

Tommy Times - Parent Edition

Week of Feb. 26 - Mar. 1, 2024



[Link to Club Codes](#)

School Website: <http://tommydouglas.ss.yrdsb.ca>

General Email/Attendance: tommy.douglas.ss@yrdsb.ca

This week:

Feb. 26	Curling - 1:20pm
Feb. 27	Grad Photos - by appointment
Feb. 28	Grad Photos - by appointment Black History Month Assembly Pascal, Cayley & Fermat Math Contests
Feb. 29	Grad Photos - by appointment Black History Month Assembly Blue Mountain Ski Trip - 7:00 am Vaccination Clinic - Final Day
Mar. 1	Final Day for Grad Photos - by appointment

Contact Us

4020 Major Mackenzie Drive West,
Woodbridge, ON L4H 4E9

Phone 289.342.0001

Extensions

Reception 0

Attendance 1

Guidance 3

Administrative Team

Sandra Sardone, Principal

Cynthia Therrien, Vice Principal (A - G)

Elizabeth Sloan, Vice Principal (H - O)

Milton Hart, Vice Principal (P - Z)

Rose Walker, Retired Principal

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

Mar. 5 - Indoor Soccer Tournament

Mar. 6 - 15 - Italy Trip

Mar. 11 - 15 - March Break (no school)

Mar. 20 - Iftar

Mar. 22 - TPJ4M1-2 Trip to St. Michael's Hospital

Mar. 27 - School Council - 6:30 pm Library Learning Commons

Mar. 28 - Squash @ York University

Mar. 29 - Good Friday (no school)

Apr. 1 - Easter Monday (no school)

To support your family planning, the 2023-2024 YRDSB School Year Calendar is available on the [YRDSB website](#).

School Start Time:

Just a friendly reminder that Period 1 classes begin promptly at 8:00 am. **Students are expected to be in their classrooms when the bell rings at 8:00 am.** Ensuring your child arrives on time sets a positive tone for their day and helps them make the most of their learning. Students should be dropped off NO LATER than 7:50 am to ensure they are in class on time. We appreciate your efforts in supporting punctuality.

JUNE EXAM SCHEDULE

Second semester exams will begin on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH until WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH, 2023.

All secondary students must participate in the final summative assessment(s). These assessments make up the final evaluation representing 30 percent of the report card grade. **You are expected to complete all final summative assessments at the place, date and time indicated by the teacher and by the examination schedule provided by the school. Students cannot leave early for vacations, employment or other activities such as summer camps during the examination schedule. Students who do not write a final exam will earn a mark of "0" for that portion of the culminating.**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebration of Black History Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950s. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jackman declared February as Black History Month in Ontario in 1993, and in 1995, the Honorable Jean Augustine made the same declaration in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.

These declarations set the stage for acknowledging the contributions of Black people of African Heritage to the cultural, economic, political and social fabric of Canada dating back to the early 1600s. They have also increased our awareness that people of African and Caribbean Heritage are an integral part of Canadian history.

During the month of February, we deliberately reflect upon the legacy of African history in all its diversity, and we join all Canadians in celebrating Black History Month. During this month we are able to appreciate the significance of African people in world history by centering people of African, Caribbean, and Canadian heritage, famous and not so famous, who have influenced the nation and the world through their ideas, words and actions.

This [link](#) will take you to a series of events that all students and their families are invited to participate in as we celebrate Black History Month.

PEER TUTORING LUNCH PROGRAM RETURNS - Room 109

The Peer Tutor Program is up and running and it's never too early to get some extra support and reinforcement. Please encourage your student(s) to attend if you think they could benefit from this support resource.

The program runs every **Tuesday and Thursday** at the beginning of each lunch. Period four Peer Tutoring will begin at 12:30 in room 109.

If you'd like some support from one of your peers for free, please join our classroom with this code [so62fle](#) and fill out the Tutee Request Form before each session so we can make sure to have a subject specific tutor for you.

Drop ins are also welcome.

Grade 12 Student Timetables

Admin **will not consider part-time status (less than 3 courses) for grade 12 students.** Students that decide to take private school courses, night school courses or any other course outside of day school will still be required to maintain 3 courses at TDSS.

ATTENTION GRADUATES!!!

Graduation from high school is a milestone reserved for those who have met the criteria. You are eligible to participate in this year's ceremony and commence with your classmates if you have successfully achieved the criteria below:

- You must have obtained 26 credits by the end of Semester 1 towards the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- You must have completed your forty (40) hours of volunteer work by May 3, 2024
- You must have passed the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to report any credits that you have earned at night school, summer school or through private school to the guidance office **by May 2, 2024.** If you do not meet all three criteria listed above, you may not be eligible to take part in this year's graduation ceremony and you may be considered as part of next year's graduating class.

Our Graduation Ceremony will be held at Paramount Eventspace, 222 Rowntree Dairy Rd., Woodbridge, ON L4L 9T2.

