

Unionville High School Weekly Parent Bulletin

September 15, 2023 201 Town Centre Blvd. Markham, ON 905-479-2787 Reception 431/Attendance 230/Guidance 458

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Principal Susie Nunes Vice-Principal (Shek - Z) Patrick Belmonte

Vice-Principal (A-J) Dawn Imada-Chan

Vice-Principal (K-Shas) Raymond Luong

Superintendent Kien Nam Luu

Trustee Ron Lynn

TECH REQUEST FORM – 2023-2024

CLUBS

GUIDANCE UPDATES

Character Matters Trait of the Month: Respect

"It's not so much the journey that's important; as is the way that we treat those we encounter and those around us, along the way." —Jeremy Aldana

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18	Photo Day - grades 9 & 10 School Council Meeting - UHS Library - 7 pm	
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19	Photo Day - grades 11 & 12	
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22	PA Day - no school	

Timetable Concerns

The Guidance department continues to address student timetable concerns. Students with incomplete timetables continue to be a priority.

If you have a timetable for Semester 2, please wait until October to make a Guidance appointment with your alpha counsellor. Appointment bookings will open in early October. Students can schedule appointments through TeachAssist.

Thank you in advance for your patience during this busy time.

Photo Day

This is a reminder Picture Day at Unionville High is next Monday September 18 and Tuesday September 19. Please see attached flyer.

Clubs

September means clubs are starting up! Please check the <u>Clubs</u> link at the top of the Bulletin for an updated list of clubs, along with their meeting times and locations. This same Google form can be used If you would like to run your club again or start a new club. Please ask your teacher advisor to submit.

Staff supervisors will need to ensure that all members of a club abide by the Information Technology Acceptable Use Agreement. Please review this agreement here. Families are required to submit start-up permissions sent to them by the Board before students participate in clubs and councils.

Peer Tutoring

The Peer Tutoring program is starting up again! If you would like to be a tutor or have a tutor help you, please see the attached <u>flyer</u>.

School Council

Our first School Council Meeting is **Monday, September 18th at 7:00pm**. Location: Unionville HS – Library

An agenda will be shared with all families prior to the School Council Meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone.



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 2023-2024.



School Start Up Forms

At the start of each school year, schools share with families a package of information about the school. Please ensure you review this important information. Families are also encouraged to review the online <u>Guide to the School Year</u>.

We also ask families to complete some important forms. These forms are now available online. Please complete and submit these online School Start-Up Forms through your child's YRDSB Google account. Translations are available.

 You can access your child's YRDSB Google account via a web browser. For best results, use a computer rather than a mobile phone.

• The username is your child's YRDSB Student Number. Your child will receive their login information from the school at the start of the year. If you or your child do not know the password to log in to their Google account, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.

• Frequently asked questions and additional information on <u>how to complete the forms</u> are available on the Board website under <u>Family Resources</u> (click on the "Need Help" link for Family Start-Up Forms.

It is important that these forms are completed as soon as possible at the start of the school year. There are both mandatory and optional forms. The forms are to be completed for all students. Your child's school will access the information. Please complete a separate form for each child attending our schools. Secondary school students will also be asked to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information on forms sent to their student GAPPS account.

If you prefer to complete the forms on paper or have questions about the information in the forms, please contact your school office.

Thank you.

School Start-Up Forms (Message to Secondary Students)

Each year, we ask secondary school students to review important school and Board policies and to indicate that they have reviewed this information. Students are asked to <u>complete this form</u> online. If you have any questions about the information in the form, please speak with your teacher, principal or vice-principal.

It is important that all students complete and submit these forms as soon as possible at the start of the school year. Thank you.

Orange Shirt Day

Every year on **September 30**, Canadians observe <u>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day</u>. It is a day to educate and promote awareness of residential schools and their lasting legacies of trauma, suffering and genocide of Indigenous Peoples.

If you can, please wear an orange shirt on Friday, September 29.

Powley Day

On **September 19, 2023**, Métis Peoples from all over Canada will celebrate Powley Day. Powley Day is a day of political and cultural significance for Métis communities throughout Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Please see this memo for Powley Day resources.

Rowan's Law Day - Concussion Awareness

On **September 27th**, staff and students of YRDSB will recognize Rowan's Law Day and the serious effect concussions can have on student learning, achievement and well-being.

