



UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

201 Town Centre BLVD., Markham, Ontario L3R-8G5 Tel: (905) 479-2787

Parent Bulletin September 6, 2020

Dear Families,

We wanted to thank you for your patience and trust as we prepare to open our school on **September 10th** under these unique circumstances. **As explained in more detail below, face-to-face learning will take place for only grade 9 students and community classes on the 10th and 11th. Classes for grades 10 - 12 will be synchronous (online) on these two days.**

In an effort to make school as safe as possible for those of you about to begin the adaptive model, we have been spending our time rebuilding the timetable and establishing cohorts. We have also been busy adding decals to our halls, installing plexiglass shields in our main office, and distributing PPE to our classrooms. All staff have been studying our new safety protocols so that we can work together to keep students safe. Though our new protocols will feel restrictive and social interaction will be limited, we must put safety first.

We wanted to assure you that on September 8th and 9th, you will be receiving detailed information about cohorts and Grade 9 Orientation. On these days, teachers will also be contacting students in all grades to invite them to join their digital classrooms in preparation for **September 10th**. To ensure that students have a consistent learning experience, teachers will create an online digital classroom for all classes using either Brightspace or Google Classroom. In addition to these learning platforms, Google Meet and Zoom have been approved for synchronous learning.

At this time, we would like to provide you with the following information that will help you prepare for the week ahead:

1. **Entry Protocols**

Students are required to wear masks and enter the school from the front main doors at Town Centre Blvd. or from three entrances at Warden: next to the small gym, at the cafeteria (Tech wing), and at caretaking/receiving. Sanitizing stations will be set up so that students can clean their hands upon entering. We will be receiving students into the school as of 8:15 and classes will begin at 8:30. Doors will be locked at 9:00 am. Students who arrive after 9:00 am will be allowed entry at Town Centre Blvd. only.

2. **Visitors' Policy**

- **Until further notice, visitors are not to enter the school during hours of operation unless identified through a prearranged exception. Approval must be obtained from the principal.**
- Lunch drop offs will not be available, including access to lunch delivery services.
- All permitted visitors must confirm their arrival at the main office and be signed in and out.

- All visitors must sanitize their hands and wear a medical mask at all times and maintain a two-meter physical distance as they enter, move through and exit the building.
- **When a parent/guardian needs to meet with an administrator in person, the meeting must be scheduled in advance and approved by the principal.**
- For families registering a new student, where possible, entry will be limited to only one parent/guardian and the student (and a translator if required). A pre-arranged appointment is required.

3. Safety Protocols

Decals have been placed in hallways to indicate two-way travel and enforce social distance. Decals have also been placed outside of the main office, Guidance office, and washrooms to indicate where students are required to wait in line. Teachers will demonstrate proper mask wearing as well as correct hand, resource and equipment sanitization. Posters throughout the school will also serve as reminders. Classrooms have been assigned specific washrooms, and washrooms have been assigned a maximum capacity. The library will be closed and all sports and clubs have been suspended. There is no singing or playing of woodwind/brass instruments in school. We recognize that all of these measures will make the school feel more austere, but we want you to know that we are very excited about having students back, and we are eager to welcome them in ways that adhere to safety rules.

Unionville High School will follow the [four period, adaptive model](#) that other YRDSB secondary schools are following for 2020-21. For UHS students, this means that students will take four classes over four periods per semester (instead of five periods) and there will be 75 minutes of travel time built into the school schedule. **The modified timetable for September 10th and 11th can be found below.** Please note that students in our **Community Classes** will attend school for the full day, every day, starting September 10th. Students in **GLE101 (Grade 9 Learning Strategies)** and the **PEAK program** will attend for only the first block (8:30 - 11:00 am) on September 10th and 11th.

	Thursday, Sept. 10, 2020		Friday, Sept. 11, 2020	
	Grade 9 Cohort A	Grades 10-12	Grade 9 Cohort B	Grades 10-12
Morning 8:30-11:00 150 minutes	Grade 9 Cohort A only students attend period 1 face-to-face following the block 1 schedule for the school (e.g., 8:30-11:00)	No grade 10, 11, 12s attend in the morning.	Grade 9 Cohort B only students attend school face-to-face following the block 1 schedule for the school (e.g., 8:30-11:00)	No grade 10, 11, 12s attend in the morning,
End of Period 1 Dismissal of Grade 9's 11:00-11:15	Students depart school		Students depart school	
11:15-12:30 75 minutes	Lunch/Travel			
Afternoon	Grade 9 Cohort A now moves online starting period 2	*note--both cohorts A and B attend online in the afternoon for Grades 10-12	Grade 9 Cohort B now moves online starting period 2	*note--both cohorts A and B attend online in the afternoon for Grades 10-12

12:30-1:05 35 minutes	N/A	Period 1 Online	N/A	Period 1 Online
3 minutes	Transition Time		Transition Time	
1:08-1:43 35 minutes	Period 2 Online	Period 2 Online	Period 2 Online	Period 2 Online
3 minutes	Transition Time		Transition Time	
1:46-2:21 35 minutes	Period 3 Online	Period 3 Online	Period 3 Online	Period 3 Online
3 minutes	Transition Time		Transition Time	
2:24-2:59 35 minutes	Period 4 Online	Period 4 Online	Period 4 Online	Period 4 Online

We'd like to kindly remind you that the timing in the schedule above differs from the timing that will begin on **September 14**:

Schedule		Time (minutes)
8:30 - 11:00	In Person - Block 1 (Alternate between face-to-face and online daily)	150
11:00 - 11:15	Students Exit	
11:15 - 12:30	Student Transportation / Lunch	
12:30 - 1:20	Synchronous Online - Block 2	50
1:20 - 2:10	Synchronous Online - Block 3	50
2:10 - 3:00	Synchronous Online - Block 4	50

As always, we have a dedicated team working hard behind the scenes to ensure that school can begin next week. Along with our teachers, the Guidance and administrative staff below are getting ready to serve you once school opens:

Name	Periods	Alpha	Extension
Michelle Farwell	1, 4, 5	A - Hou	457
Rita Riolo	1, 2, 4	Hu - Ma	441
Stephanie Hawkins	2, 4, 5	Mc - Wr	437
Jonathan Tam	4, 5	Wu - Z	438
Nellie Simtikidis	Guidance Secretary		458
Andrew Gazaneo	VP	A - L	440
Patrick Belmonte	VP	M - Z	435

In a previous communication to families, Louise Sirisko, our Director, provided the following information:

Schools have confirmed spaces in the virtual schools and home schools for all students. At this time, no further transfers between the different models will occur. Secondary students requesting a transition between the online learning option and face-to-face option will need to wait until the end of semester one (January 29, 2021). After the school year begins for students, families will receive information on how to request a transfer between the models. At that time, please note that transfers will be dependent upon space and program availability. We appreciate this may be disappointing for some families; however, we've based our reopening strategy on a balance of health and safety, as well as teaching and learning benefits.

We know families continue to have many questions about the return to school, and we are working to provide updated information, videos and resources on our Board website at www.yrdsb.ca/school-reopening.

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to listen to the recording of the town hall that took place on September 2nd: www.yrdsb.ca/virtual-townhall.

Please enjoy these final days of summer break and rest assured that plans are in place for the official start to the school year. **Again, you will be receiving more specific information regarding cohorts and timetables on September 8th and 9th before school begins on the 10th.**

We very much look forward to welcoming you back.

Sincerely,

Suelyn Cheong

Andrew Gazaneo

Patrick Belmonte

Principal

Vice Principal

Vice Principal