



UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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Parent Bulletin for Friday, June 19, 2020

Ministry Announcement: Reopening for the 2020-2021 School Year

Today, the [Minister of Education announced](#) that Ontario schools will reopen for the 2020-2021 school year, using one of three scenarios, which will depend on advice from public health and other health experts closer to September. The Minister also announced that the return to school will be voluntary and up to families. For those who choose not to send their child(ren) back to school, school boards will continue to offer distance learning. According to the Ministry of Education, this requirement will be in place for as long as public health circumstances require adapted delivery of education.

School boards have been asked to plan for the following scenarios:

- **Normal school day routine** with enhanced public health protocols - Students going to school every day, in classes that reflect standard class size regulations.
- **Modified school day routine** - Based on public health advice, an adapted delivery model to allow for physical distancing and cohorts of students. Under this model, a limit of 15 students would be maintained in a typical classroom at one time and adopt timetabling that would allow for students to remain in contact only with their classmates and a single teacher for as much of the school day as possible. This model would require alternate day or alternate week delivery to a segment of the class at one time.
- **At-home learning** - Should the school closure be extended, or some parents choose not to send their child back to school, school boards need to be prepared to offer remote education. Distance learning is expected to be delivered online to the greatest extent possible, including the establishment of minimum expectations for students to have direct contact with their teacher at the same time on a regular basis, also known as synchronous learning.

Plans must adhere to health and safety guidelines. They could include alternate day or alternate week attendance, staggered bell times and recess, and different transportation arrangements, among a variety of other considerations to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

To learn more about the Ministry of Education's approach to reopening schools for the 2020-21 school year, visit their [website](#).

We know that you have a lot of questions about what this means for you, and what classrooms will look like when classes resume. We don't have the answers today. There are many complex considerations that must be carefully reviewed to help ensure a safe return for all. Please be assured that as we plan for our return, health and safety will be a key priority.

We expect plans to be finalized over the summer and will share details with you as soon as possible. We are aware that our balanced calendar schools, scheduled to open in August, need this information sooner. Please stay connected over the summer. We will share information with staff, students and families by email, post updates on the board's website and school websites, and share information on the board's Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Thank you for your ongoing support, patience and understanding through this challenging year.

Congratulations to our Graduates from the UHS Administration

Dear graduates,

We want to express how much we have missed seeing you every day at school. We have missed your laughter and chatter in the halls and cafeteria. We have missed your display of skill and talent at performances and showcases. We have missed the pride and competitive spirit you bring to games and tournaments. We have missed the hard work and enthusiasm you put into the clubs and events that make UHS a welcoming and vibrant place to be.

While this extraordinary period in our lifetime has been the cause of cancellations and disappointments, it has also shown us your commitment to staying connected and pursuing your goals. The correspondence we have had with you, your families, and your teachers has demonstrated that our school's sense of community transcends the confines of a physical space. The UHS community, despite our current struggles, remains united. We thank you for your optimism, sense of humour, empathy, and courage.

Though this is a time of physical isolation and sacrifice, it is also a time of reflection. It is a time when we can reflect on our privilege and our place in the world. We hope that this time has given you an opportunity to evaluate your priorities and to examine carefully the social and political events taking place. We hope that your response to these events has been critical and compassionate.

These rare and unprecedented times can develop our sense of humility and desire for social justice. These circumstances provide us with opportunities to help others, to test our social conscience, and to envision a better world. We hope that this time has enabled you to imagine and execute your role in building a brighter future.

[On behalf of the YRDSB, we want to share with you this musical send-off.](#) We would especially like to thank Ms. DiFrancesco for representing the UHS family in this video. We also want to formally congratulate Sidd Mittal, this year's valedictorian.

We look forward to celebrating your graduation milestone in the fall.

Suelyn Cheong, Andrew Gazaneo and Patrick Belmonte

A Message to our Graduates from the Mayor

On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am very pleased to congratulate the Class of 2020 on your upcoming graduation.

This is a milestone marking the beginning of another exciting chapter in your life. While this may be a challenging time, it does not deter from what lies ahead for you, a future full of promise and hope.