Tune In YRDSB Podcast

Hear Indigenous student trustees share their experiences and perspectives on Indigenous education in York Region on the latest episode of <u>Tune In YRDSB</u>.

Safety Week

The York Region School Board is committed to ensuring the safety of students, staff, building occupants and visitors in the event of an emergency situation. As such, during Safety Week (**September 25 to 29, 2023**) and throughout the school year, schools in our Board practise various safety drills including Fire Drills, Lockdown Drills, Hold and Secure Drills and the newly established Bomb Threat Drill. It is critical that all members of our school community become familiar with emergency emergency protocols as they are designed to keep all of us safe at school. Please refer to <u>Board Policy #669.0</u> for more information about Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management.

Practising drills may create some anxiety for some students. If you are concerned about how these situations might impact the mental health and well-being of your child, please contact school administrators, as we have school mental health professionals available to support your child.

General Supports for Emotional Well-Being:

- 310-COPE: 905-310-COPE (2673) or 1-855-310-COPE (2673) available 24/7
- KidsHelpPhone: 1-800-668-6868, text 686868 available 24/7, https://kidshelpphone.ca/
- Mental Health Helpline: 1-866-531-2600 available 24/7
- York Hills Help Phone Line: 905-503-9561 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. for children and youth (0-18 years) and their parents, caregivers or adult supporters. Visit www.yorkhills.ca for more information
- Trans Lifeline: https://translifeline.org/
- Black Youth Helpline: https://blackyouth.ca/
- Naseeha Helpline: https://naseeha.org/
- 2SLGBTQ+ Youthline: https://www.youthline.ca

Invitation to York Region Presidents' Council September General Assembly

Dear YRDSB Secondary Student,

On behalf of the York Region Presidents' Council (YRPC), the YRDSB's official student senate, we are excited to invite you to our first General Assembly (GA) of the 2023–2024 school year. At our GA, you can provide feedback on important topics that impact you to the board, meet your YRPC executive cabinet, and network with fellow student leaders. All YRDSB high school students – not just student council members, are welcome and encouraged to join us.

At our General Assembly in September, you will have an opportunity to meet your newly elected YRPC executive team for the 2023–2024 school year and meet peers from all across the board in varying grades to exchange advice and guidance with. Those in grade 12 will be able to speak with the YRPC advisors for advice and mentorship.

MEETING DETAILS

Location: Hodan Nalayeh Secondary School (1401 Clark Ave W, Thornhill, ON L4J 7R4) or Zoom

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

If you cannot attend in person, you may join us virtually. Zoom meeting details will be emailed to you on Tuesday.

You can access the registration form <u>here</u>. Please register by 6:00 pm on **Monday, September 18** to confirm your attendance.

Sincerely, YRPC Executive Cabinet

Crime Stoppers Symposium

Crime Stoppers of York Region in collaboration with the York Catholic District School Board and York Region District School Board are excited to offer the 15th Annual Crime Stoppers Symposium for secondary students on **Thursday, February 29, 2024**.

The theme for this year's event is EMPOWERING EQUITY: Fostering Safe Relationships.

Law enforcement and industry experts will deliver inspirational and thought-provoking messaging to students on the dangers of sexploitation and other current topics at the New Roads Performing Arts Center.

Your students will receive complimentary bus transportation, catered lunch, and swag.

Students also can win 1 of 4 CRIME STOPPERS cash reward prizes by entering this years' viral video/image contest. The top video entry will be awarded \$500, and the top 3 image entries win \$350 live on stage during the symposium.

Students can enter into the annual viral video/image post contest for a chance to win one of four cash prizes. Individual or group/class entries are welcomed.

This year's contest is for students to create a viral video/reel or image post that not only brings awareness to sexploitation, and how people can use CRIME STOPPERS to report it.

The top video entry will be awarded \$500, and the top 3 image entries win \$350 live on stage during the symposium.

CLICK ON THIS LINK FOR FULL DETAILS and access LOGOS

New Contact Information?

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH US Have you changed your address, phone number or email? Please notify us if your contact information has changed:

School Phone: 905 479 2787

School Email: <u>unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca</u>

This will ensure that you receive important communications from us and that we can contact you in case of an emergency. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Library Information

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

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Friday. Find these stories about Rosh Hashanah on <u>Sora</u>.

