



# Thornlea Secondary School

8075 Bayview Ave., Thornhill L3T 4N4  
Phone: (905) 889-9696, (647) 795-7692

Bi-Weekly e-Bulletin

September 13, 2024

## IMPORTANT DATES

|            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Sept 16    | Terry Fox Event       |
| Sept 18    | Grade 9 Fit Day       |
| Sept 19    | Club Fair - Lunch     |
| Sept 23-27 | Safety Week           |
| Sept 24    | Photo Day             |
| Sept 26    | Wellness Fair         |
| Sept 27    | PA Day<br>(No School) |

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

**Meeting Time:** 7:00pm

**Meeting Location:** Library  
(across from the office)

**Meeting Date:**

Monday September 23, 2024  
Tuesday October 29, 2024  
Monday November 4, 2024  
Tuesday February 18, 2024  
Monday April 7, 2024

**SCHOOL email:**

[thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca)

**ATTENDANCE email:**

[thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

**CONTACT/TELEPHONE CHANGE:**

[thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca)



## THORNLEA ADMINISTRATION MESSAGE

Hello Thornlea Families,

It has been an amazing return to school. I have had so many wonderful conversations with students. I listened to students talk about the jobs they did over the summer and heard the pride they gained through their work. Students have shared stories of their wonderful travels—some visited Toronto, while others ventured to the other side of the planet. I also listened to students who spent the summer hanging out with friends and recharging for the coming year. No matter what they did this summer, every student I have spoken to has returned with optimism and excitement for the new year. I share that excitement.

### Traffic

For the families who dropped off their children the first two weeks, you likely noticed that traffic was very busy in the mornings. On mornings where there is rain or snow you can expect it to be even busier.

### Tips for a better drop-off:

- **Arrive early:** Traffic before 8:30 is very light. Between 8:30 and 8:45, it gets much busier. If you can arrive a bit earlier, it will make your drop-off experience much easier.

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Principal

Paolo Burzese [paolo.burzese@yrdsb.ca](mailto:paolo.burzese@yrdsb.ca)

Vice-Principals

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## STUDENT MEDICAL FORMS:

[Anaphylaxis Health Care Plan](#)  
[Asthma Health Care Plan](#)  
[Diabetes Health Care Plan](#)  
[Epilepsy Health Care Plan](#)  
[Self Administration of Medication](#)

## YRDSB LINKS:

[18+ Student Consent Form](#)  
[SchoolCash Online](#)  
[What is De-Streaming](#)  
[YRDSB Guide to the School Year](#)

## USEFUL LINKS:

[Thornlea Calendar](#)  
[Thornlea Instagram](#)  
[Thornlea Website](#)  
[York Region Public Health](#)



8:30 am

Only a few cars.

**No  
waiting**



8:35 am

10 cars in line.  
Busy but  
traffic is  
moving well.



8:40 am

20 cars in line.  
Traffic is slow to  
get onto and off  
property.

- **Drop off near the school:** Some parents choose to drop off their children on nearby side streets and have them walk the last little bit to Thornlea. The walk is great for the children's health and the drop off is great for parents' stress levels.
- **Avoid risky maneuvers:** Unfortunately, I have witnessed very dangerous drop-off attempts the first two weeks, such as U-turns on Bayview and drop-offs in the middle of the road—it boggles the mind. Please exercise extra caution when dropping off your children and follow the posted signs.
- **Be patient:** If you can't avoid arriving after 8:30, be prepared for a slow but steady process.

I am looking forward to a great year and excited about the possibilities.

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## School Council

Please join us for our school council meetings. We will meet on the following dates in the school library.

Meetings begin at 7:00pm.

Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> (Mon) – elections

Oct 29<sup>th</sup> (Tues) – guidance presentation on Universities, Colleges and Trades.

Nov 4<sup>th</sup> (Mon) - school council topics

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> (Tues) - school council topics

Apr 7<sup>th</sup> (Mon) - school council topics

Sincerely,

Paolo Burzese

[Paolo.Burzese@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Paolo.Burzese@yrdsb.ca)

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If your child is going to be absent, please inform us.



