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Seven Grandfather Teachings

- Niizhwaaswi Gmishoomsinaan Kinoomaagewinan

Wisdom - Nbwaakaawin

To have wisdom is to know the difference between good and bad and to know the results of your actions.

Love - Zaagidowin

To truly love is to care for others unconditionally, knowing when people are weak is when they need it most.

Respect - Mnaadendimoowin

To have honour for all of Creation. You must give respect if you wish to be respected.

Bravery - Aakide'ewin

To be brave is to do something right even if you know it's going to hurt you.

Honesty - Gwekwaadiziwin

Always be honest in word and action. Be honest first with yourself, and you will more easily be able to be honest with others.

Humility - Dibadendiziwin

You are equal to others, but you are not better.

Truth - Debwewin

To learn the truth, to live with truth and to walk with truth, to speak truth.



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Welcome Message from International Education Services (IES)

Welcome to the York Region District School Board (YRDSB), where equity and inclusivity are embraced and Character Matters.

Moving to another country is a challenging and exciting event in one's life. It creates opportunities for discovery, challenges you to learn and adapt to life in a new and different culture and expand your global awareness, knowledge and perspectives. It also encourages you to be open to new ideas, to make new friends and to be successful in a different home environment.

In order to help you adjust to your new learning and living environment, we have prepared this student handbook. Please do not feel alone while you are here as there are many people who want to help you enjoy your stay and be successful in your studies.

York Region District School Board is one of Canada's leading innovative providers of public education. We look forward to welcoming you to York Region and trust that you will enjoy your time in Canada, feel at home in your new community and have a successful learning experience at school.

Conditions of Participation

All parents, custodians and students must agree and adhere to the following conditions of admission and continuing enrolment:

- International students must comply with all York Region District School Board policies, International Education Services Student Handbook and the YRDSB Student Code of Behaviour. Failure to follow school policy or to comply with the conditions of the study permit (make progress toward completing the program) as stated by Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will result in withdrawal from the program.
- Providing false medical information or non-disclosure of medical conditions or prescription medications may result in withdrawal from the program, and the student returned home to be in the care of natural parents.
- International students must achieve an overall academic average of **65%** and must maintain this average while attending school in order to be eligible for admission renewal for the following school year.
- International students must attend school regularly. Any pattern of unauthorized

absences or patterns of poor attendance may result in withdrawal from the program.

- Secondary students must maintain a full-time timetable (minimum of three (3) courses per semester).
- Students must have a custodian assigned for the entire period of study, regardless of age.
- Students must reside in a home environment throughout the period of study regardless of age.
- No refunds will be granted if students are demitted for any of the above reasons.
- Students may not take a course outside of YRDSB to obtain a credit unless:
 - The course is not offered in their school;
 - It cannot be accommodated on their timetable;
 - The course is pre-approved by the YRDSB.
- Students must notify the Admissions Office of the York Region District School Board of a change of custodian and provide photocopies of updated custodian declaration forms.
- International students are not eligible to participate in special programs such as Special Education, the French Immersion Program, the International Baccalaureate Program, the Sports Program at Bill Crothers Secondary School, the Arts Unionville Program, and any regional arts, sports and music programs. All in-school programs are open to international students.
- Any student who will reach 18 years of age while participating in the program must provide consent to share information with their parent/custodian by signing a Consent for Information Sharing - Students at the Age of Majority Form (see appendix) and submitting the form to International Education Services by email at: admissions@yrdsb.ca, and providing a copy to the main office of their school no later than 4 weeks after their 18th birthday.

Before You Arrive

Enhance Use of English

After you have received the official Letter of Acceptance, you will be invited to participate in the Pre-Arrival Learning Program. This enriching online tool offers a number of helpful activities:

Online English Test

It is essential you complete this test as soon as possible as it helps the school to begin preparing a timetable based on the preliminary score. You will be assessed again, in English and Math, during the Orientation Program which takes place either in January or August.

English Vocabulary Building

Based on your assessment test result, you will be able to build your English vocabulary to better prepare you for studying at YRDSB.

Math and Science Vocabulary

Available for Grades 8 to 12, these modules will help you better understand the technical language of Math and Science.

Online Orientation

A general orientation to Canada, your community and school is available to prepare you for arrival.

