



UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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

Parent Bulletin for May 1, 2020

A Message from the Director

Dear families,

I hope this correspondence finds you, your family and loved ones healthy and safe. As we shared on Sunday, the Ontario Minister of Education issued an extension of school closures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Schools will remain closed to students until at least the end of May 2020. Today, the Ontario Minister of Education has written a [letter to all families](#) and asked that school boards share it broadly. You may find a copy of this letter on the Board's website at www.yrdsb.ca/covid19.

We know students and families have a lot of questions. Please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the Board website for more information.

Please continue to follow us on Twitter [@YRDSB](#) and check your email to receive updates from us during this rapidly changing global situation.

I wish you continued health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Louise Sirisko

Assessment of Student Work while Learning at Home

We know families are concerned about students falling behind academically. We will be doing our best to support the continuity of learning for our students during this unprecedented time.

We know you may have questions about how students will be assessed for the duration of this school year. Please be aware of the following:

- All secondary students will receive a final report card at the end of this school year.
- Teachers will continue to assign learning tasks that will be marked by their teachers for the purposes of formative and summative evaluation.
- Teachers will communicate results of these marked assignments to students.
- Results will be used by teachers to inform students' final course marks, in cases where it results in the mark remaining the same or improving.
- Final marks can only remain the same or increase based on evidence of learning gathered from April 6 and onward.
- The weightings of all assigned tasks can be adjusted in determining a final grade.
- Final examinations will not be occurring this year and the 70/30 per cent breakdown may be adjusted.

Well-Being

If you are concerned about your child's emotional well-being, please refer to these [tips on how to speak to your child about COVID-19](#). We also know that this situation is affecting families in different ways and a list of COVID-19 related community supports can be found at www.yrdsb.ca/covid19.

Full Disclosure Timelines for All Students in Grade 11 and 12 Courses

May 1

Teachers will share mid semester mark updates, via TeachAssist, with students in Grade 11 and 12 courses. Parents and Guardians will need their child's password in order to view the mid semester mark updates on TeachAssist.

May 1 - 8

Students may contact their alpha Guidance Counselor (see below) by booking an appointment using TeachAssist to have a pathway discussion and/or to drop a course if needed. An email from a parent/guardian giving permission is required if the student is under the age of 18 and would like to drop a course. Once students book an appointment, they will need to email the counsellor to provide specific contact information (i.e. their phone number). Please note that the counsellor will be calling from a 'blocked' or 'unknown caller' number.

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

Students experiencing difficulty booking an appointment can contact Ms. Louie, the Guidance secretary: linda.louie@yrdsb.ca

May 8

This is the last day that a student may drop a course in order for it not to be recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript.

We recognize that you and your child may have questions regarding this information. If it is helpful for you to connect with a staff member from the school. Please contact a teacher, guidance counsellor, or administrator to discuss your questions.

How to Receive Technical Support

On the [Novel Coronavirus FAQ](#) webpage of the board website, scroll down and find the following under the "Student Learning" section:

I am having trouble with the technology provided by the Board/accessing online learning platforms. Who can I contact for tech support?

Students and families can fill out the [Student Tech Help form](#) for support with student technology and accessing online learning platforms.

Synchronous Learning Guidelines

As you know, YRDSB continues to explore different opportunities to learn from home, connecting students and teachers through technology with the safety and well-being of students in mind. With the Ministry of Education having extended the duration of the school closure, there is an opportunity for

staff, if they choose, to offer synchronous “real time” live support to students, in order to enhance the asynchronous online learning environment currently provided.

- **Asynchronous** refers to activities that are not happening simultaneously or in “real time”.
- **Synchronous** refers to activities that are happening simultaneously or in “real time”.

As usual, teachers will continue to post learning activities for classes in their online learning platforms each week. Teachers may choose to identify “real time” synchronous activities that involve two-way audio/video conferencing. This will offer an opportunity for students to engage with one another and the teacher in a one-on-one, small/large group, or whole class setting. When these synchronous activities occur, teachers will provide information as to the day, time, and login instructions.

By students participating in “real time” synchronous teaching and learning, students and families are agreeing to the following responsibilities:

- [YRDSB Appropriate Use of Technology Policy and Procedures](#) will apply to all learning at home activities.
- Rules of conduct and behaviour for the regular classroom also apply to the virtual classroom.
- Appropriate student dress is required as applicable at school.
- Parents/guardians should be mindful of family activities that would potentially be heard/seen during the students’ use of audio/video conferencing.
- Students/parents/guardians shall not take photos, screenshots or record any video/audio from these conference sessions.
- No aspect of a Google Meet session will be posted to any social media sites or through any medium.

Please note that participation in the “real-time” synchronous teaching and learning activities is not mandatory. If a student is not able to participate in synchronous support, an alternative arrangement will be made to ensure each student has access to the learning. Further, students may choose to participate in some synchronous activities and not others or decide only to participate asynchronously. If at any time you have questions about synchronous activities, please connect with the teacher via email.

Jewish Heritage Month

[Canadian Jewish Heritage Month](#) was given Royal Assent in the Senate of Canada on March 29, 2018. This legislation recognizes that “the month of May is meaningful for the Jewish community around the world” and designates the month as a time “to recognize the important contributions that Jewish Canadians have made to Canada’s social, economic, political and cultural fabric and to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the inspirational role that Jewish Canadians have played, and continue to play, in communities across the country.”

Canada is home to the fourth largest Jewish population in the world. There are close to 400,000 Jewish residents in Canada and almost half of that number resides in Ontario. Jewish settlers in Canada can be traced as far back as 1760. Jewish Canadians have proudly contributed to Canadian heritage in all of its facets including the military, the arts, government, business, academia, law, medicine, culture, and sports.

Throughout the month of May, we celebrate the contributions Jewish Canadians make to our great country and our great province. At YRDSB, we are committed to improving the well-being and achievement for all our students through engaging, equitable and inclusive learning environments, as well as curriculum and culturally relevant pedagogical opportunities. As we enter the month of May, staff and students are encouraged to engage in online opportunities, while practicing social distancing, that celebrate Jewish Heritage and the achievements of the Jewish community.