Call 905-889-9696  
Press 1 for Attendance  
Or

Has your contact information changed?



Email:

[Thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Thornleass.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

Email:

[Thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca)

## 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 sending nut products or peanut butter replacements. 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 click on the link, and email it to : [Thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Thornlea.ss@yrdsb.ca) by September 15, 2024.**

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## Locker Items from School Year 2023-2024

The lockers were emptied back in June 2024. Some lockers still had items inside. Please come to the office to collect your items by Thursday September 19th, 2024. After that date, they will be donated.

## Safety Week September 23-27

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, and visitors in the event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (September 23 to 27, 2024) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board practice various safety drills, including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to [Board Policy #669.0](#) for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Practicing drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might impact the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

## General Supports for Emotional Well-Being

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) - available 24/7
- [KidsHelpPhone](#): 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 - available 24/7
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 - available 24/7
- [York Hills Help Phone Line](#): 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters.
- [Trans Lifeline](#)
- [Black Youth Helpline](#)
- [Naseeha Helpline/](#)
- [2SLGBTQ+ Youthline](#)

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## CLASSROOM CONNECTION

### School Year 2024/2025

#### As a reminder:

- Winter Break is Monday, December 23, 2024 to Friday, January 5, 2025

Learning with and from classmates and teachers is very valuable. It is expected that all vacations be scheduled during official school breaks. Please see the full year calendar to support your planning. [2024-2025 School Year Calendar](#)

### Science Department - AP Chemistry Results

Our science department is filled with pride to share the AP Chemistry results for May 2024, in which grade 12 students from Dr. Manivannan's class performed exceptionally well, achieving a remarkable school average of 4 out of 5. These students demonstrated remarkable dedication and passion for the subject, as evidenced by their active involvement in the Chem Club and the rigorous experiential learning during the lunch hours in room 125. Kudos to all of them!

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## Robotics Team Thunder Robotics



Congratulations to our school Robotics Team Thunder Robotics for competing at Robots@CNE 2024 at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) from August 30 to September 1, 2024. Our Robotics Team finished with high enough ranking in the Qualification matches to make Alliance 8 Captain for the Playoffs. Our Robotics Team played very well in the Playoffs, first against the strongest Alliance then ending their run for the Finals in a nail-biting close finish of 57 points against 60 points. Our Robotics Club students had the opportunity for lots of fun with free goodies, food, shows, rides and the Air Show! Congratulations also to one of our Robotics Team members for achieving a top score in the AP Computer Science Java programming exam. Students in our Robotics Club use Java programming in Robotics.

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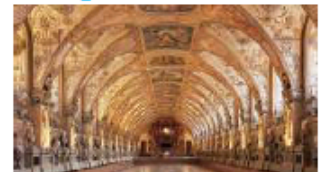


## Thornlea Presents:

### Germany, Switzerland and Italy for our Spring 2025 International Trip

#### Message:

The benefits of education through travel? The list can be endless. We firmly believe that travel offers students experiences that further the learning that happens in the classroom. Whether it is expanding one's appreciation of different cultures, gaining independence and confidence, or being able to use all your senses when studying world history, travel establishes a connection between students and their learning that is impossible to replicate in the classroom.



Munich Residence

#### Travel Dates:

Students will be departing from Pearson International Airport in the evening of Friday April 25 returning Sunday May 5. Only five (5) school days will be missed.



Indulge in the beautiful scenic views of the Swiss Alps seen from Lake Zurich!

#### Travel Plan & Itinerary:

Our European adventure is planned for Spring 2025, and we will be visiting some iconic European sites beginning in Munich, Germany then moving to Zurich, Switzerland and travelling through Milan, Florence and ending in Rome, Italy. We will be spending time in world class attractions and touring amazing historical and geographical locations. The trip is planned by a board approved touring company, Georgia Hardy Tours.

#### Cost of Trip & What is Included:



Pay tribute to those whose lives were lost at Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site



Art and Culture in Florence

**TOTAL COST: \$5500 (approx. – Final Cost TBD)**

#### Price Includes:

- All taxes, tips, and airport fees
- Return airfare
- Hotel accommodations
- Breakfast and Dinners
- Transportation while on tour (coach bus, subway, etc)
- Admission to popular attractions/planned activities
- Travel Insurance (trip cancellation, overseas medical, and trip interruption)
- Memories that will last a lifetime!