Tashlich at Turtle Rock by Susan Schnur and Anna Schnur-Fishman Sammy Spider's First Rosh Hashanah by Sylvia A. Rouss It's Shofar Time! By Latifa Berry Kropf A Moon for Moe and Mo by Jane Breskin Zalben





Invitation from the Markham Museum

Standing in the Doorway: Lived Histories & Experiences of the Chinese Community is an exhibit opening September 27th. UHS Visual Arts student created the design elements within the signage panels while our talented Ms. Wong acted as lead graphic designer on the project.

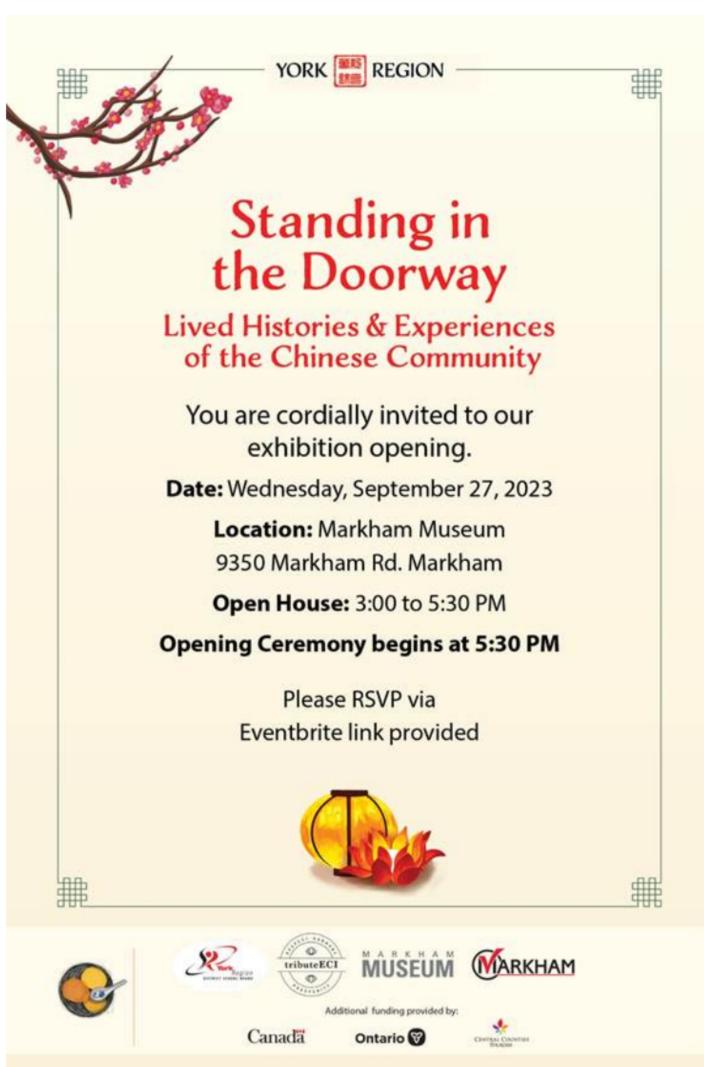
AU Animal Kingdom Murals

Grade Twelve students from Arts Unionville collaborated with Kingdom Development on the design of a vinyl-wrapped mural adorning the construction site's 700 foot hoarding along Hwy 7. This vibrant mural aims to beautify and animate the streetscape while Kingdom's newest development, Highmount, is under construction.

The mural captures the essence of Markham's diverse population and personalities through forty whimsical and lively original character designs. Markham is renowned for its cultural diversity, and the students faced the challenge of representing its population while simultaneously recognizing the paramount importance of inclusion. They focused on portraying different ages, interests, positive interactions, and daily activities within our beautiful community of Markham. The chosen approach involves anthropomorphic animal character designs, adding a touch of creativity and imagination to the artwork.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Kingdom Development for providing space for student voices and involving our young artists in this community-based project. Special acknowledgement goes to Councilor Reid McAlpine for his encouragement and support in fostering collaboration between these two groups.

The mural will be fully installed by the end of September.





AU Animal Kingdom Murals, continued



Staff Shout Out: Shane Clodd

Last Friday, the Head of Visual Arts, Shane Clodd, and Anishinaabe artist, Donald Chrétien were celebrated as their new sculpture was unveiled at the <u>Sharon Temple National Historic Site</u> in East Gwillimbury. The Sharon Temple Museum Society commissioned Shane and Don to create a sculpture from one of the Temple's two hundred year old maples that fell several years ago and required a unique form of preservation.