Please go to our school cash online to complete the purchase of the Graduation package. This package includes your gown, cap, tassel and **two guest tickets.** There will be no substitutions for the gown package.

Grad Photos

This is your **FINAL CHANCE** to sign up and have your graduation photos taken. Grad photos will be taking place at Tommy Douglas until **March 1st 2024 ONLY.** You will sign up online, visit the Grade 12 Guidance Google Classroom.



It is a great time to remind students and their families that your school district has an unlimited access trial to TeenBookCloud until June 30, 2024.

Here is your user info. www.TeenBookCloud.com

Username: yrdsb

Password: login

Direct Link: <https://www.teenbookcloud.com/autologin.aspx?U=yrdsb&P=login>

Also, be sure to check out our newly updated mobile app to view our entire collection at home/library or on the go!



TACT

Titans Affecting Change Team

TACT is a carefully selected group of student leaders who make themselves available for special events at Tommy Douglas S.S. and are "the face of TDSS". TACT members greet visitors, provide assistance, and represent students and staff at public events.

We want you!

Apply here:

<https://forms.gle/F91vkqf52yMta6uF6>



WASHROOM HALL PASS:

We continue to remind all students that there is NO loitering allowed in the washrooms and that vaping is both illegal and harmful to them.

School staff will continue to monitor washrooms and move students along that are 'waiting for friends' or sitting on the floors visiting or eating (yes, students choose to eat on the washroom floors). We continue to hear from students that they feel unsafe in the washrooms. The best way we can improve safety is to ensure that students are not gathering and loitering in the washrooms. We have asked teachers to ensure that no more than 1 student is leaving their classroom at any one time and to follow-up with students that have been out of their classroom for lengthy amounts of time. Hall passes were implemented this year as we have been experiencing issues in certain washrooms with vandalism and inappropriate use of facilities. Replacing stall doors takes time which may impact access to affected areas for a period of time. Please reinforce this messaging with your children at home to support our safe school environment



STUDENT BATHROOM BREAKS

- **HONOUR OUR LEARNING TIME**
Washroom breaks should **not** occur during the first 15, the last 15 minutes of class, or during direct instructional time.
- **ONE AT A TIME**
Only **ONE** student should be out at a time. You should be back to class within 5 minutes.
- **SIGN-IN & SIGN-OUT**
Ask your teacher at an appropriate time. When your teacher agrees to your request, fill in the **Google Form**. When you return, fill in the **Google Form** again.
- **USE HALL PASS**
When you leave the classroom, use the hall pass. Staff in the hallways may ask to see your hall pass. The expectation is that you are **respectful** during interactions. Return the hall pass upon reentering the classroom.
- **CONTACT HOME**
Regular issues like frequent or extended breaks will result in:
A) Your teacher addressing the expectations with you
B) Your teacher contacting parents or guardians with concerns
C) Your teacher contacting the school administration