**Extra Costs:** Spending money – travelers will be provided with breakfast and dinner throughout the trip, but will need to bring money for other expenses (snacks, souvenirs, etc)

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## Thornlea Presents:

### Germany, Switzerland and Italy for our Spring 2025 International Trip

#### Expression of Interest & Payment:

A feasible schedule of payment increments will be made available to those interested in attending this once in a lifetime opportunity! If interested in participating in the trip offered by Thornlea – Germany, Switzerland, and Italy please complete the **Google Form** below.



Visit the Colosseum & Roman Forum

#### Expression of Interest Form:

<https://bit.ly/ThornleaEuropeTrip2025>

#### Proposed Daily Itinerary: <https://bit.ly/Europe2025DailyItinerary>



Visit Trevi Fountain in Rome

#### Information Sessions:

An information session to discuss and further understand International Field Trips and Excursions will be provided prior to the first payment (September 2024). Please ensure you fill the google form noted above to be kept abreast of information. More information is forthcoming. Stay tuned!

**\*\*This trip is still pending board approval\*\***

For further inquiries, please contact:

Mrs. Laura Ceausu

Department Head of History



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## Terry Fox Walk/Run

**"YOU JUST CAN'T BEAT THE  
PERSON WHO WON'T GIVE  
UP." – BABE RUTH**

**ST. JOHN NEW BRUNSWICK  
MAY 31, 1980  
1,959 KM RAN**

Thornlea Secondary School is participating in the Terry Fox School Run on Monday September 16th! We are so proud to be a part of this Canadian tradition in the fight against cancer. Please help our students fundraise for cancer research and follow in the footsteps of one of our greatest Canadian heroes.

DONATE TODAY at:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/ThornleaSSThornhill>

## Club Fair

Club Fair will take place during lunch on Thursday September 19th. We encourage any student looking to get involved in extracurricular activities to visit the many booths that will be on display.

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## YOUR PHOTO DAY IS APPROACHING!

Tuesday September 24, 2024



### Showcase Your Best Smile

- Students will be photographed at school.
- You must be photographed to receive your student ID.
- Review your images and purchase online with ease!



### DON'T FORGET

To help make your photo day seamless, check out our photo day tips at [edgimaging.ca/photo-day-tips](https://edgimaging.ca/photo-day-tips)



### GET REMINDERS

Sign up for notifications at [edgimaging.ca/photoday](https://edgimaging.ca/photoday) to get real-time updates about your photo day and stay in the know with Edge.



1 (866) 707-3343

[edgimaging.ca](https://edgimaging.ca)

[edgimaging](https://edgimaging.ca)

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## GUIDANCE NEWS

Students will be able to book a guidance appointment next week. They will be receiving an email with details.

Here is a list of guidance counsellors and the surname alphabet they service.

| COUNSELLOR     | FIRST LETTER OF STUDENT LAST NAME |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. Alkins     | A – IQ                            |
| Ms. Rai        | IR – PR                           |
| Ms. Tse        | QI – STE                          |
| Ms. Daneshmand | STR – WI                          |
| Ms. Khan       | WO – Z                            |

## LOOKING AHEAD

Thornlea S.S. is proud to announce for the 2024/25 school year the following Post-Secondary Institutions will be sending us a representative to speak to our grade 12's during lunch (location to be announced).

Please see schedule below:

| DATE OF PRESENTATION         | University/College                       |
|------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday September 24, 2024   | Seneca College                           |
| Wednesday September 25, 2024 | Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) |