You should all be very proud of your outstanding accomplishments, knowing that you have achieved high academic and personal standards beyond what anyone could have imagined. I understand your graduation ceremonies and celebrations will not be the same this year; however, this should not take away from the joy of this momentous occasion. You should be very proud, as I am sure your families, teachers and friends are proud of you.

As Mayor, I commend you for your outstanding hard work, determination and resiliency. I am confident you are on the road toward success.

I wish you the best in all your future endeavours.

Sincerely,
Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

Report Cards

Dear Families,

We hope this correspondence finds you, your family and your loved ones healthy and safe. We know these are uncertain times and we wish to provide as much information as possible regarding your child's education, including assessment and evaluation processes.

The Ministry of Education has provided direction that all students will receive a report card in June. York Region District School Board will be providing electronic report cards for our students. Our goal is to have all electronic copies of report cards distributed to families by July 3. Families will be notified when their child's electronic report card is ready and instructions for access to the report will be provided in that communication.

During the school closure period, The Ministry of Education indicated that students' marks should not be negatively affected by performance during online learning from home. Therefore, end of year marks can only remain the same or increase based on work completed from April 6 and onward.

Teachers have been focused on student learning by providing tasks, projects and culminating activities for assessment and evaluation, and have been recording and communicating the results of all marked work to students. Comments and the evaluation of Learning Skills will reflect work done by students prior to the school closure.

In the case where the teacher does not have sufficient evidence to determine a grade, students may receive a code "I" on the report card. A code "I" is used when, due to extenuating circumstances, there is not enough information to assess or assign a final mark. It is in no way a penalty to the student, nor is it a statement about the student's competence or capacity to learn; it is merely an indication that at this specific point in time, learning could not be validly evaluated for report card purposes.

In the case of courses which started **after** April 6th (e.g., Civics, Careers, new Quadmester courses), students who did not engage and/or provide sufficient evidence of learning will be ineligible to earn the credit and will receive an "I" on the final report.

Where a student receives an "I" on the final report card, a credit will not be granted. The course with the "I" will not appear on the student's official Ontario Student Transcript. School staff, in consultation with the parents and the student, will determine program options, including credit recovery and retaking the credit to meet the expectations and earn credit.

Note: Please disregard the Median column in this report card as the use of the "I" may result in some inaccuracies in calculations.

York Region District School Board will once again be offering acceleration and credit recovery/reinforcement courses during the summer. Please see [YRDSB's Secondary School Summer 2020 web page](#) for registration information. Students may also apply for e-learning by visiting the [e-learning website](#) after receiving permission from their home school.

We remain committed to supporting our students and families as we continue to navigate the effects of COVID-19 on education. If your school can support your family in any way, we encourage you to connect directly with the teacher, guidance counsellor, vice-principal or principal.

Summer Programming

- **Summer School e-Learning (BEGINS JULY 2)**

Eligible Students: Grades 10 to 12

Program Dates: July 2 - 27

Students registered in day school are required to receive approval from their alpha Guidance counsellor before registering on the YRDSB site:

Ms. Farwell (A-H): michelle.farwell@yrdsb.ca

Ms. Riolo (I-N): rita.riolo@yrdsb.ca

Ms. Hawkins (O-Yo): stephanie.hawkins@yrdsb.ca

Ms. Choi (Yu-Z): yu-kyung.choi@yrdsb.ca

The confirmation request is initiated by the student. Students may [apply online](#) until June 25.

- **Secondary Summer School (BEGINS JULY 6)**

Eligible Students: Grades 9 to 12

Acceleration - July 6 to 29 (Bussing is not provided.)

Summer Co-op - Two credit options are available. The single credit co-op option has been cancelled.

Youth Innovation by Design (IDC4U or IDC4O)

Reinforcement/Credit Recovery is available for students who have not successfully earned the credit; session 1 takes place from July 6 to 16; session 2 takes place from July 17 to 29. A recommendation by the home school principal is required prior to registration.

NEW: Summer Credit Upgrade (July 6 to 16) is being offered for grade 11 and 12 courses in Math, Science and English. Students in grade 11 and 12 who have previously earned the credit and wish to upgrade their mark can register using My Pathway Planner.