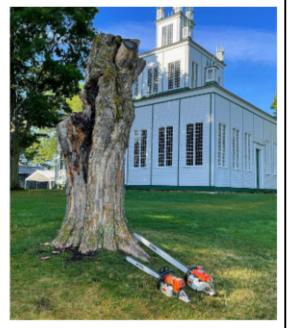
The installation, a centrepiece for the Hope & Truth Reflection Garden, was created in consultation with the Chippewas of Georgina Island. The Temple organization has a long history of collaboration with the Georgina Island community dating to the early 20th century. The unveiling was the culmination of a nearly two-year long project that represents a commitment to support and to encourage equitable partnerships amongst settlers and Indigenous people. After spending time learning the history of the museum and its historical significance, Shane shared how he "was honoured to be part of its history and to have been invited by Don to partner with him on this art adventure."

If you've never been to the Sharon Temple National Historic site, it is well worth a visit, particularly in the Autumn when the sugar maples look spectacular.

See Don and Shane interviewed as their work was showcased by a number of media outlets including CTV.



The Temple during the annual Illumination festival



Preparing the tree for sculpting



The unveiling

Student Parking Information

All student parking is coordinated by the office. Any unauthorized parked vehicle will be tagged and/or towed. All vehicles must have the Unionville HS parking tag clearly visible on the rear view mirror. The Town of Markham has indicated that all of their parking spaces have been reserved for their staff and visitors, therefore, no student parking is allowed at the Civic Centre or Markham Theatre. To apply for a parking pass, please send an email to: sandra.mcintyre@yrdsb.ca. The student must show his or her UHS ID card. Parking passes are valid for one semester only.

Secondary International Languages Credit Program

Secondary credit courses take place online once per week for 3.7 hours. Courses run from September to June for the full program year, and take place on Wednesday evenings (5:45 PM to 9:25 PM) or Saturday mornings (8:45 AM to 12:25 PM). Registration is now open on My Pathway Planner until the third class. For more updates and information about the secondary credit program, visit the ILIL Secondary webpage.

Upcoming PA Day

Friday, September 22 is a PA day for secondary students. There will be no school that day. For an agenda of staff activities that day, please click <u>here</u>.

Faith Accomodations - Semester 1

Please be advised of our regular daily prayer room during semester 1: Central Prayer Room Location: Room 346 during periods 3, 4 & 5.

Information about a prayer space and religious accommodations has been shared in our start-up package, which has been shared electronically. The start-up package contains a "Religious Accommodations Form." Families who did not receive/submit the electronic package/form can receive a hard copy in the main office.

If your student will be using the prayer room, please come to the main office and we can share more information with them.

UHS Yearbook

Hi Wolves! The 2023-24 Yearbook is now available for pre-order. Take advantage of our Back-to-School Special and save \$10 until **September 30th**. Order your Yearbook on School Cash Online now before the price goes up! https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Home/SignIn



Grade 9 Camp Day

Grade 9 Camp Day: As part of their transition to high school, Grade 9 Students will have the opportunity to participate in our annual Camp Day on **Tuesday, September 26**. It will be a day of teambuilding and leadership activities and a great way for your child to get to know their peers. This year the day will be held at Camp Green Acres and the cost is \$30. Please submit your child's payment to <u>School Cash Online</u>.

Aquatic Leadership

The Aquatic Leadership Program is offered in partnership between the York Region District School Board, Continuing Education, the Town of Aurora, and the Cities of Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan. The program uses a blended learning format consisting of pool instruction, face-to-face instruction and on-line learning to deliver Ministry of Education credits and Swim, Lifeguarding and Instructor Certifications. For more information, please click https://example.com/hereigness-school-learning-normalism/.



Cafeteria Improvements

We are very excited to share that we have added some new furniture to our cafeteria! We now have a large couch that is equipped with a sitting and working area. We are still awaiting additional smaller table settings that will be added once received.