Required Documents

Before leaving your home country there will be a lot of planning which must take place. You must gather personal items, and official documents which must accompany you when entering the country. Be sure to visit the website of the airline to ensure you are packing your personal items correct and only taking items which are lawful.

Upon entering Canada, you must show the immigration officials your passport, visitor visa, and Letter of Acceptance confirming your duration of study in Canada. Once the immigration official is satisfied with the documents, you will be issued a study permit. Please notice the expiry date of your study permit because it will expire – normally – after one year of issue. A number of documents will also be required by your school and the department of International Education. It is important that you collect and bring these with you to ensure a smooth registration. These documents include:

- Education Services Agreement signed by parent/custodian
- Original Letter of Acceptance
- Your passport, visa and study permit
- Updated school report cards/transcripts from your last school

Clothing - What to Pack

The climate in Ontario is characterized by four seasons: summer, fall, winter and spring. Each season brings frequent and abrupt changes in temperature. As a result, we suggest a variety of

clothing items to accommodate the fluctuations in temperature.

The temperature ranges from up to 34°C during the summer to occasional lows of -20°C in the winter. Make sure to check www.theweathernetwork.com for comprehensive weather information before your departure so that you are dressed comfortably for your arrival to Canada.

Most Canadian students wear jeans, shirts, sweaters and sweatshirts to school. Although, shorts are permitted in the school environment, short-shorts, low-cut tops and other revealing articles of clothing are not permitted. If you arrive at school with inappropriate attire, parents or custodians may be contacted and you will be sent home.

Necessary items to pack

- boots for the cold weather
- casual clothes for daily wear
- sweatshirts and sweaters
- warm jacket, winter coat, scarf, gloves and winter hat
- lightweight waterproof jacket for spring and fall
- walking shoes and running shoes
- personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, etc.)
- prescription medication
- eye glasses and eye care requirements along with prescription

Other items to pack

- backpack to carry books to school
- mobile phone
- scientific calculator
- special sport clothing (ski clothing, bathing suit)
- small gift to give to friends or host family
- clothing for special occasions
- a small amount of Canadian dollars

Upon Arrival

Orientation Program

To provide every secondary student with the best possible start, all new students are required to attend the YRDSB International Student Orientation Program. This program takes place two weeks before the start of the school semester (August & January). The orientation is relevant to you as it will prepare you to adapt to your new home, school and community. Attending the *Orientation Program* is a great opportunity to make friends with other students that will be attending the same school. As part of the first week's program, you will participate in the Math and English assessment.

The selection of your courses and the appropriate placement in these courses is dependent on the Math and English assessments which will take place during the orientation program.

You may not register at your home school until the assessments are completed.

If you are unable to arrive before the orientation program, be sure to communicate your expected arrival to the Admissions Office by submitting the Arrival Confirmation Form, or contacting us by email: admissions@yrdsb.ca

School Life

Daily Schedule

Classes begin at various times depending on the school you will be attending. The start/end times will be confirmed during the Orientation Program. You may also visit the website of your school to become familiar with the classes, clubs and sports available.

Text Books

The York Region District School Board will supply text books which must be returned at the end of each semester. Students are financially responsible for lost or damaged text books. Final marks/report cards will not be issued if books are not returned.

Attendance

Daily attendance and punctuality are necessary to the process of learning and essential for success in a course. If a student is absent, it is the responsibility of the student/guardian (if the student is under 18) to contact the attendance office and advise staff accordingly. If you are absent from school, without approval, a telephone call is made to your home.

Exams

Time is set aside during each semester for exam scheduling. It is the student's responsibility to know his/her exam schedule. On occasion, teachers may substitute the examination, with special project/presentations. Final exams **MUST** be written. **Do not schedule a flight home during the exam period.**

Report Cards

Students will receive regular progress reports issued by each teacher. One will be an interim report, followed by a mid-term report and a final report at the conclusion of the semester. The education system will be different from that of your home country, so it is important to note that regular work assigned by teachers must be handed-in within the allowed time frames. Final class marks will be a combination of scores including assignments, in-class work, tests and final exam marks. For this reason, it is imperative that full attendance, class participation and homework be a priority to all students.

Parent Interview Night

Once the interim reports are issued, parents/custodians are invited and encouraged to attend the Interview Night. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with teachers and to discuss your academic progress, strengths and receive feedback on what needs to be done for improvement.

