



Unionville High School Weekly Parent Bulletin

September 06, 2024

201 Town Centre Blvd. Markham, ON
905-479-2787

Reception 431/Attendance 230/Guidance 458

Email: unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca

Tweets: [@UHSupdate](https://twitter.com/UHSupdate)

Principal Susie Nunes	Vice-Principal (R - Z) Patrick Belmonte	Vice-Principal (A - I) Catherine Clarke	Vice-Principal (J - Q) Raymond Luong	Superintendent Kien Nam Luu	Trustee Ron Lynn
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TECH REQUEST FORM – 2024-2025

GUIDANCE UPDATES

Character Matters Trait of the Month: Respect

“One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.”
- Bryant H. McGill

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
September 16	School Photo Day (Gr. 9 & 10) School Council Meeting (7:00 pm)
September 17	School Photo Day (Gr. 11 & 12)
September 25	Camp Day (Gr. 9)

SEPTEMBER

Administration Student Alphas (by last name)

Administration	Alpha
Ms. Clarke	A - I
Mr. Luong	J - Q
Mr. Belmonte	R - Z

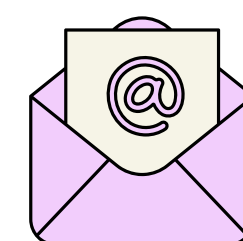
Attendance

Strive for Perfect Attendance: Try to book appointments for after school or during lunch.

Student Absences: Parents/Guardians are **to call or email** the attendance office **before 8:25am** at (905) 479-2787 ext. 431 or unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca

Daytime Appointments: Send a note or call the office – students must **be signed out** through the main office

Extended Absences: Students must complete an **extended absence form**, signed by parents and your child’s teachers. The form is to be returned to the attendance office prior to the absence. Please avoid scheduling vacations during school.



UHS,
my child will
be absent for
period 1
today.
Thank you!

Online Start-Up Forms

Secondary school students can complete the secondary school student form at <https://startupforms.yrdsb.ca/students>. Elementary school students do not need to complete these forms.

You must be signed in to your child’s student GAPPS account to complete the form.

IMPORTANT!

How to Complete the Forms, please click [HERE](#)

Message from Our Trustee: Mr. Ron Lynn (Markham Wards 2 and 6)



Welcome to the start of the 2024-2025 school year. We are so pleased to welcome all of our new and returning students and families to a new school year.

How Trustees Help

As school board trustees, we have a number of roles and responsibilities, including setting policies and budget and advocating for quality public education. My responsibilities also include communicating with the public. I will continue to keep you informed throughout the school year through these regular newsletters. You can also reach out to me directly. Learn more about how we can help and how you can reach me if you have any questions or concerns. You can also stay up-to-date with school board news and events through school communications, social media (X [@YRDSB](#) and Instagram [@yrdsb.schools](#)), our newsroom and Board podcast TuneIn YRDSB.

Our Priorities as a School Board

One of our responsibilities as a Board of Trustees is also setting the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. This plan outlines the priorities that will guide our work as a school board for the next several years. We want to thank the many students, family and staff members and community partners who shared feedback in the spring that was used to inform the development of the plan. Some key themes emerged in the feedback that families will see reflected in the plan, including a clear focus on student achievement and well-being. We look forward to sharing more with you very soon.

A New School Year

The start of a new school year is a time of transition - whether your child is starting elementary or secondary school for the first time, entering a new program, moving to a new school or beginning a new grade. The caring, dedicated and professional staff members who work in our system are here to help support your child through this transition. Please feel free to reach out to your child’s teachers or the school to speak about your child’s transition and the supports that are available. We also recognize that transitions can take place throughout September. Elementary schools may be required to adjust some classes due to enrollment changes and class size restrictions. In secondary school, schools may also see timetable requests and adjustments in the first few weeks. These are occurrences that happen each fall and schools do their best to be responsive and to minimize the effects of any changes on students.

Partnerships with Families

We value the essential partnership between schools and families and want to ensure that families are aware of the many resources available. Our family resources page, available from the homepage of www.yrdsb.ca, gives you quick access to platforms that we use, tips and information, the Guide to the School Year and student learning resources. It also includes resources for newcomers, translation information and much more. We are also working on a dedicated new family portal to make it easier for families to engage with their child’s education. To ensure you receive notifications and updates, please make sure the school has your up-to-date email address. If you are not receiving emails, please contact your school to confirm. More information will be shared in the coming months. I wish you and your family all the very best for a safe, successful and enjoyable 2024-2025 school year, and look forward to communicating with you in the months ahead.