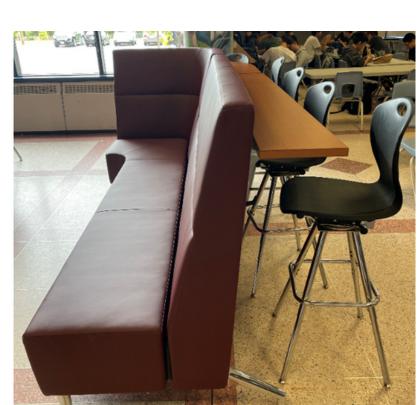
We want to thank the students and staff who were instrumental in creating the floor plan and assisting with furniture selections prior to purchasing.

In order to ensure that the furniture remains in great condition for all students to enjoy, over many years, we appreciate your help as parents/guardians in communicating and reminding students of the following:

- Refrain from activities that may cause damage
- Feet should remain on the floor when using the furniture (it is for sitting on)
- Keep the area clean and place all garbage in the receptacles provided
- Report any concerns as soon as they arise so that they may be addressed quickly

Thank you for your assistance in creating a clean and comfortable common space for everyone.







Cafeteria Update

We anticipate cafeteria services will be up and running by the end of September. A more precise schedule will be provided over the next few weeks.

School Wi-Fi Connection

You may have trouble connecting to the school WI-FI (YRSDB-S). This is because every few years, we need to renew the security certificate. In order to connect, you will need to forget the network and log in using your username and password.

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 in your classrooms at the end of the day.

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. 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.

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.

Caring and Safe Schools Start-Up Presentations, continued

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 "<u>Report It Button</u>" (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 <u>this</u> video for additional information);
- Contacting <u>Kids Help Phone</u> (1-800-668-6868).

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.

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 <u>vaping, electronic cigarettes</u> 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 <u>Caring and Safe Schools</u> 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.

Administration Student Alphas

Administration	Alpha	
Ms. Imada-Chan	A-J	
Mr. Luong	K-Shas	
Mr. Belmonte	Shek - Z	

Upcoming Events DATE EVENT School Photo Day (Gr. 9 & 10) **September 18** School Council Meeting (7:00pm) September 19 School Photo Day (Gr. 11 & 12) September 22 Professional Development Day (No classes) **September 26** Camp Day (Gr. 9) October 9 Thanksgiving (No classes) October 18 Fall Fest October 20 Professional Development Day (No classes) Photo Retake Day October 23

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 - Lunch for most Grade 9s)	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

Invitation to Pow Wow 2023 Event

Please see the information below for the upcoming Georgian Island Pow Wow hosted at Sutton District High School. Volunteer Sign UP Sheet.docx
Volunteer Opportunities new.docx
Kindly contact Trustee Hoeg with any questions lauri.hoeg@georginaisland.com.

<u>Equity, Family & Student Support Form</u> (Employee) <u>Equity, Family & Student Support Form</u> (Parent/Guardian)





Indigenous Languages and International Languages (ILIL) Program

The York Region District School Board offers language learning to elementary students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 and language credit courses to secondary students in Grades 9 to 12.

Elementary Language Classes

Elementary classes are extra-curricular language learning opportunities available in-person or remotely. Classes are 2.5 hours and take place once per week between Tuesday to Friday evenings (6:00 PM to 8:30 PM) or Saturday mornings (9:30 AM to 12:00 PM).

Register by **Monday, September 11, 2023** to attend the full language program in its entirety.

For more information about the elementary program, visit the ILIL Elementary webpage or scan the QR code:



Secondary Credit Program

Secondary credit courses take place online once per week for 3.7 hours. Courses run from September to June for the full program year, and take place on Wednesday evenings (5:45 PM to 9:25 PM) or Saturday mornings (8:45 AM to 12:25 PM).

Registration is now open until the third class.

For more updates and information about the secondary credit program, visit the ILIL Secondary webpage or scan the QR code:



Please Note:

- Courses offered are subject to enrolment and teacher availability.
- Stacked classes may be created based on registration numbers.
- Not all languages are offered at the elementary and secondary levels.
- Additional fees are required for international fee-paying students.

Languages Offered:

Arabic

Cantonese

Dari

Farsi

Filipino

German

Greek

Gujarati

Hebrew

Hindi

Italian

Japanese

Korean

Macedonian

Mandarin (Simplified)

Mandarin (Traditional)

Punjabi

Ojibwe

Russian

Sinhala

Spanish

Tamil

Turkish

Ukrainian

Urdu

Vietnamese

Yoruba