Behaviour

Each student is required to follow the Code of Conduct outlined by the York Region District School Board and the Ministry of Education. Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct and follow school policies will jeopardize your studies and may result in withdrawal from the program.

Caring and Safe Schools Policy

The York Region District School Board is committed to creating and sustaining caring and safe schools which promote student learning, achievement and well-being. Each student has the right to learn in a safe, positive, respectful and inclusive environment free from harassment and discrimination and where every effort is made to mitigate risk or the potential for harm.

To enhance caring and safe school climates, positive student behaviour supports are provided. Inappropriate behaviour is addressed, taking into account mitigating and other factors through a bias-free progressive discipline model that employs a restorative practice approach.

A clear focus on bullying prevention supports the development of healthy relationships,

educates the school community and encourages timely reporting so that appropriate action can be taken.

Families/custodians play a critical role in the education of their children and in supporting their mental health and well-being and work collaboratively with the Board and external agencies to access resources that contribute to positive outcomes for students.

Student Progressive Discipline

A range of prevention programs, interventions, supports, and consequences will address inappropriate student behaviour and will build upon strategies that promote and foster positive behaviours.

York Region District School Board is committed to implement progressive discipline that is bias free. Bias-free progressive discipline commits to identifying and addressing discriminatory bias and systemic barriers in relation to discipline. A bias-free approach is one that respects all people and groups and reflects human rights principles. As well, this approach looks to support student voice and to give them opportunities to help build schools that are socially inclusive where they can talk about bullying, racism, homophobia, diversity and inclusivity.

Restorative Practice

This practice is a valued part of the progressive discipline model, helping build, strengthen and restore healthy relationships following an incident. A preventative and reactive approach to building caring, safe and inclusive communities focuses on strengthening relationships and repairing harm experienced by others.

Suspension from School

A student who is suspended from a school is not permitted to be on Board property or participate in school-related activities or events including, but not limited to, all school buildings, grounds, transportation, and field trips.

Where a student has committed one or more of the infractions outlined below where the infraction has a negative impact on the school climate, whether on or off school property, or during a school-related activity or event, the principal shall consider suspension as part of a progressive discipline approach.

These infractions, as outlined in the Education Act and Board procedure include:

1. uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person
2. possessing alcohol or illegal drugs
3. being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
4. swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority

5. committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school or Board property or to property located on school/Board premises
6. bullying or cyberbullying
7. habitual neglect of duty (with Superintendent of Education approval only)
8. opposition to authority
9. any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the moral tone of the school
10. any act considered by the principal to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of members of the school community, and/or
11. any act considered by the principal to be contrary to the Board or school code of conduct

Expulsion (International Student are Demitted from the Program)

Where a student has committed one or more of the infractions outlined below where the infraction has a negative impact on the school climate, whether on or off school property, or during a school-related activity or event, the principal will suspend the student and shall consider expulsion.

These infractions, as outlined in the Education Act, include:

1. possessing a weapon or replica weapon, including possessing a firearm
2. using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person
3. committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner
4. committing sexual assault
5. trafficking in weapons or in illegal drugs
6. committing robbery
7. giving alcohol to a minor
8. bullying or cyberbullying, if:
 - a. the pupil has previously been suspended for engaging in bullying and/or cyberbullying, and
 - b. the pupil's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person
9. any infraction outlined in Board Procedure #668.1 Student Suspension that is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender

expression, or any other similar factor

10. the pupil's pattern of behaviour is so refractory that the pupil's presence is injurious to the effective learning and/or working environment of others, and/ or
11. the pupil has demonstrated through a pattern of behaviour, such as, but not limited to neglect of duty, truancy or opposition to authority that he/she has not prospered by the instruction available to him/her and that he/she is persistently resistant to making the changes in behaviour which would enable him/her to prosper

Extracted from the YRDSB Guide to the School Year

Living Expectations

If not living with a parent, you must live with a family, preferably an English speaking one, who can help you with your day-to-day requirements and help improve your language skills. You cannot live, unsupervised, with people of the same age. Living with a family provides students with the support and stability required to succeed in school.

