

YRDSB Regional Secondary Arts Programs

UHS AU: Information Night Nov. 1st 2023



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What are the YRDSB Regional Secondary Arts Programs?

The Regional Secondary Arts Programs are an opportunity for Grades 9-12 students committed to exploring and deepening their understanding of/about/through the arts. Each of the **4 school locations** offer a package of arts credits (2 per year) that count towards the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Students will receive a certificate upon completion. Students are invited to apply to the school that corresponds with their [attendance boundary](#).

Students may apply to arts program disciplines, including: dance, drama, visual arts and music (vocal and instrumental). Some schools offer piano, string and theatre technology. Multiple applications may be submitted by one student to one school.

There are four secondary schools offering the Specialized Arts program in the York Region District School Board:

- [Alexander Mackenzie High School](#)
- [Huron Heights Secondary School](#)
- [Unionville High School](#)
- [Westmount Collegiate Institute](#)

Why the YRDSB Regional Specialized Arts program?



Dramatic Arts

The Drama programs at UNIONVILLE HS are about YOU, the student.

We are calling all students interested in: Writing, Acting, Dancing, Making original Music, Film and Television, Animation, Voice Over, Set and Costume design, Lighting and Sound Mixing and Design, Hair and Makeup, Stage Management, Marketing and Promotion, Mixed Media Art, Directing, Video Game Acting, and much more...

Bring your stories to life and surround yourself with those who will elevate your energy and live your truth alongside you.



Why might I select the Drama program?



There are many benefits and highly valued transferable skills learned from an Arts Education, including...

Creativity, confidence, problem solving, critical thinking, perseverance, communication, time management, collaboration, self expression, social emotional awareness, focus, dedication, accountability, and many more.

- Enhanced opportunities with industry professionals
- Enhanced, more frequent trip opportunities
- Extended Drama Related Travel

Core Programs

Our high school is proud to offer an excellent core arts program for all of our students. Students do not need to be enrolled in a Regional Arts program to receive an Arts education.

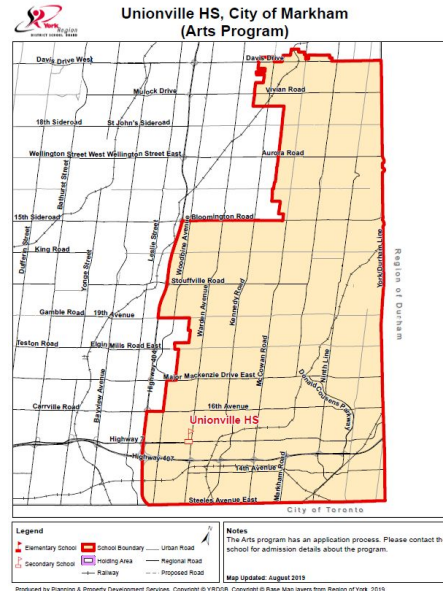
- Students in the Regional Arts program may also select from these courses in addition to their 8 Arts credits.
- Our Core program provides a wide range of courses that engage and address a range of interests and abilities.
- Any student interested in expanding their learning pertaining to the arts are encouraged to join SHSM in grade 11.

Arts Unionville Boundaries

Families can locate the [school boundaries](#).

- Markham: North of Steeles, West of York Durham Line, East of Woodbine, south of Bloomington,
- Stouffville: South of Davis Drive

Tip: You can search an address & get a graphic of your school's Arts boundary.



- **Dance/ Drama/ Visual Arts:** Student must reside within Arts Unionville HS boundary
- **Music** - Winds/Percussion and Vocal: must reside within the Arts Unionville HS boundary
- **Music** - Strings: Student must reside within the Arts Unionville HS boundary or Huron Heights boundary
- **Music** - Piano: Student may reside anywhere in York Region

About the Program



- Students accepted into the program will take 8 credits within their chosen discipline (2 credits per year and 1 in each semester).
- They will spend their 4 years of high school with other students accepted into that program.
- Students will earn a certificate upon completion.
- Students will work with artists from the performing arts industry
- Have multiple public performance opportunities
- Explore pathways in the arts sector, and in non-arts sectors

Dramatic Arts Performance Opportunities

- AU Info Night Markham Theatre
- Drama Night (Various Dates) Markham Theatre
- Showtime Musical (1st week in January) Markham Theatre
- National Theatre School Festival UHS
- Alchemy Markham Theatre
- Spring Major Showcase Markham Theatre
- Touring Shows with the NTS and Elementary Shows
- Arts Leadership - Mentorship Program EAMP

Applying to a YRDSB Secondary Regional Arts Program in 2023-2024?