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|  | Thursday September 26, 2024 | Ontario Tech University                      |
|  | Monday September 30, 2024   | Humber College                               |
|  | Tuesday October 1, 2024     | York University                              |
|  | Monday October 7, 2024      | Centennial College                           |
|  | Tuesday October 8, 2024     | George Brown College                         |
|  | Wednesday October 9, 2024   | Ivey Business School -<br>Western University |
|  | Thursday October 10, 2024   | University of Ottawa                         |
|  | Thursday October 10, 2024   | Wilfrid Laurier University                   |
|  | Tuesday October 15, 2024    | University of Guelph                         |
|  | Friday October 18, 2024     | University of Toronto -<br>Engineering       |
|  | Tuesday October 22, 2024    | University of Windsor                        |
|  | Wednesday October 23, 2024  | Carleton University                          |
|  | Friday October 25, 2024     | University of Toronto                        |
|  | Monday October 28, 2024     | University of Waterloo                       |
|  | Tuesday October 29, 2024    | Brock University                             |
|  | Wednesday October 30, 2024  | Niagara College                              |
|  | Thursday October 31, 2024   | Western University                           |

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|--|----------------------------|--|
|  | Thursday October 31, 2024  | Kings University College<br>@ Western University         |
|  | Monday November 4, 2024    | Toronto Metropolitan<br>University (formerly<br>Ryerson) |
|  | Tuesday November 5, 2024   | McMaster University                                      |
|  | Thursday November 7, 2024  | Queen's University                                       |
|  | Friday November 8, 2024    | Sheridan College   |
|  | Thursday November 14, 2024 | Georgian College   |
|  | Thursday November 14, 2024 | Trent University   |
|  | Monday November 18, 2024   | Toronto Metropolitan<br>University - Engineering         |
|  | Tuesday November 19, 2024  | Durham College   |
|  | Thursday November 21, 2024 | University of<br>Guelph-Humber                           |

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## Message from Our Trustee

### September 2024

Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. We are so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning students and families to a new school year.

#### How Trustees Help

As school board trustees, we have a number of [roles and responsibilities](#), including setting policies and budget and advocating for quality public education. My responsibilities also include communicating with the public. I will continue to keep you informed throughout the school year through these regular newsletters. You can also reach out to me directly. Learn more about [how we can help](#) and [how you can reach me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

You can also stay up-to-date with school board news and events through school communications, social media (X [@YRDSB](#) and [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#)), our [newsroom](#) and Board podcast [TuneIn YRDSB](#).

#### Our Priorities as a School Board

One of our responsibilities as a Board of Trustees is also setting the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the priorities that will guide our work as a school board for the next several years. We want to thank the many students, family and staff members and community partners who shared feedback in the spring that was used to inform the development of the plan. Some key themes emerged in the feedback that families will see reflected in the plan, including a clear focus on student achievement and well-being. We look forward to sharing more with you very soon.

#### A New School Year

The start of a new school year is a time of transition - whether your child is starting elementary or secondary school for the first time, entering a new program, moving to a new school or beginning a new grade. The caring, dedicated and professional staff members who work in our system are here

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to help support your child through this transition. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teachers or the school to speak about your child's transition and the supports that are available.

We also recognize that transitions can take place throughout September. Elementary schools may be required to adjust some classes due to enrollment changes and class size restrictions. In secondary school, schools may also see timetable requests and adjustments in the first few weeks. These are occurrences that happen each fall and schools do their best to be responsive and to minimize the effects of any changes on students.

## Partnerships with Families

We value the essential partnership between schools and families and want to ensure that families are aware of the many resources available. Our [family resources page](#), available from the homepage of [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca), gives you quick access to platforms that we use, tips and information, the [Guide to the School Year](#) and [student learning resources](#). It also includes resources for [newcomers](#), [translation information](#) and much more. We are also working on a dedicated new family portal to make it easier for families to engage with their child's education. To ensure you receive notifications and updates, please make sure the school has your up-to-date email address. If you are not receiving emails, please contact your school to confirm. More information will be shared in the coming months.

I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, successful and enjoyable 2024-2025 school year, and look forward to communicating with you in the months ahead.