Ron Lynn
Trustee, Markham Wards 2 and 6
September 2024

YRDSB News Links

[York Region Transit Student Safety Tips](#)

[2024 Royal Agriculture Winter Fair Save The Date](#)

[2024 GIVE Fall Flyer](#)

Student Safety while riding YRT

York Region Transit (YRT) cares about your safety and security. The dedicated YRT Transit Enforcement and Security team offers security, customer assistance and fare enforcement services throughout the system.

QUICK TIPS!

- Practice the following safety tips when taking transit:
- Take extra care when walking or cycling near or from your bus stop.
- Always cross at a designated crosswalk or intersection, only cross when the designated light/side signal is displayed.
- Make eye contact with motorists when crossing the street.
- Be aware of your surroundings at the bus stop and on the bus. Board at the front doors, exit at the rear doors.
- Keep on top of your belongings.
- Be alert and look out behind you, please don't.
- Know where you are getting off! Use the bus.

Transit safety is everyone's responsibility. See something, say something.

- Report any verbal, physical, sexual harassment or discrimination by alerting the driver, an enforcement officer or any YRT uniformed staff.
- Report issues by calling the YRT Contact Centre at 1-866-668-3978 or Use Chat with a Customer Service Representative.
- If there is a true emergency call 911 immediately and notify the driver or any other YRT personnel when safe to do so.

SAFE TRAVEL

Technology with your safety in mind

- Security cameras to detect violations and provide evidence.
- Emergency call boxes at intersections and terminals.
- Travelling at Night Request Stop Program.

These technologies assist in creating a safer environment for all travellers.

There's a seat for everyone. YRT supports a positive transit community. Please be respectful and courteous towards others. All travellers are encouraged to follow YRT's travelling etiquette tips on how to conduct yourself in a way that ensures a positive transit experience for everyone.

For more information on transit safety, visit [yrt.ca](#).

YRT 1-866-MOVE-YRT (868-3978) | TTY: 711 | [yrt.ca](#)

Royal the Royal
AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

Hands On Learning MEETS LIFE ON THE FARM!

NOVEMBER 1-10, 2024
EXHIBITION PLACE, TORONTO

As the world's largest indoor agricultural fair and equine event, students can interact with real farmers and animals, investigate where their food comes from, and watch top equine athletes compete – all at Exhibition Place!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Curriculum connected learning activities, workshops, and experiences for Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- Hands-on opportunities with animals.
- Interactive Education Centres in The Farm to Table Discovery Zone.
- Experiences, Lectures, and Field Competitions.
- New and award-winning demonstrations and entertainment, including The Global Pet Food Expo, Caring for the Future, and the Chef's Table Presented by M&S.
- Advanced Milling Demonstration Presented by Dairy Farmers of Ontario.
- OTR research, career and personal development programming on the Growth Hub Stage Presented by RBC Future Launch.
- Accessible by TTC and GO services.
- Accessibility accommodations available.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER YOUR CLASS:
[RegisterYourClass.org](#)

For Curriculum, Content, Activities, Workshops, and FREE Digital Education Library, please visit [yrt.ca/hands-on-learning](#)

CONNECT WITH US:
Sign up for our newsletter to be the first to know about the Royal's education programming, register your class members. Contact us at education@yrt.ca

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

Canada **Ontario** **if** **hubs**

GIVE!
Get Involved, Volunteer in Education!

2024 Fall Session

Join our workshop series and discover how you can make a difference in your child's education by volunteering in schools. Empower yourself to support our school community and enrich your child's learning experience!

You will learn more about:

- The role of a volunteer.
- Transferable skills.
- Equity and inclusive education.
- Self care and well-being.
- Human Rights.
- Employment readiness.
- School information and community resources.

We will help you:

- Expand your network.
- Effectively communicate with school staff.
- Contribute to student learning and parent engagement.
- Gain volunteer experience in schools.
- Build healthy communities.
- Boost Professionalism.

Location: Main Floor, 50 High Tech Road, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 4N7
Dates: September 23 to 27, 2024 (Monday to Friday)
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All parents/guardians/caregivers are welcome to join this free training program! Space is limited, please scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/390W8uc to register now!