There are **3 steps**:

1

Registration Online: Edsby

Nov. 10th - Dec. 1st 2023

Edsby Registration Fee: \$20.00 per discipline (Maximum of 2 Disciplines)

2

Workshop/Audition

Info Sent: Dec. 4th, 2023

Workshop: Jan 26-30th 2024

3

Selection and Acceptance: Email notification

January 31st, 2024 - 24hrs to reply

Please visit the Regional Secondary Arts school website for more information

Other Opportunities with Dramatic Arts

- Field Trips
 - Theatre, Film Tours
- Guest Artists
 - Rob Kempson
 - Pete Jarvis
 - James Crocker
 - Margaret Legere
 - Jeff Ho (alumni)
 - Byron Laviolette (alumni)
 - Many More
- Drama Council
- Arts Banquet 2024
- Travel, National Theatre School

What do families need for Edsby Registration?

- Student Number & OEN Number (*found on a student's report card*)
- Student's Name and date of birth
- Student's home address and phone number
- Parent/Guardian Name and contact information
- Student's current school, grade and which local YRDSB Secondary School the student's address would default to
- At registration, you may indicate a maximum of 2 disciplines the students wishes to apply for
 - Please note there is an additional cost of \$20 for a second registration
 - The yearly fee for AU programs are \$150.00

Step 1: Registration Information

KEY DATES:

- Opens November 10th, 2023
- Closes December 1st, 2023
 - *Must be completed in 1 sitting.*

Registration will be done through **Edsby**.

- The link is posted on the website of each Regional Secondary Arts School.

Maximum of 2 applications per student.

- Cost of \$20/application

The **application process** will follow the Registration.

- Communicated to registrants by email by **December 4th, 2023**

Step 2: Application Process

The application and selection process will take place on site at Unionville High School Jan 26th to 30th. Interested students would have registered via Edsby prior to Dec.1st.

Once submitted, registrants will be contacted by email with information outlining the **Application** process.

The selection criteria, by discipline, for this application process will be shared with registrants and will be posted to each Regional Secondary Arts web page.

The application will be shared by email to registrants on December 4, 2023 by email.

Step 2: Criteria for Successful Selection - Drama



- The selection process gives applicants the opportunity to demonstrate their interest, passion and experience in the arts.
- For the selection process, students will be asked to prepare the following in advance of the workshop:
 - Monologue (several options will be provided)
 - Workshop (Group format)
 - Interview (Individual)

Step 3: Selection

Registrants who submitted an application will receive selection notification on January 31st, 2024.

Applicants will receive one of:

- An offer of acceptance
- A notification that they are on a waitlist
- A notification that they were not successful

Students must accept *or* decline an offer by no later than February 1st 11:59pm.

At this point, schools will begin the Grade 9 registration process.

Commonly Asked Questions

Q Are students eligible for bussing?

A The Arts Specialized program is an optional program. As per Policy and Procedure #680 Student Transportation, students attending optional programs do not receive transportation.

Q Can students apply to more than 1 discipline?

A Yes. You may apply to 2 disciplines. You may *only accept an offer* to 1 discipline.

Q Can I apply to a school that is outside of my boundary?

A Only if the program (ex Piano, Strings) is only offered at a specific school.

[Schools to add as needed]

Commonly Asked Questions

Q How can I support my child to be successful in the process?

A The school will provide clear success criteria. If you have questions please email the school contact that is shared on the school's website

Q I'm an international student attending YRDSB on a VISA. Can I apply?

A Yes. However, priority will be given to YRDSB students. VISA students will only be offered a spot left unfilled by YRDSB students.

Important Dates



Application:	November 10 to December 1, 2023
Email communication/next steps:	December 4, 2023
Selection process in person:	January 26 - 30, 2024
Acceptance email:	January 31st, 2024
Reply for acceptance:	24 hours after acceptance email Feb 1, 2024 at 11:59pm)

Question Period

Thank You!

Registration via Edsby opens
November 10th!