Expectations of a Homestay

Whether you are residing with a homestay family chosen by your agency or family, or with a host offering the service under the YRDSB Homestay/Custodianship Program, you should expect the following from your host:

- Provide a private bedroom with a window and a study area (not in the basement)
- Provide a shared bathroom, and the ability to have daily showers
- Provide moderate temperatures, in the home, all year long
- Provide support, care and supervision while you are in their care and provide a standard of care expected of a reasonable parent (This includes school-related, personal and medical emergencies as you require.)
- Advocate for you on behalf of your natural parents
- Assist upon first arrival; attend appointments such as documentation verification, and school registration
- Attend any meetings and/or appointments required by the school or International Education Services relating to you
- Respond to and attend medical emergency situations at school, and otherwise
- Assist you in finding medical care, and submitting medical insurance claims

- As required, review immunization records to ensure they are up-to-date and submitted to York Region Public Health
 - Provide parental advice to you regarding school program and activities, and attend parent/teacher interviews
 - Provide consent as needed by the school for academic program and activities
 - Report absences and provide authorization to the school as required
 - Maintain a copy of your timetable, and provide consent for timetable changes
 - Deal with school/academic concerns
 - Communicate with your parents immediately of any school-related, behavioural or emotional issues impacting you
 - Receive, review and sign your report card and other school-related documents
 - Assist you in the academic renewal process by completing required applications, and – with the assistance of your natural parents – arrange for appropriate payment of fees
 - Assist you in ensuring all textbooks, musical instruments and any other school supplies are returned to the school at the conclusion of each semester/term
-
- Maintain up-to-date contact information with the school and International Education Services, and provide an additional emergency contact
 - Provide a variety of satisfying, and healthy food/meals and beverages to you including fresh fruits and vegetables
 - Provide you with a key to the house and phone numbers where adults in the home can be reached at all times
-
- Always speak English when you are present and also to encourage you to only speak English in the presence of family members
 - Include you in family activities to help you to adjust to the Canadian culture
 - Be involved with your school activities and new friends
-
- Treat you with respect
 - Regularly monitor your use of the internet
 - Set a reasonable curfew which must be followed by you
 - Inform you if s/he will be away for a meal and leave either prepared food or food that can be easily prepared by you.

Meals

You will quickly learn that meals and food in Canada will be much different than what you are used to in your home country. Each host/family will have its own unique schedule and routines.

Breakfast

Normally eaten before leaving for school. On weekdays, this is a light meal which you are able to prepare. On weekends, your host may prepare a more elaborate breakfast meal.

Lunch

Normally eaten mid-day. This is a light meal consisting of a sandwich, soup or salad. You may prepare a lunch with the food supplied by your host.

Dinner

Normally eaten after 5:00 pm. Your host family should try to offer a sit-down meal with you each day; however, this isn't always possible due to work schedules. This meal is normally a hot meal, offered at the table, which includes all members of the family.

If you are unhappy with the types or quantities of foods, be sure to have open conversations with your host to work through any concerns that occur. Open communication is important to lasting relationships.

York Region Homestay/Custodianship

Program

If you will be participating in the YRDSB Homestay/Custodianship Program, you will be placed in a carefully selected home of a family who has met the expectations set out by YRDSB. Not only are families required to meet specific requirements, but they are also interviewed on a personal basis by our homestay representatives.

Students in the program will be met regularly, by the assigned Homestay Representative (within their home) and by the assigned Student Liaison Officer (at their school). These regular visits monitor to ensure that you and the host family are comfortable with the existing arrangement.

If you have any concerns with respect to your accommodations, send an email to homestay@yrdsb.ca. If you have concerns regarding your courses, or issues at school, send an email to student.custodian@yrdsb.ca.

Curfew

For your safety and benefit, your host family will impose a curfew to return home which must be followed. Failure to follow the curfew will result in the police being called. Suggested curfew:

Age	Suggested Curfew	
	School Night (Sunday to Thursday)	Non-school Night (Friday & Saturday)
14	8:00 pm	10:00 pm
15	9:00 pm	11:00 pm
16-17	10:00 pm	12:00 am

Other Information

Cell Phone Use

In Ontario, there are a number of major cell phone providers. Each communication company offers a wide range of options. Many students have unlocked mobile phones and purchase SIM cards with a local provider. We recommend a pay-as-you-go plan because you do not require a credit card to make payment, and you are not locked into a multi-year commitment.