Registration takes place online through [my Pathway Planner](#) until June 26. For registration with limited availability on July 3, 6 and 7, contact continuing.education@yrdsb.ca.

Students signing up via My Pathway Planner will choose a location for their course. Please note that students may receive an email in gapps stating that the location has changed. This does not mean that the course is cancelled; it means that the course has moved to another site. School sites are being used for administrative purposes only. Some students have chosen the same course in both e-Learning and Summer School Remote Learning. Students MUST choose one and drop the other. Below is a chart that references the difference between the two:

	Summer School e-Learning	Secondary Summer School Remote Learning
Delivery Model	Online	Online
Learning Platform	Brightspace D2L	Google Classroom/other Board approved platform
Course Content	Ministry authored (teacher modified)	Teacher Designed
Time	Flexible (6hrs per day min.)	8:45 am – 3:33 pm (depending on Ministry directive)

- **Summer Learning for International Students**

Secondary international students who went back home may apply to attend secondary summer e-Learning courses at a special cost of \$500. Students may apply through the [Summer e-Learning application portal](#). Additional information can be found on the [Continuing Education](#) webpage.

International students who will remain in Canada during the summer may apply through [myPathwayPlanner](#) to attend remote learning secondary summer credit programs at a special cost of \$500. Additional information can be found on the [Secondary Summer School Program](#) webpage.

Outside of Canada, payment by electronic wire transfer must be made via the [WU® GlobalPay for Students payments platform](#). Within Canada, payment can be made by INTERAC e-Transfer to international.education@yrdsb.ca. **When making the payment by INTERAC e-Transfer you MUST include the student's name, date of birth, and school in the Message/Comment field so that payment can be matched to the registration.**

Taking a summer school credit and an e-learning credit (i.e. two courses) is not recommended due to workload and potential exam conflicts.

Indigenous Education

Please read our Indigenous Education Bulletins published by our Indigenous Education designate, Mr. Larry Beckwith:

[Indigenous Education Designate Bulletin vol 1 no. 1](#)

[Indigenous Education Designate Bulletin vol 1 no. 2](#)

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of [First Nations](#), [Inuit](#) and [Métis](#) peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples.

Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day. For generations, many [Indigenous peoples and communities](#) have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

- **Two-Spirit Identities**

At the third annual Intertribal Native American, First Nations, Gay and Lesbian American Conference, held in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1990, [activist Albert McLeod proposed the term *two-spirit* to refer to the Indigenous LGBTQ community](#). The term was well received by the conference attendees and soon gained popularity within Indigenous communities. The term is used today to broadly reference the Indigenous LGBTQ community. Some two-spirit societies also use the terms LGBTQ2S or LGBTTIQQ2S (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgendered, Intersexual, Queer, Questioning, 2-Spirited) to incorporate two-spirit people within the larger LGBTQ community. (<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/two-spirit>)

International and Indigenous Languages Fall Registration

- **Elementary School Programs**

Students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 can learn to read, write and speak a new language or maintain their heritage language. More than 20 different language courses are available. Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will begin in early July 2020. For locations, times and dates, please see the list of [Elementary courses](#).

Research shows that speaking more than one language has many cognitive benefits and may:

- improve how the brain functions such as improving memory and concentration
- enhance decision-making and multi-tasking skills
- open future employment opportunities

Please check our [website](#) in July for the most up to date information on registration and program delivery. Due to space limitations, registration will take place on a first come first served basis.

- **Secondary School Credit Programs**

The Credit International and Indigenous Languages program, offering 15 different languages, is available to students from Grades 9 to 12. Registration is now open for the [upcoming 2020-2021 school course offerings](#), and closes on September 9, 2020.

Did you know there are many benefits to taking credit language courses?

Students can take one International Languages Course as a Group 1- Compulsory or as an Elective Credit towards their Ontario Secondary Diploma. Students can also earn up to three credits towards graduation. If students successfully complete the Level D - University course, it can be used as one of their top six (6) marks for post-secondary entry.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information about our courses, program delivery and registration information.

For More Information

Thank you for your interest in our programs. Please do not hesitate to email us if you have any questions: international.languages@yrdsb.ca.