



UHS Parent Weekly Bulletin –Vol. 1

Friday, September 3, 2021



201 Town Centre Blvd.
 Markham, ON
 L3R 8G5
 (P) 905-479-2787
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Extensions:
 Reception - 431
 Attendance - 230
 Guidance - 458

Principal
 Suelyn Cheong
suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal
 Andrew Gazaneo (A-L)
andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal
 Patrick Belmonte (M-Z)
patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca

Superintendent
 Michael Cohen
michael.cohen@yrdsb.ca

Board Trustee
 Ron Lynn ron.lynn@yrdsb.ca

Email:
unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca

School Website:
[Click here](#)

Tweets
[@UHSupdates](#)

2021-2022 Student Schedule

School begins:	8:30 a.m.
Homeroom (5 min):	8:30 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.
Block One (150 min):	8:35 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.
Travel time (5 min):	11:05 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.
Lunch (50 min):	11:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Travel time (5 min):	12:00 p.m. - 12:05 p.m.
Block Two (150 min):	12:05 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.
School ends:	2:35 p.m.

Sept	6	7	8	9	10
Week 2 (periods 3, 4)	Labour Day	Board Holiday	Board Holiday	Grade 9 Only	Grades 9 - 12
	13	14	15	16	17
Week 1 (periods 1, 2)				Yom Kippur	

Dear families,

We are excited to welcome you back for the 2021-2022 school year! We hope you all had a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer. Our caring, professional and dedicated school team has been working hard behind the scenes to prepare for your return. Because the pandemic and school closures have affected students and families in different ways, we are prioritizing the health, safety and well-being of every student as we support them in transitioning back to school.

Below you will find important information about our school and we encourage you to review it. [All fees can be paid using School Cash Online](#). If you require support to set up a School Cash Online account, [please click here](#).

Families will also receive the [Guide to the School Year](#) which includes important Board information. If you have not had an opportunity to review the [school reopening information](#) on the Board website, we encourage you to do so.

We know many families have questions about what to expect this school year. Information and resources, including frequently asked questions, are available and continue to be updated at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

- **September 6 – 10, 2021**

September 6, 7 and 8 (Monday-Wednesday)	Board Holidays
Thursday, September 9	Grade 9 Students Only
Friday, September 10	All Grades (9 – 12)

- **BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) – All Grades**

We are encouraging all students to bring their own laptop or chromebook to school on a daily basis to assist in their learning. If you are bringing a personal laptop or chromebook, please ensure that it is clearly labelled for ease of identification. All students who were issued a Board device as a result of previous remote learning should now bring this device to school for continued daily use. **If your child does not already have a personal or Board laptop or chromebook, please complete this [Technology Request Form](#).**

- **Student Activity Fee (\$25) – All Grades (optional)**

The student activity fee is an optional fee that families can pay in order to support extra-curricular activities. In previous years, the student activity fee has supported a variety of school activities including Student Council spirit events, clubs, dances, motivational speakers and competitions. Students who pay their activity fee will have reduced fees for school events throughout the school year.

- **Grade 9 Orientation (\$5) – Grade 9 students only**

The first day of school, Thursday September 9, is reserved for grade 9 students only. All grades attend as of Friday, September 10. We have special activities planned for our grade 9 students on their first day, including a barbeque lunch. In addition, we are offering an orientation t-shirt. The total cost for lunch and a t-shirt is \$5. This fee is being collected using School Cash Online. See below for the September 9 Grade 9 Orientation schedule:

Time	Activity
8:15 - 8:45	Find your homeroom. Don't worry, our staff and ambassadors will help you find your way!

8:45 - 9:15	Land Acknowledgement, Welcome by Administration and T-Shirt Distribution
9:15 - 11:00	Period 3 Teambuilding, Kahoot Activities, and a School Tour
11:05 - 12:00	Lunch
12:05 - 2:35	Period 4 Health and Safety Presentation, Creating Classroom Norms, Kahoot Activities, and a Survey

- **Phys. Ed. Clothing (Shorts & T-Shirts)**

The Phys. Ed. uniform is mandatory for those students taking Phys. Ed. courses. Shorts and t-shirts are available in different sizes. Single-item and combination purchases are available using School Cash Online as follows:

T-Shirt: \$10

Shorts: \$16.50

Combination (2 T-Shirts & 1 pair of shorts): \$36

Please print the receipt so that students can bring it to their Phys Ed class in order to retrieve their clothing. Any request for an accommodation can be brought to the attention of an administrator.

- **Graduation (\$75) – Grade 12 students only**

This fee is required for students participating in the graduation ceremony being held on June 27, 2022, at the Hilton Markham (8500 Warden Ave.). The cost includes the souvenir cap & gown, venue rental, refreshments and two guest tickets to the ceremony. **Please make this purchase using School Cash Online by March 25, 2022 to ensure a gown is ordered and you are included in the ceremony.** This event is contingent on rules and regulations issued by Public Health.

- **Masks and Safety Protocols**

Non-medical or cloth masks are required for all students while inside the school unless directed by staff.