Telephone Use

For making telephone calls to your home country, an economical and convenient way of communication is by using a long-distance "calling card" which is available for purchase at most convenience stores, drug marts and grocery stores. If also available in your home country, you may communicate via apps such as: Skype, FaceTime, and WhatsApp.

Banking

As an international student of York Region District School Board, you will have the option of opening an account with one of the many banks in Canada. If you wish to begin the process of opening an account before arriving in Canada, please contact the International Banking Centre of your local bank. In most cases, to open an account you will need:

- ✓ primary ID (e.g. valid passport) and a valid study permit
- ✓ secondary ID (e.g. driver's license, credit card, national/student ID)
- ✓ official Letter of Acceptance from YRDSB

Canadian major banks include: Royal Bank of Canada, Scotia Bank, Bank of Montreal, Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada, and TD/Canada Trust. Other banks which have headquarters outside of Canada include: Citibank Canada, HSBC Bank, ING Bank, ICICI Bank, Korea Exchange Bank, etc.

Money and Valuables

It's a good idea to make two copies of important documents (such as airline tickets, health insurance forms, and your passport): one for you to keep with you, and another for your hosts. Keep the originals in a safe place—they should not stay in your school bag or suitcase.

You should never carry or display large amounts of cash. The use of bank accounts and bankcards is common practice among Canadians and is the best way to protect your money. For security purposes, you should open a bank account.

Excessive amounts of money can attract unwanted attention from other students, who might expect you to pay for meals and extracurricular activities. You should never borrow or loan money to other students or members of your homestay family.

Transportation

Many students take advantage of the York Region Transit system to move around.

VIVA Service runs, throughout York Region, every fifteen minutes or less, seven days per week. Monthly passes, discounted sets of ten- tickets and single ride fares can be purchased from **MultiRide** machines located in all transit terminals and various outlets throughout York Region. For additional information, please visit www.yrt.ca or www.vivayork.com.

Once you have received your student ID card, you may show this to purchase a **student discounted** transit pass.

Other connecting services are Toronto Transit Commission (www.ttc.ca) which offers bus, streetcar and subway (metro) service in Toronto. Go Transit (www.go transit.com) offers short-distance regional train and bus service within the Greater Toronto Area.

Safety Information

Internet

The Internet has brought many benefits, but it has also raised some safety concerns such as the potential for crime and predators. The Canada Safety Council recommends that you follow the following rules:

- Do not give out any personal information. This includes name, phone number, address, e-mail, location of your school, telephone numbers, credit card numbers and pictures. This goes for anywhere on the Internet, including e-mail, social media, even web sites that promise you free stuff or prizes, or on web pages that you create yourself.
- When using the Internet, do not make reference to your name or nickname that would reveal that you are male or female.
- Do not make arrangements to meet unknown individuals unless you meet in a public place and are accompanied by friends or by your custodian, and even then you need to be careful.
- Do not send insulting or rude message to anyone online.
- Do not open e-mail, files, links, pictures or games from individuals that are not known to you.

Limit the time you spend on-line and follow the curfews imposed by your host.

Personal Safety

Visit the [York Regional Police website](#) for excellent information and tips on how to stay safe.

Fun Things to do in York Region

York Region has many opportunities for growth and discovery in the range of cultural, sporting, outdoor, entertainment, shopping and dining. Here are just a few to choose from:

Canada's Wonderland – Canada's largest amusement park www.canadaswonderland.com

McMichael Canadian Art Collection – A permanent collection of artworks by Tom Thomson, the Group of Seven, their contemporaries, and First Nations, Métis, Inuit and contemporary artists who have contributed to the development of Canadian art www.mcmichael.com

Black Creek Pioneer Village – Discover life in rural Ontario in the 1860's www.blackcreek.ca

The Kortright Centre for Conservation - is Ontario's premier environmental and renewable energy education and demonstration centre www.kortright.org

Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts – celebrates over 20 years of award winning professional entertainment. It also promotes community and educational performances and arts programs www.markham.ca

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts – Centrally located in York Region, the centre hosts a number of musical and theatrical performances www.rhcentre.ca

Vaughan Mills – 250-store, mega mall combines fashion, outlets, dining and entertainment www.vaughanmills.com

Pacific Mall – The largest Chinese indoor mall in Canada www.pacificmalltoronto.com