Jenny Chen

Trustee, Markham Wards 1 and 8

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**The YRDSB has a tool on its website ([www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca)) to provide translation of school board information in about 100 languages.**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Arabic              | لدى مجلس إدارة مدارس منطقة يورك (YRDSB) أداة على موقعه الإلكتروني ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) لترجمة معلومات مجلس إدارة المدارس إلى حوالي 100 لغة.      |
| Farsi               | هیئت مدارس منطقه یورک YRDSB ابزاری برای ارائه ترجمه اطلاعات هیئت مدارس را به حدود 100 زبان در وبسایت ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) خود دارد.              |
| Gujarati            | YRDSB નું ડૉલ નેશનલ ડેવલપ્મેન્ટ ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) પર છે જે 100 ભાષાઓમાં સ્કૂલ બોર્ડ માહિતીનું ભાષાંતર પૂરું પાડે છે.                          |
| Hebrew              | באתר האינטרנט של <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> (YRDSB) קיים כלי המתרגם מידע של מועצת בתי הספר ל-100 שפות.   |
| Korean              | YRDSB는 웹사이트( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> )에는 교육위원회 정보를 100여개 언어로 번역해주는 도구가 있습니다.  |
| Punjabi             | ਸਕੂਲ ਬੋਰਡ ਜਾਨਕਾਰੀ ਦਾ ਅੰਦਾਜ਼ਾ 100 ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ। ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) ਉੱਤੇ ਟੂਲ ਮੌਜੂਦ ਹੈ।                                   |
| Russian             | На веб-сайте YRDSB ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) предусмотрен инструмент для перевода информации Школьного совета примерно на 100 языков.                 |
| Simplified Chinese  | YRDSB的网站( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> )上提供一种翻译工具，可将教育局的信息翻译成大约100种语言。   |
| Tamil               | YRDSB அதன் இணையத் தளமாகிய ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) இல் பாடசாலைச் சபைத் தகவல்களை, சுமார் 100 மொழிகளில் மொழிபெயர்ப்பதற்கான ஒரு கருவியைக் கொண்டுள்ளது.  |
| Traditional Chinese | YRDSB 網站 ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) 上設有一個工具，可將教育局資訊翻譯成約 100 種語言。   |
| Turkish             | YRDSB'nin web sitesinde ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) okul yönetim kurulu bilgilerinin yaklaşık 100 dilde çevirisini sağlayan bir araç bulunmaktadır.     |
| Urdu                | YRDSB کے پاس اس کی ویب سائٹ ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) پر سکول بورڈ کی معلومات تقریباً 100 زبانوں میں ترجمہ کرنے کی خاطر ایک ٹول موجود ہے۔             |
| Vietnamese          | YRDSB có một công cụ trên trang web ( <a href="http://www.yrdsb.ca">www.yrdsb.ca</a> ) để cung cấp bản dịch của các thông tin từ hội đồng trường học sang khoảng 100 ngôn ngữ. |

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## Indigenous Languages and International Languages

[www.yrdsb.ca/international-languages](http://www.yrdsb.ca/international-languages)



**The Fall Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) secondary credit courses registration is open!**

### Secondary Credit Program

#### ✓ Credits Towards Ontario Secondary Diploma:

- International Languages Secondary Courses can be applied toward the Ontario Secondary Diploma as Optional Credits.\*\*
- Students can earn credits towards their high school graduation.

#### ✓ Post-secondary Applications:

- If students successfully complete the Level D - University course, it can be used as one of their top six marks for post-secondary entry. ++

### Get Started Today!

For more information, please visit [Indigenous Languages and International Languages - Secondary Students](https://www.yrdsb.ca/international-languages-secondary-students).

A \$20.00 non-refundable consumable fee is collected in the third class. International fee-paying visa students are required to pay an additional \$500 fee to participate in the program. Registrations will not be accepted after the third class. If you have any questions, please email us at [ilil@yrdsb.ca](mailto:ilil@yrdsb.ca).

\*\*For students who entered Grade 9 before September 2024, you can continue to earn an international language credit as either a "Group One Compulsory credit" OR an "optional credit."  
++ Students are advised to check with the post-secondary institutions to check the admission criteria to determine if the international language credit will count towards their program of choice.

### 14 Language Offerings for 2024-2025 Secondary Credit Program:

- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Farsi
- German
- Greek
- Japanese
- Korean
- Mandarin (Simplified)
- Mandarin (Traditional)
- Russian
- Spanish
- Tamil
- Turkish
- Urdu

**Please note:  
ALL CREDIT COURSES  
ARE ONLINE**

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