Non-medical or cloth masks must:

- Cover the nose, mouth and chin without gaping
- Allow for easy breathing
- Fit securely to the head with ties or ear loops
- Be comfortable and not require frequent adjustments
- Maintain its shape after washing and drying
- Be made from tightly woven material such as linen or cotton

Public Health Agency of Canada recommends Canadians wear three-layer cloth masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. A two-layer cloth mask can be converted into a three-layer cloth mask by adding filters for an extra layer of protection against COVID-19. Health Canada offers **instructions** on how to easily convert a two-layer cloth mask into a three-layer cloth mask. Adding a filter to your existing two-layer mask will help protect against COVID-19 by trapping smaller infectious particles. Plastic films or pieces of non-breathable plastic are not a suitable filter.

- Students should not share masks, and they should avoid touching their mask or adjusting it too often.

- Hand hygiene should be performed before donning and doffing masks; remove the mask using the ties or ear loops.
- It is recommended that where possible, physical distance be maintained from other individuals inside the school building and outdoors on school property.
- Masks are required during Physical Education classes inside for low and high-contact activity.
- Masks are required during Physical Education classes outside for high-contact activities (eg. Football, Soccer). Masks are not required during Physical Education classes outside for low-contact activities (eg. Track and Field). It is recommended that parents/guardians provide their child with at least three clean masks (non-medical or cloth) each day to wear at school.
- If a student does not have a mask, a non-medical mask will be provided by the school.
- It is suggested that parents provide separate bags to store clean and dirty/wet masks and a pouch or fanny pack to hold them. Wash cloth masks daily.

Board Policy and Consent Forms – Coming Soon

Each year we ask families to complete important forms to indicate they have reviewed and understand school and Board policies, and to indicate permissions. We are pleased to let you know that families will be able to complete this information online this year. You will receive an email from the school board. Please take the time to review and complete the forms. If you prefer to receive and complete a paper copy, please let us know.

We value the relationship we have with families, and we look forward to speaking and working with you in the months ahead. Remember to look for our Parent Bulletin that will be sent to you every Friday. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions: unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you. You can also find updated information about the Board at www.yrdsb.ca and Twitter @YRDSB.

We wish you all a happy, safe and successful school year!

Ms. Suelyn Cheong (Principal)

Mr. Andrew Gazaneo (Vice-Principal; A - L)

Mr. Patrick Belmonte (Vice-Principal; M - Z)

Message from Our Trustee for September 2021

We have many reasons to feel optimistic as we begin the 2021-22 school year. Schools are reopening to in-person learning, vaccination rates continue to increase, and our students can start to resume some of their favourite school activities.

As we return to school, our [reopening plan](#) continues to prioritize the health and safety of students, families and staff members. We are working with public health to ensure we are taking all appropriate measures. For more information on the plan, including health and safety measures, please visit www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening. You can also find additional information from York Region Public Health at www.york.ca/safeatschool.

The pandemic and last year's school closures affected students and families in many different ways. This has been a challenging time. Our caring, skilled and dedicated staff members are prepared to prioritize the mental health and well-being of students as they transition back to school, as well as supporting their academic learning and growth. If you are worried about your child, please speak to your child's teacher or principal. You may also find some of the [learning and well-being resources](#) on our website helpful.

Whether your child will be attending school in person or online, we know how important it is that they feel safe, respected and valued. We want every student to feel supported, to take pride in their identities and to know that

they matter. Any form of hate or discrimination in our schools is not acceptable. This school year, we will continue to implement the [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy](#) launched in March to address anti-Black racism in schools. We also remain committed as a school board to honouring the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action](#). As an education system, it is imperative that we create learning environments that enable all of our students to feel valued and to be successful.

As your school board 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 makes [policy](#) and [budget](#) decisions, and communicates with the public, among other [responsibilities](#). We are also responsible for setting direction for the school board, through our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#). This plan sets out four priorities: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health, Build Collaborative Relationships, Champion Equity and Inclusivity, and Empower Ethical Leadership.

The relationship that we have with families is so important, and I will continue to keep you informed of our work and priorities. You can also find the [message from the Chair of the Board](#) on the Board's website. You are welcome to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or concerns.

There are also many other ways you can stay connected with what's happening in the school board. Visit our [newsroom](#). Listen to our [podcast](#). Follow us on [Twitter @YRDSB](#) and on [Instagram @yrdsb.schools](#). Watch the latest videos, including news, features and profiles about our schools, students and staff members on our [YouTube channel YRDSBMedia](#).

As we begin another school year, I am so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning families. I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you a happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

Ron Lynn,
Trustee – Markham Wards 2, 3 and 6

A Message from the Guidance Department

The UHS Guidance Department is here to support all students and families. To learn who your student's Guidance counsellor is, please see below:

Ms. Michelle Farwell	A – He
Ms. Rita Riolo	Hi – Lo
Ms. Stephanie Hawkins	Lu – V
Mr. Jonathan Tam	W-Z

Timetable Concerns/Inquires

Students are expected to follow their assigned timetable and attend all classes as scheduled. If there is a timetable **conflict**, please complete the online '**Timetable Conflict: Request to Review**' Form (see instructions below). Conflicts for **semester 1** will only be reviewed at this time. In order to ensure a fair timetable change process, any request emailed directly or left on voicemail for your Guidance Counsellor will **NOT** be considered. Additionally, students' alternate course selections may have been used to ensure a complete timetable.

