



# UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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

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## ***Parent Bulletin for Friday, May 15, 2020***

### **Important Contact Information**

Dear UHS Parents,

If you have any specific questions or concerns you are invited to contact Ms. Cheong, the principal, directly at [suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca](mailto:suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca). If you would like to have a telephone or “Google Meet” conversation with Ms. Cheong, please contact her administrative assistant, Effie Kyriopoulos, at [effie.kyriopoulos@yrdsb.ca](mailto:effie.kyriopoulos@yrdsb.ca).

If you would like to ask questions about our programs or if you have a specific question regarding your child, please contact the alpha VP:

Surnames A – L: [andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca](mailto:andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca)

Surnames M – Z: [patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca](mailto:patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca)

To discuss getting support for your child or to find out about university admissions, please contact your child’s alpha Guidance Counsellor:

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

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

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

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

If you require support for an imminent risk to the safety of a child or youth, including risk of suicide, please contact 911 or access your local hospital. If you require support from a counselling agency, please contact Kids Help Phone (1-800-668-6868) or 310 COPE (1-855-310-2673). Additional community and mental health resources can be accessed at [COVID-19 Community Supports](#) and [COVID-19 Mental Health Resources for Students and Families](#).

For updated information, please visit [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca) or the Board's Twitter account @YRDSB.

## **Determining Final Marks for Students**

- As per the Ministry directive, for courses that were in progress prior to the shutdown, **final marks can only remain the same or increase based on evidence of learning gathered from April 6 onward.**
- The Ministry “cut off” of March 13/April 6 is intended to ensure that only tests/ assignments that were expected to be completed/submitted before the school closure are considered as part of the pre-closure mark. Therefore, if an assignment was given out prior to March 13 but wasn't due until after the break, student performance on that task can only be used in the determination of the final grade if it serves to maintain or improve the mark.
- Teachers will enter marks for learning tasks, projects and culminating activities into TeachAssist as the semester progresses.
- Teachers may not provide a course mark update each time a task for evaluation is completed and returned. This is why in TeachAssist, you may see individual task marks without seeing the overall course mark.
- Teachers will communicate course mark updates periodically as appropriate. Even though a teacher has entered marks for all tasks attempted and these marks are visible in TeachAssist, the teacher can discount certain tasks or adjust their weight in order to keep each student's best interest in mind and ensure that the final mark will not be lower than the March 13 mark.
- Teachers can change the 70% Term and 30% Culminating Activities split that was shared at the beginning of the semester.
- In some cases, it will be appropriate and possible to still engage students in a course culminating activity. For example, a teacher who has designed instruction and assessment throughout the course to culminate in the creation of a portfolio may be able to continue as planned.
- In other cases, it will not be possible or appropriate to use a course culminating activity. In these cases, teachers may reduce or by-pass the 30% that would normally have been handled through course culminating tasks. For example, a teacher may choose to use only the 70% term mark as the final mark. A teacher may choose to keep a 5% culminating activity and weight term tasks as 95% of the final mark.
- Work that is not submitted, whether term or culminating, will be entered as a “no mark” rather than a “zero”.
- In June, teachers will use the entire body of evidence that has been collected (formative and summative) to determine a report grade (using both mathematical calculation and professional judgement), being mindful that the final grade cannot be lower than what the student was achieving as of March 13.
  
- For half-credit courses, such as Careers and Civics, that began in April after the shutdown, teachers will continue to assign learning tasks, projects and culminating activities for both formative and summative purposes. Teachers will communicate results of marked assignments to students and these will be used to inform final course marks. Students must engage in these online learning tasks or they may be required to retake the course.

## **Recommended Reading for Students**

- ***Non-fiction***

### **Three picks by Canadian authors:**

*Love Lives Here* by Amanda Jetté Knox

This is a beautiful story about accepting and loving people as themselves. Jetté Knox tells her own story of surviving extreme bullying, and also relates her family's journey as she learns that one of her children and her spouse are transgender.

*From the Ashes* by Jesse Thistle

This is a story of perseverance and triumph over abuse and addiction. Jesse Thistle survives such unimaginable hardships. Reading this will help to build your understanding of and compassion for those experiencing addiction and homelessness. You won't forget his story.

