



Unionville High School Weekly Parent Bulletin

September 1, 2023

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

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

GUIDANCE UPDATES

Character Matters Trait of the Month: Respect

“When you put respect out in the world, you'll find that it returns to you.” - Anonymous

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4	Labour Day (No Classes)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5	Grade 9 Day
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6	First Day of Classes for Grades 10 - 12



Welcoming Our New Vice-Principals!

We would like to extend a big welcome our two new Vice-Principals, Ms.Imada Chan and Mr. Luong who will be joining the UHS family.

Administration Student Alphas

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

Trustee Newsletter Greeting

Message from Our Trustee
September 2023

Dear families,

It is my pleasure to welcome all new and returning families to school for the 2023-2024 school year. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and wish you a positive start to the new school year. I know it can be a time of transition for many, and am grateful for the dedication and professionalism of our school staff for all that they do to support students as they start the new school year, and create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment in our schools.

The education of your children is a partnership, and we recognize that you are our most important partner when it comes to your child's education. As a family member, there are many ways you can engage in your child's learning, from speaking with your child about school and connecting with school staff to volunteering or becoming involved with the school council. You know your child best and we place great value on the relationship we have with families. I look forward to connecting with you throughout the school year.

As your school trustee, it is my role to advocate for quality public education in York Region, and to ensure that our students remain at the centre of all of our decision making. The Board of Trustees has many responsibilities, including making policy and budget decisions, and communicating with the public. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, and I will continue to keep you updated throughout the year on what is happening in the board. You can also visit our newsroom, listen to our podcast and connect with us on social media to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the board.

This year, we are pleased to welcome our new Director of Education Bill Cober, who took on the role on August 1 this year. He brings nearly 30 years of experience in public education in York Region, a commitment to student achievement and well-being, and a strategic and collaborative approach.

Later in the year, we will be undertaking a comprehensive strategic plan review. One of our roles as a board is to set the Multi-Year Strategic Plan that establishes our priorities and guides our direction as a school board. We will be reviewing that plan this year, and engaging with communities is a priority for us. Your input will be important and I look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the future.

I wish you all a great start to the school year and a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Ron Lynn
Trustee, Markham Wards 2 and 6

Online Start-Up Forms

Forms will be sent centrally to all families at all schools. Translations are available. The Board will send a central email to all families with a link to a Google Form to complete the start-up forms.

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.

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.

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 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 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.

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).

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 [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.

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
September 18	School Photo Day (Gr. 9 & 10) School Council Meeting (7:00)
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)
October 23	Photo Retake Day

Grade 9 Day

Our Welcome Day for Grade 9 students takes place on **Tuesday, September 5, 2023**. An information session will be held for parents/guardians to introduce our key staff members, share what high school life is like, and to answer any questions. Students will participate in an assembly, tour and welcome activities as well as spend time in each of their classes. Student Ambassadors will be on hand to help everyone find their classes.

Welcome Day Schedule:

8:00 - 8:30	Welcome Students (Large Gym)
8:30 - 9:15	Parents' Mandarin/Cantonese Assembly in Cafeteria
8:45 - 9:30	Grade 9 Student Assembly in Large Gym
9:00 - 9:45	Parents' English Assembly in Library
9:35 - 10:05	Period 1 class
10:10 - 11:25	School Tour with Student Ambassadors
11:30 - 12:00	Period 2 class
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:05 - 1:35	Period 4 class
1:40 - 2:10	Period 5 class
2:15 - 2:35	Photo on Warden Field
2:40 - 3:05	Closing Activities in Large Gym

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

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