The online form will close on **Tuesday, September 14 at 3 pm.**

N.B. Students who have incomplete timetables will be accommodated first. A conflict includes the following:

1. You are in Grade 9, 10, or 11 and have less than 8 courses
2. You are missing a SHSM/diploma/post-secondary requirement
3. You completed a course over the summer which is still on your timetable

4. You did not complete a compulsory/pre-requisite course over the summer

The Guidance department is aware of students with incomplete timetables, and is working as quickly as possible to resolve these. Students with incomplete timetables are asked to report to the atrium/cafeteria and are encouraged to work on activities provided in [My Pathway Planner](#) and to familiarize themselves with their [GAPPS account](#).

Instructions for Completion of Timetable Conflict Requests:

1) Log on to <http://bit.ly/2ojqgbm> or click on the QR code

(Be sure you are logged into your gapps account!)

2) Complete the entire form. Please ensure you provide a correct email address.

3) A PDF form will be emailed to you. Please print and have a parent/guardian sign the form. If the form cannot be printed, please have a parent/guardian email the counsellor permission to make the course change.

*****This signed form will need to be emailed to the Guidance counsellor upon request.*****

4) Only **one** form can be submitted by each student.

5) The timetable change request form will **close on Tuesday September 14 at 3:00 pm. This is your last day to submit the form.**

6) If you need help accessing this link, please contact the Guidance office and we will be more than happy to help you.

Please note: As indicated during the course selection process and in previous parent/guardian bulletins, course elective changes will NOT be completed for the 2021-2022 school year.

If you have a conflict in Semester 2, please wait until October to make a Guidance appointment with your alpha counsellor.

Thank you in advance for your patience during this busy time.

Ventilation in Schools

YRDSB is optimizing air quality in schools through improved ventilation and filtration. This is a key element in the protective strategies being employed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and support healthier and safe learning environments. [To find out more, please visit the Board website.](#)

Step 1: Secondary students are to complete the online self-assessment [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) prior to entering the school on a daily basis.

Step 2: Upon completion of the self-assessment, the student answers the question, “Have you completed the self-screening test?” using the Confirmation Form (revision of this form is pending).

- Student receives an email response when they respond “Yes”. The email will include a colour code specific to the day of the week:
 - **MONDAY**, **TUESDAY**, **WEDNESDAY**, **THURSDAY**, **FRIDAY**
 - **Students may start entering the school as of 8:15 a.m.**
- Students may enter from any of the following where they will sanitize their hands:

1. Town Centre Blvd. (Main Entrance)

2. Warden (Cafeteria)

3. Caretaking (Music Hallway)

4. Small Gym/Tech Wing Entrance

- At the beginning of first period, students are to provide the teacher with confirmation of completion of the self-screening by way of:
 - Phone – email or picture of email from their computer
 - Hard copy print-off of email
 - If neither option is available, they can provide a verbal response confirming completion.
- Students who indicate they “did not” complete the self-assessment will be asked to review the [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) poster and then provide a verbal response to the teacher:
 - If “no” to all, student remains in class
 - if “yes” to any, the teacher will contact the administration

Markham Public Library

- [Home](#)
- [Catalogue](#)
- [Digital Library](#)
- [Blog](#)



Markham Public Library's virtual programs are a great way to learn from home this fall. Explore web development, develop public speaking skills at Get Ready Public Speaking, or learn French at French Skills. It's easy for you to find something you or your child will like.

[Explore](#)



Introduction to Web Development

Learn the basic elements of a website using HTML. How to compare different styles of websites, and why each format is useful for different purposes? These are some of the topics we will work on as a group. This program will use code combat as a platform and participants will use HTML to create and alter headings, texts, lists, images, and posts. For ages 6 - 8.

[Register](#)



S.T.E.A.M for Older Kids

Let's take S.T.E.A.M. learning to the next level! Learn how to create your own computer animation, design a game and more.

[Introduction to Game Development](#)

[Games & Animations Programming](#)

[Cartoon Computer Animation](#)



School Help

Need some help with school? Want your kids to be good at captivating the crowd or learn to brush up on their grammar skills? Check out these programs.

[Grammar](#)

[Get Ready Public Speaking](#)



Language Learning

Want to learn French? Check out these popular programs for kids and adults.

[Get Ready for French](#)

[French Skills](#)

[French Skills 2](#)

[French Adults - Learn the Basics](#)

[French Adults - Practice in Conversation](#)

REOPENING UPDATE

Aaniin, Angus Glen, Thornhill C.C.
REOPENING SEPT. 20

We are excited to let you know that we'll be reopening Aaniin, Angus Glen and Thornhill Community Centre Libraries starting on September 20! We'll also be opening the stacks up for browsing and adding a number of new in-person services. More details coming soon. Stay tuned by checking our COVID-19 Service Update page.