*The Skin We're In* by Desmond Cole

This is an honest look at anti-black discrimination in the GTA. If you think that Canada doesn't have a racism problem, you need to read this book.

- **Fiction**

*Kay's Lucky Coin Variety* by Ann Y.K. Choi

The main character Mary feels caught between her parents' expectations and the freedoms she sees in Toronto. Definitely a must read, and not just because it is written by UHS's own Ann Choi.

*Son of a Trickster* by Eden Robinson

The main character is Jared, 16, who often feels like the only adult in his family. He tries to support everyone and then learns something surprising about himself and his Indigenous heritage. This is the first book in a trilogy.

*How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig

The main character is Tom, who appears to be in his 40s but suffers from a rare aging disease. He is actually hundreds of years old. The chapters alternate between Tom's past, covering his encounters with Shakespeare and other historical figures, and Tom's present, as he tries to lead a normal life. He is tired of keeping his secret and wants to fall in love. He is also looking for his daughter that he had centuries ago. Could she have the same condition he does and still be alive?

- **Other Recommended Reading Lists**

List #1: [25 YA Books Under 200 Pages \(great for reluctant readers\)](#) (Source: MPL)

List #2: [2019 Top 25 Circulating Teen Fiction](#) (Source: MPL)

List #3: [Suggested Reads for High School English](#) (Mix of contemporary and classic; Source: MPL)

List #4: [Books That Promote Tolerance and Diversity](#) (Suggestions for youth of all ages; Source: Common Sense Media)

### **Jewish Heritage Month Virtual Tour**

You are invited to join a unique and [FREE live tour from Beit Hatfutsot, The Museum of the Jewish People, on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM](#). The tour explores synagogues from diverse Jewish communities around the world including from the Caribbean, Egypt, Ukraine, Germany, India, Ancient Greece, Italy, and Poland. You will have the opportunity to view Beit Hatfutsot's world-renowned collection of synagogue models and their associated original artifacts.

If you are interested in this opportunity, **please register using the [online registration form](#) by June 12<sup>th</sup>** to book your spot for the live tour on June 16th. This opportunity is made available for free to YRDSB students and their families. If you would like additional information about the tour and have any questions, please email YRDSB's Community Partnership Developer [leonora.buskin@yrdsb.ca](mailto:leonora.buskin@yrdsb.ca).

## **Citizenship Classes**

York Region District School Board, in partnership with the government of Ontario (MCIT), provides language classes for citizenship test preparation. This course develops effective language skills in preparing adult ESL learners (18+) to take the Canadian Citizenship test through a focus on specific vocabulary and necessary concepts. Registration is ongoing. A language assessment may be necessary to start the training.

Due to schools being closed, Citizenship classes will be available from home until at least May 29, 2020. If you have a question or would like to register for a class, please email [uplands@yrdsb.ca](mailto:uplands@yrdsb.ca) or call 905-731-9557 / 905-305-4122 and leave a message.

## **Summer Institute Programs Cancelled**

To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, York Region District School Board is cancelling Summer Institute programming this summer. This is in line with public health guidelines. Summer Institute was scheduled to run July 6 - August 14. Families who are already registered for the program are being notified and full refunds will be processed for families who have paid. As processing refunds may take some time, your patience is appreciated.

This cancellation applies to Summer Institute only. Other summer programs, such as summer school, will be proceeding where possible within an online environment. More information will be provided in the coming weeks about these programs.

## **Digital Career Expo**

As a parent or guardian of a young woman in grades 7 to 12, you are invited to attend the Build a Dream Digital Career Discovery Expo on Wednesday May 27th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Build a Dream 'at Home Edition' will give you and your daughter(s) the chance to explore a wide range of career paths in the skilled trades, science, technology, engineering, and emergency services. This FREE event will be packed with panelists, on-demand video libraries, DIY activities, games, prizes and more!

To register for this free event please visit the following site: [dreamathome.eventbrite.ca](https://dreamathome.eventbrite.ca). Please note that registration is required and that space is limited.