QR Code

This free information session is organized by York Region District School Board in partnership with Catholic Community Services of York Region. For more information, please contact:

Osiana Majlesi osiana.majlesi@yrdsb.ca 416-568-2252	Rashida Guo rashida.guo@yrdsb.ca 905-884-3434 #3122	Victoria Chung vchung@ccsr.ca 416-358-2122	Emman Nwan enwan@ccsr.ca 416-312-5173
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CCSR

Tips for UHS Daily Lives

- Locker usage:** please always lock your locker and only use the lock school provided. No personal lock. No sharing the combination to others. No switching the lockers. No overnight food and drinks.
- Survival items:** please bring your own water bottles, cutlery (spoon, fork or chopsticks), lunch and snacks. School do have water fountains, but the students need to bring their own water bottles.
- Personal possessions:** please don't leave things unattended and bring all your belongings with you when you switch classes, especially the electronic devices.



Technology Requests

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. If your child does not already have a personal or Board laptop or chromebook, please complete the [Technology Request Form 2024-2025](#). The link will be posted on the parent bulletin top left corner for the whole school year.



GUIDANCE OFFICE

Guidance Counsellors Student Alphas (by last name)

Guidance Counsellor	Alpha
Ms. Felicia Sukdeo	A - F
Ms. Keyan Wu	G - J
Ms. Rita Riolo	K - Mac
Mr. Shiraz Rafik	Mad – V, X
Mr. Jonathan Tam	W, Y - Z

Semester 1 Timetable ‘Required’ Change Requests

The Guidance department continues to work on resolving incomplete timetables (students in grades 9-11 with less than 4 courses) and will continue to review the ‘required timetable—change requests’ submitted by students via the **Google form**. Only required* changes for semester 1 will be reviewed at this time.

This online form was open on **Thursday, September 5, at 8:30 a.m.** and will close on **Monday, September 9, at 3:00 p.m.** Students with incomplete timetables will be accommodated first and are asked to report to the **library** for the period that is missing from their schedule. Once the timetable is complete, students will be contacted.

Students are expected to follow their assigned timetable and attend all classes as scheduled. If a change is possible, the Guidance department will contact the student via their GAPPS email or call into their scheduled class.

Instructions for Required* Timetable Change: Request to Review

1. Click on the link, <https://bit.ly/timetablereview2024> . (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, the parent/guardian must email the counselor to give permission to make the course change. **Course changes will not be completed unless the signed form or email is received.**
4. Only ONE form can be submitted by each student.

If there is a required change for semester 2, students are asked to please wait until **early October** to schedule a Guidance appointment with their alpha counselor through Teach Assist. **Appointment bookings** will be made visual in **Teach Assist the first week of October**.

The Guidance department thanks you for your patience and understanding during this busy time.

Unionville High School Peer Tutoring Program

<p><i>Do you enjoy helping others?</i> <i>Do you want to earn community service hours?</i></p> <p>BECOME A PEER TUTOR!!</p> <p>We are now accepting applications to become peer tutors! Use your GAPPS email to submit your application here:</p> <p>https://bit.ly/BecomeTutorUHS</p> <p>Please click here for the poster</p>	<p><i>Need some extra help in class?</i> <i>Do you learn better with a buddy?</i></p> <p>REQUEST A PEER TUTOR!!</p> <p>If you feel you could benefit from having a peer tutor, please use your GAPPS email to submit your request here:</p> <p>https://bit.ly/RequestTutorUHS</p> <p>Please click here for the poster</p>
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Click picture
for details



YRDSB Night School 2024

Registration for Night School is open on MyBlueprint.

Night school (semester 1) runs from September 24th 2024 - January 21st 2025

Classes follow the Remote learning delivery model and will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronously).

Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:45 p.m.

You can only ENROLL in ONE Night School Course.

MyBlueprint/My Pathway
registration instructions are here:



General Night School Information
and Course Offerings are here:



Grad Google Classroom

Grade 12 potential grads have been asked to join the Grad Google classroom. Information regarding graduation information, post-secondary programs, scholarships/bursaries and much more will be posted here.

Google Classroom Enrolment Code: [npegu46](#)

Markham Public Library Programs

Get Ready for **University and College Fair!**

Thinking of Applying to University or College?

Join us at the University and College Fair and explore your options! Talk to representatives from various post-secondary schools and discover the programs they offer. Learn about admission requirements, campus life, and much more. Check our [website](#) to see a list of schools attending.

Date: September 21, 2024
Time: 12 - 3 PM
Location: [Milliken Mills Library](#)

Special Guest Speakers:

- Top Ranked US Universities: To Apply or Not to Apply?
- Presented by Imbert from Future Reach Education
- 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. | Sept. 21 | Milliken Mills

- How to Win Scholarships for College or University
- Presented by Chris Grafos from BridgesEDU
- 1:30 - 2:15 p.m. | Sept. 21 | Milliken Mills

These are drop-in sessions with limited seating, so make sure to arrive early.

