

Tommy Times - Parent Edition

Week of Sept 11 - Sept 15, 2023



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

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

This week:

Sept. 11	Last day for course changes to be submitted Cafeteria opens for lunchtime food service/sales
Sept. 12	
Sept. 13	
Sept. 14	Grades 9 and 10 Safe Schools Assembly
Sept. 15	Grades 11 and 12 Safe Schools Assembly

Future Dates:

- Sept. 20 - Grade 9 and 10 picture day
- Sept. 21 - Grade 11 and 12 picture day
- Sept. 22 - PA Day
- Sept. 25 - Yom Kippur
- Sept. 27 - Grade 9s to Camp Tommy

Contact Us

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

Phone 289.342.0001

Extensions

Reception 0

Attendance 1

Guidance 3

Administrative Team

Mirella Sanwalka, Principal

Cynthia Therrien, Vice Principal (A - G)

Elizabeth Sloan, Vice Principal (H - O)

Milton Hart, Vice Principal (P - Z)

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

School Notices:

School Year 2023-2024 New Bell times

Please note the **NEW BELL TIMES** starting September 2023. **School will begin at 8:00am**. All periods will be 75 minutes long.

Homeroom	8:00 AM	8:05 AM
Period 1	8:05 AM	9:20 AM
Period 2	9:25 AM	10:40 AM
Period 3	10:45 AM	12:00 PM
Period 4	12:05 PM	1:20 PM
Period 5	1:25 PM	2:40 PM

MESSAGE FROM OUR TRUSTEE

Dear families,

It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.

The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child's education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child's learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.

As your school trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees has many [responsibilities](#), including making [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our [newsroom](#), listen to our [podcast](#) and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.

This year, we are pleased to welcome our [new Director of Education Bill Cober](#), who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach.

Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.

I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair
Trustee, Vaughan Wards 2 and 3

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM GUIDANCE

Semester 1 Timetables

If your child would like to make a change to their timetable please fill in the following [form](#) and **print and return a signed copy** of the form to the **main office** prior to Monday September 11th, 2023 by noon. Once your child has submitted the form, a copy of the form will be emailed to their gapps account. **If a copy of the form is not returned to the main office with a parent/guardian signature, changes will not be made to their timetable.** Please note that there is very limited availability in most courses. All timetable changes will be completed by Friday September 15th at 2:20 p.m. Priority will be given to pathway changes and incomplete and imbalanced timetables. **Accommodating elective (not compulsory) course changes will be very difficult given our enrollment. Additionally, we will not be making changes to student lunches.** The guidance office will be closed as we work through all student requests. If there is an emergency, we ask that your child goes to the main office.

Please **do not email** your child's guidance counsellor requesting changes. We will not be responding or considering changes that do not comply with this process.

Guidance Counsellors by surname alpha:

Ms McLarnon Head of Guidance - A-F

Ms Kassam - F-I

Mr. Al-Hassani - I-Nj

Mr. Scire - No-Q

Ms Rowe - R-Z

Community Resources for Behaviour, Mental Health and Financial Supports

Indigenous Languages and International Languages: This link will take you to more information about additional credit language courses available to high school students through the YRDSB.

School Cafeteria - The school cafeteria will begin food service for students on Monday, September 11th.

Athletics:

If your Titan is interested in trying out for a team they can find up-to-date tryout information on the TV Display outside the red Physical Education doors. It will display all athletics related information, tryout dates included. Check out the Athletic Council's social media posts @tdss_athletics **Go TITANS!!**

The following teams are currently in season in the York Region Athletic Association and offered at Tommy Douglas:

Tryouts have begun for the following teams:

- Junior Girls Basketball** - Tuesday, September 12th at 2:50 in the gym - Coach: Ms. Kinzett
- Senior Girls Basketball** - Tuesday, September 12th at 2:50 in the gym - Coach: Ms. Hunter
- Junior Boys Soccer** - Wednesday, September 13th at 2:55 on the main field - Coach: Mr. Lo Celso
- Senior Boys Soccer** - Tuesday, September 12th at 2:55 on the main field - Coach: Mr. Termei
- X-Country Running** - information meeting - Monday, September 11th at 2:50 in room 203 (all grades welcome; google classroom code: jwcwpgfn) - Coach: Ms. Wright

The following teams will also start up in the near future:

- Golf - Varsity
- Swimming
- Boys Volleyball - potentially Junior, Senior for sure at this time
- Boys Flag Football - Varsity



SCHOOL SAFETY - Student Drop Off and Pick Up

We encourage all students to walk / bike to school as part of their daily physical activity.
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.