Additional tourism information can be found by visiting www.yorktourism.com

Important Contact Information

International Education Services

General Inquiries: 905.884.2046, ext. 237- admissions@yrdsb.ca

YRDSB Homestay/Custodianship Services

homestay@yrdsb.ca

Student Liaison

student.custodian@yrdsb.ca

Ingle International Student Medical Insurance

As an international student you purchase emergency medical insurance for the period of time you will be in Canada. The insurance is arranged through Ingle Insurance. A package will be distributed to you during the Orientation Program. It is important to you to review the information and become familiar with the process of submitting claims. You may also visit the Ingle Insurance/YRDSB website to review insurance information even before you arrive.


<http://www.inglestudents.com/york>

Medical Assistance: 1.866.883.9787 - from Canada and the United States, call toll free

Mental Wellness: 1.877.234.5327 – confidential multilingual support line available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

+1 416.640.7865 – call collect from anywhere in the world

Immediate services will be available to you upon arrival.

studyinsuredSM STUDENT PROTECTION AT-A-GLANCE <small>BY INGLE INTERNATIONAL</small> Keep in a safe, easily accessible place	
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE <small>INTREPID 24/7 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE</small> Multilingual guidance for any injury or illness, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, toll-free	MENTAL WELLNESS <small>STAY HEALTHY AT SCHOOL PROGRAM</small> Confidential, multilingual mental health support line, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, toll-free
1.866.883.9787	1.877.234.5327
Call any time you need help Call every time you seek treatment	Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.
<small>IMPORTANT: FOR MAJOR ILLNESSES OR INJURIES, YOU MUST INFORM INTREPID 24/7 WITHIN 48 HOURS</small>	Calling the mental wellness support line is a great first step to help with any emotionally distressing or challenging situation, no matter how great or small.
 <small>Speak with a doctor over video chat by calling Intrepid 24/7 and asking for our Virtual Health Services.</small>	

Other Resources

<https://kidshelpphone.ca> - 1-800-668-6868

<http://www.crisisservicescanada.ca/> - 1-833-456-4566

Police/Fire

911 - To be used in case of emergency only. When connected, inform the emergency operator of the reason for the call and answer all questions correctly. In cases of emergency, timing is of the essence.

Returning to YRDSB

The study permit issued to you upon arrival in Canada will expire each year, and so will your enrollment at YRDSB. Mid-way through your first school year, and every year thereafter, you will receive academic renewal information from the office of International Education. You will be required to submit the following before the deadline:

- Complete a Renewal Application
- Submit your most recent report card
- Payment for tuition and medical insurance
- Completed and signed Consent for Information Sharing - Students at the Age of Majority Form for any student who is 18 years old at time of renewal.

It is important that you keep track of the expiry of your study permit and plan to renew it before the expiry to avoid risk of penalty and delayed start of your study. You will NOT be able to study at YRDSB if your study permit is expired.

Holidays & Important School Dates

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD 2018-2019 LEARNING CALENDAR

(excluding the following secondary schools: *St. Catharines, Keswick, Maple, Markham, and Sutton District*)

This calendar has been created to help you plan your family holidays, medical and dental appointments around your child's learning. The most important days - the ones unmarked (excluding weekends) - are the days which students are expected to attend school. For your information, professional activity days and holidays are also listed.

SEPTEMBER 2018							FEBRUARY 2019									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
						1						P	2			
2	H	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17	H	19	20	21	22	23			
23	P	25	26	27	28	29	24	25	26	27	28					
30																
OCTOBER 2018							MARCH 2019									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
						1							1	2		
7	H	9	10	11	12	13	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	10	H	H	H	H	H	16			
21	P	23	24	25	26	27	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
							31									
NOVEMBER 2018							APRIL 2019									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
						1							1	2		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	14	15	16	17	18	H	20			
18	19	20	21	22	P	24	21	H	23	24	25	26	27			
25	26	27	28	29	30		28	29	30							
DECEMBER 2018							MAY 2019									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
						1							1	2	S	4
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	19	H	21	22	23	24	25			
23	H	H	H	H	H	29	26	27	28	29	30	31				
30	H															
JANUARY 2019							JUNE 2019									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
						1							1			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	E	4	5	6	7	8			
13	14	15	16	17	E	19	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	S	P	29			
							30									