Don't miss this opportunity to kickstart your academic journey!





YRDSB Expectations for Personal Mobile Devices

We want all UHS students to feel safe, included, and cared for during the school day.

We can do this by connecting with our peers, teachers and school staff.

Let's power down our mobile devices and tune into school!

All mobile devices, including cellphones, smartwatches, and tablets, must be **powered off** or **set to silent mode** during **the school day**, including **recess and lunch**, unless students leave the school during lunch.

If an educator sees you using a mobile device without permission:

- You will be asked to power the device off or set it to silent mode.
- You may also be required to hand in your mobile device to the office for the school day.
- Your parent(s)/guardian(s) may also be notified.



Student Parking Information 🚗 P

To request a student parking pass, students need to email or see Ms. McIntyre (sandra.mcintyre@yrdsb.ca) in the main office by **Friday, September 6th**. Students can then submit their request on the Parking Pass Google Form Parking on **Tuesday September 10th** at **8:00 am**.

Once your form has been completed, submitted and approved by Vice Principal **Mr. Luong**, the \$20 "**Student Parking Permit Deposit – Semester One Only**" will be added to your School Cash online account. It is your responsibility to check School Cash Online for this payment option. There are only 40 student parking spots available and passes are on a first come first served basis.



Once you have paid your fee on **School Cash Online**, please bring your receipt to Mrs. McIntyre in the main office to pick up your red Semester One parking pass. You will need to reapply for a parking pass each semester.

Message from Caretaking

Please help keep UHS clean! Please do not put anything sticky on the floors (tape, gum, adhesive, etc).

Please continue to stack all chairs at the end of the day. Thank you for keeping our space pleasant and ready for the next class to use !



Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentations

Dear Families,

As the new school year is beginning, students will be attending Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentations on **September 23 and 24, 2023**. These presentations are designed to underscore behaviour expectations as we create a caring, safe and inclusive school environment. As families are critical partners, please continue discussions about school safety at home by asking your child what they have learned in the Start-Up Presentation.

Presentation topics include:



- Racism and types of discrimination;
- Bullying;
- Progressive discipline; and
- Standing up for each other, including methods of reporting incidents of racism, discrimination and bullying.

Mental Health

We will stress to students the importance of connection as we return to school. Students are learning about who they can talk to if they need support. In addition, positive mental health is closely tied to each individual's sense of identity and safety. As such, mental health initiatives are aligned with equity and safety in mind, which includes culturally specific supports. YRDSB student mental health services are delivered by Board social work and psychology staff. These services are accessible through the school principal. Mental health resources for families are also available on the Board website.

Inappropriate Behaviour

In the Start-Up Presentation, students are learning about anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination, and bullying. This learning will continue throughout the school year. Instances of anti-Black racism, other forms of racism, discrimination and bullying are not acceptable and are addressed through progressive discipline. In some cases of racism and discrimination, York Regional Police may be involved.

Students will also be reminded about safe school behaviours, including what items must never be brought to school, such as peanut products, vape products/drug paraphernalia, weapons/replica weapons and knives/replica knives.

Reporting Behaviour

Standing up for one another and reporting when something does not feel safe is part of a caring and safe school environment. Students should report incidents that make them or others feel unsafe or uncomfortable, including acts of racism, discrimination and bullying. Students can report incidents by:

- Telling a caring adult;
- Using the YRDSB's "[Report It Button](#)" (Located on our school's website, the online Report It button allows students and families to share information about inappropriate behaviour and incidents of hate or discrimination. Please see [this video](#) for additional information);

Contacting [Kids Help Phone](#) (1-800-668-6868).

Student Discipline

We use a progressive discipline approach for inappropriate behaviour on and off school property. This means we consider various options to determine the most appropriate response to each situation to help students learn from their choices. In some cases, suspension or expulsion may be necessary. The Ontario Education Act and the Board's Caring and Safe Schools Policy (found on the Board's Caring and Safe School Page) outline situations where suspension and expulsion must be considered. These infractions are also outlined in the Guide to the School Year. In addition, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, information will be shared with the student(s) who were harmed and the families of the student(s) who were harmed to the extent that legislation allows.

Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug-Free Environment

The use of tobacco, electronic products (such as vaping, electronic cigarettes and related products) and student possession of alcohol/illegal and restricted drugs, including cannabis, are **prohibited** on **school property or within 20 metres of school boundaries**. This complies with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, enforced locally by York Region Community and Health Services. A progressive form of discipline may apply, including suspension from school and fines (up to \$5,000). In accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act (SFOA), exceptions are made for the traditional use of tobacco that forms part of Indigenous culture and spirituality.