ATTENDANCE IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

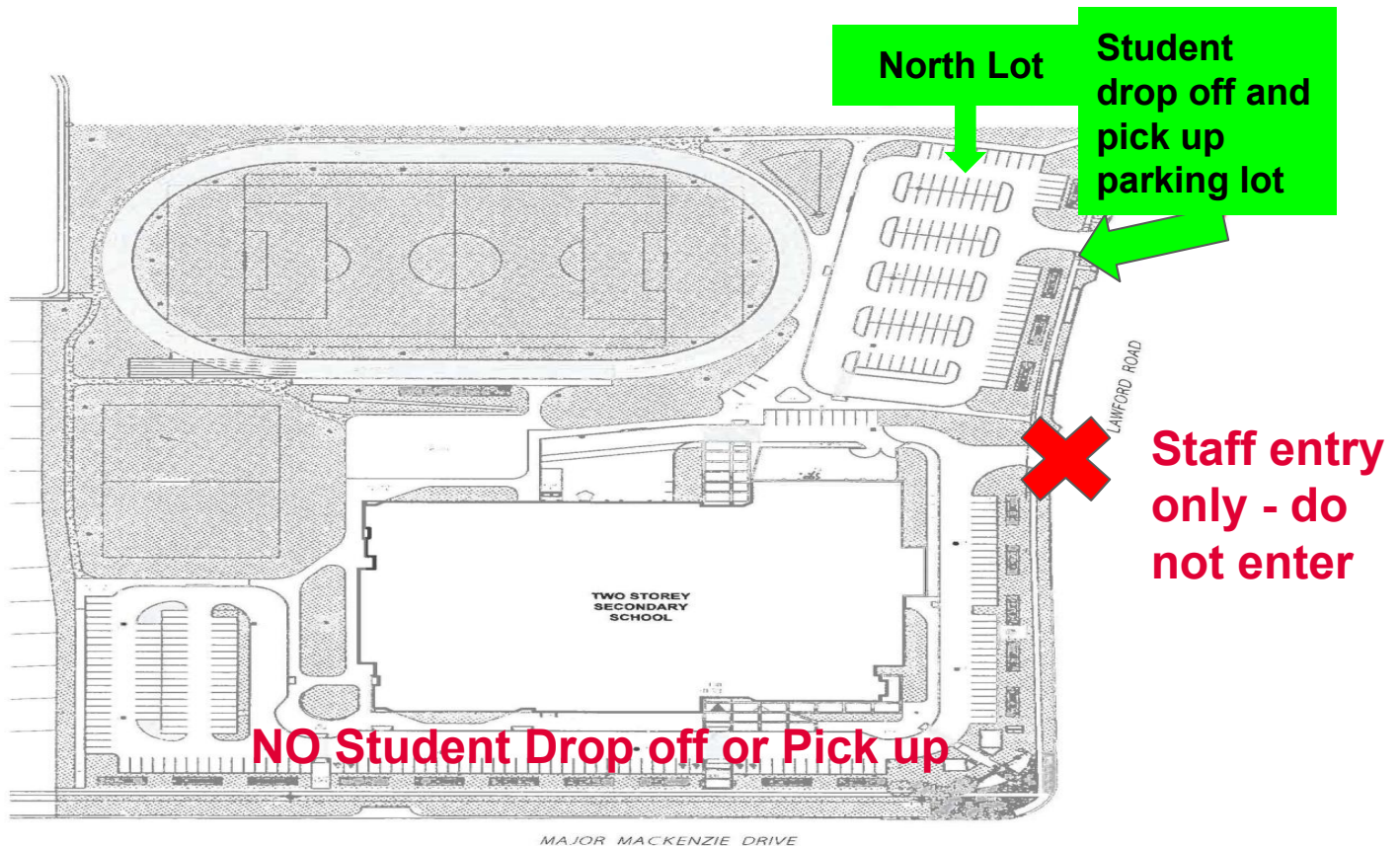


SCHOOL SAFETY - Student Drop Off and Pick Up

As we begin the start of a new semester we are sharing a reminder with parents/guardians of the need to help keep our students safe.

Students who are driven to school **must be dropped off and picked up** in the **North parking lot only.**

The South lot is for buses and Staff use only. Please help us ensure the safety of our school community. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



GUIDANCE CORNER: FAMILY BASED SUPPORTS - NEW

Student Wellbeing

- **LAMPS** February 28th Parent night [“Anxiety in School Aged Youth”](#) presented by the YRDSB Central Mental Health Team
 - Sign up: [here](#)
- [Understanding Online Safety and Youth Exploitation](#)
 - Webinar for parents and caregivers
 - Feb 21, 6:30-8:30pm
- [Triple P Series](#) (links to register in PDF)
 - Power of Positive Parenting
 - Raising Confident Children
 - Raising Resilient Children
- York Hills Supporting 2SLGBTQ Children and Youth: [A Caregiver Guide](#) (webinar) March 19, 2024

One Stop Talk

- NEW provincial Brief counseling service
- Accessed through web chat or by calling 1-855-416-8255
- Monday to Friday from 12PM to 8PM, and Saturday from 12PM to 4PM EST.
- Children and youth 18 years old and younger.

Free counseling by registered and culturally diverse therapists who also connect to longer term local support.

Peer Support Group for Parents and Caregivers

- This group is a support for parents and caregivers raising children and youth with mental health challenges
- 3rd Monday of each month
- Aurora Town Hall 6:30- 8pm
- This group takes a break in December and will return January 15, 2024

York Hills Winter Group and Webinar Series. Please distribute to families/caregivers:

o Groups

<https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/group-services/>

o Webinars

<https://www.yorkhills.ca/services/workshopsandwebinars/>

Food Banks and Community Food Programs- York Region

Provide free or low-cost food to individuals and families in need on an on-going, seasonal, and emergency basis.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

The following resources are available to teens in need of mental health supports at any time.



Kids Help Phone

Text 686868

KidsHelpPhone.ca

Call 1-800-668-6868



360° kids

Surrounding kids in crisis with care

905-475-6694

www.360kids.ca

york hills
Centre for Children, Youth and Families

905-503-9560

yorkhills@yorkhills.ca

www.yorkhills.ca



MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS?

1.855.310.COPE (2673)



Suicide Prevention Canada

Call 1.833.456.4566

Text 45645

Mental Health Matters

Need Help Now?

Kids Help Phone Live Chat: www.kidshelpphone.ca Text 686868

Kids Help Phone Black Student Support: text 741741

Black Youth Helpline: 1-833-294-8650

LGBT Youthline: 1-800-268-9688 or text 647-694-4275

Trans Lifeline: (877) 330-6366

360 Outreach Worker: 647-459-2648 or 647-299-4861

Vaughan Food Bank: www.vaughanfoodbank.ca

Depressed or Suicidal: www.youthspace.ca or text 741741

MOBYSS: www.mobyss.ca

Community Crisis Response Services: 905-310-COPE

Naseeha Muslim Student Counselling Service: 1-866-627-3442

For more mental health resources check out bit.ly/tdssguidance