H School Holiday
E Elementary P.A. Day
S Secondary P.A. Day
P P.A. Day for All Schools

YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES:
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

LAST DAY OF CLASSES:
Secondary: Wednesday, June 26, 2019
Elementary: Thursday, June 27, 2019*
 * Early release

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Labour Day	Monday, September 3, 2018
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 8, 2018
Christmas/Winter Break	Monday, December 24, 2018 to Friday, January 4, 2019 inclusive
Family Day	Monday, February 18, 2019
Mid-Winter Break	Monday, March 11 to Friday, March 15, 2019 inclusive
Good Friday	Friday, April 19, 2019
Easter Monday	Monday, April 22, 2019
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2019

Please see the Holidays & Observances calendar on the Board website for significant faith days.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY - NO SCHOOL

Elementary:
 Monday, September 24, 2018
 Monday, October 22, 2018
 Friday, November 23, 2018
 Friday, January 18, 2019
 Friday, February 1, 2019
 Monday, June 3, 2019
 Friday, June 28, 2019

Secondary:
 Monday, September 24, 2018
 Monday, October 22, 2018
 Friday, November 23, 2018
 Friday, February 1, 2019
 Friday, May 3, 2019
 Thursday, June 27, 2019
 Friday, June 28, 2019

Ultimately, parents are responsible for deciding whether to send their child to school. To find out if buses are cancelled due to weather conditions, you can check:

- the YRDSB website
- the @YRDSB Twitter account
- the Student Transportation Services' (STS) website at www.schoolbuscity.com or hotline: 1-877-330-3001
- school websites
- radio and television media outlets

York Region District School Board
 60 Wellington Street West, Aurora L4G 3H2
 (905) 727-3141, 895-7216, 722-3201, (416) 969-8131
 Automated: (905) 727-0022, 895-7227, 722-6255, (416) 969-7170
 Facsimile: (905) 727-1931
 Website: www.yrdsb.ca
 Twitter: @YRDSB

Louise Sirisko
Director of Education



Corrie McBain
Chair of the Board

Wrap-up

Academic

- Students must obtain satisfactory results in each course to continue in the program.
- Students must be enrolled as a full-time student (minimum of 3 credits/semester). Permission must be obtained by the Principal before dropping a class.
- Students will follow the Code of Conduct, and school policies and procedures. Failure to comply will result in a withdrawal from the program.
- Students must share their report cards with parents and host families.

Attendance

- Regular attendance is mandatory. Any missed work and assignments must be made up.
- Notify the school main office of any planned absences.
- Students who are unable to attend regularly, or display patterns of unauthorized absences or patterns of poor attendance, may be withdrawn from the program.

Homestay

- Students must live in a family environment for the duration of their studies, if not, they must live with a parent.
- Students will share their contact information with their families.
- Students will follow and respect the host family rules and property by showing consideration and respect at all times.
- Students will be treated as a respected member of the family and will be expected to be an active member of the household.

Finding Ongoing Opportunities to Speak English

You have come to Canada to become more confident and assertive in English, so take all the opportunities you can to speak English. The best way to improve your English is to practice every day. Use your English in events that include other members of the household, such as:

- planning holidays and weekend outings
- doing household chores
- accompanying your host to run errands like a trip to the grocery store

- talking about an interesting TV show or article you read, etc.

Your English fluency will improve by speaking English each day.

Personal Contact Information

Students must notify their school and the office of International Education Services if there is a change to their living arrangements, custodian, etc. and must always keep their contact information up-to-date.

Canadian Law

- Students will obey the laws and regulations of Canada at all times.
- Students in secondary schools are not permitted to work for pay.

In Conclusion

YRDSB prides itself in offering an outstanding International Education Program where students continue to thrive academically, socially and emotionally while learning to speak another language. It is important for everyone's safety that the rules, expectations and protocols are adhered to in order to make your stay safe and enjoyable. In the event that a student is withdrawn/demitted from the program, it is important to note that the student will return to their home country immediately at their own expense and without refund of tuition fees.

Overall, our primary goal is to provide each student with an opportunity to be successful both at home(stay) and school.

CHARACTER MATTERS

respect

responsibility

honesty

empathy

fairness

initiative

courage

integrity

perseverance

optimism