Online Safety and Appropriate Use of Technology

Students are reminded about the Appropriate Use of Technology agreement, including the importance of using respectful language and making positive choices when using electronic communications and social media tools. This agreement is also included in the start-up package that all families receive at the beginning of the year.

Students are reminded that online threats and comments are taken seriously and may have consequences, including potential criminal charges. Where there are concerns for the safety of students, staff, community members or Board property, the school board works with York Regional Police and appropriate actions are taken. The safety and well-being of students remain our top priority.

For More Information

For more details on these items, please read the Guide to the School Year or visit the Caring and Safe Schools section on the YRDSB website for more information and to access family resources to continue these conversations at home. Thank you for helping us create a caring, safe, and inclusive school community.

A Note from Student Services (Special Education) to Students & Families

We look forward to welcoming back all of our students this fall!

Students who are enrolled in Learning Strategies courses (GLE) your child's teacher for that course is their Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) for this school year.

If your child is not taking Learning Strategies, their SERT will be in contact shortly. Students are always welcome to drop by the Resource Room (216) or our office (218) to check in and receive support.

You can expect your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) for this year to be sent home mid October, in the meantime teachers will follow last year's IEP. A IEP consultation form should be coming home shortly as your contributions are important to the creation of the IEP.

If your child received a new diagnosis or completed an assessment over the summer please reach out to Melissa Caufield or Beckey Serwaa so we may create or add to your child's IEP.

Community Class families should be hearing from their child's teachers regarding bussing and class information. Your child's teacher is also their SERT for this school year. Parents are reminded to refer to the Late Bus Report on the Student Transportation Services website at www.schoolbuscity.com prior to leaving for the bus stop in the mornings and afternoons and understand the need to make alternative arrangements for their child/children if the school bus is late or canceled.

Melissa Caufield
Student Services Department Head
(melissa.caufield@yrdsb.ca)

Beckey Serwaa
Student Services Assistant Head
(beckey.serwaa@yrdsb.ca)

SUPPORT
★ ★
SUPPORT

Library Information

Welcome to the new school year!

Many ebooks and audiobooks are available to students through Sora. Students sign in using 0 followed by their student number.

The Globe and Mail is available to all students.

If they have not already done so, students are invited to join the Library's Google Classroom using code dus2klz. Passwords for our subscription services are stored there.

Databases and other online resources can be found at our website page. This is also where students can search the library's collection for a book or request something new for the Library.

Students are welcome to sign out books anytime.

We look forward to supporting everyone this year!

Celeste Lawton (she/her)
Library Department Head



Unionville High School Daily Schedule



SCHEDULE	START	END
Homeroom (5 min)	8:25 am	8:30 am
Period 1 (75 min)	8:30 am	9:45 am
Travel Time	9:45 am	9:50 am
Period 2 (75 min)	9:50 am	11:05 am
Travel Time	11:05 am	11:10 am
Period 3 (75 min)	11:10 am	12:25 pm
Travel Time	12:25 pm	12:30 pm
Period 4 (75 min)	12:30 pm	1:45 pm
Travel Time	1:45 pm	1:50 pm
Period 5 (75 min)	1:50 pm	3:05 pm

New Traffic Calming Measures for Markham Civic Centre and Flato Markham Theatre Sept. 3 to Oct. 4

Effective **September 3 to October 4, 2024** between the hours of **8:00 to 9:00 AM** and **2:30 to 3:30 PM** Monday to Friday only, traffic control measures will be in place at the Markham Civic Centre (101 Town Centre Blvd). This will impact Unionville High School-related vehicular traffic, and anyone visiting the Markham Civic Centre and Flato Markham Theatre during these times.

School-related traffic: all vehicles **must access** the school parking lot and drop-off area from **Wallis Way**.

Visitors and staff to Markham Civic Centre and Flato Markham Theatre: recommended that all vehicles enter the parking lot entrance at Cox Boulevard and Town Centre Boulevard.

These new traffic control measures are necessary to manage efficient flow of traffic and to prioritize everyone’s safety.

Thank you in advance for your patience and please ensure you plan your travel time ahead.

If you have any questions, please email CustomerService@markham.ca



Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
September 27	Professional Development Day (No classes)
October 14	Thanksgiving (No classes)
October 17	Photo Retake Day
October 21	Professional Development Day (No classes)