



Unionville High School

Grade 9 Newsletter

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905-479-2787

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Website: <http://unionville.hs.yrdsb.ca/>

Welcome to Unionville High School

The administration, teaching staff, support staff, and students of Unionville High School would like to take this opportunity to welcome you into our school community. Grade 9 is an exciting new step in your academic career. We believe that our positive and inviting atmosphere leads to academic success at Unionville High School. <http://unionville.hs.yrdsb.ca/>

We are proud of our school's scholarly, safe and caring environment. The staff and administration are committed to ensuring that Unionville High School will be a memorable phase of your life. Ms. Weaver, our school principal, and the other members of the administration have an open-door policy for students who have suggestions or concerns and we urge you to share these with us. We will work together so that your high school years will be enjoyable and successful.

Grade 9 Welcome Day

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Arrival time is 8:15 a.m.

Grade 9 Welcome Day takes place for all Grade 9 students on **Tuesday, September 6th**. All parents and/or guardians are invited to join us for the first part of the school day. An information session will be held for parents/guardians to share important highlights about UHS and to respond to questions.

Grade 9 students will spend the day attending a welcome assembly, meeting their classroom teachers and classmates, locating their locker, and engaging in activities to explore the school facility. UHS student ambassadors will be available to assist and support all new students.

Grade 9 Camp Day

Friday, October 7, 2016

All grade 9 students participate in this special camp day to promote inclusivity and well-being as students transition to high school. Grade 9 Camp Day is devoted to fostering school spirit and nurturing lasting friendships. Students participate in a variety of team building activities that help to build self-esteem and leadership.

1	Student Engagement Fee <i>Supports a wide variety of school activities during the year including Student Council Activities, Theme Days, School Clubs, Dances, Gr. 9 Welcome Day, Oktoberfest, Special Assemblies, May-fair, Motivational Speakers, Year, Athletic Team Transportation, Music Competitions, and more.</i>	\$40.00
2	School Yearbook	\$46.00
3	Grade 9 Camp Day	\$25.00
4	Phys Ed Uniform (2 T-shirts & 1 shorts)	\$35.00
5	Additional T-shirt	\$10.00
6	Additional pair of shorts	\$14.00



YRDSB Mission Statement: To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

Student Achievement Definition at UHS



Student achievement is personal, intellectual and social growth with perseverance through all challenges.

Parking

Parents please note: We have made special arrangements for parking in the Markham Theatre lot on September 6. Parking at Unionville High School is reserved and unauthorized vehicles will be ticketed by the Town of Markham. If you are visiting the school at other times, please only use the visitor spaces in the UHS lot and be sure to check in at the main office for a parking pass.

Unionville Staff

Welcome Procedures Grade 9 Students

Parents - For Safety Reasons

Parents are asked to drop off or pick up students at the front entrance (upper level) of the school. Please obey the signs and be mindful of pedestrians. Safety is our first concern! The back entrance is used only for school buses, delivery and service vehicles, and UHS and Markham Theatre staff. There is **NO** parking at Markham Theatre. The school parking lot has reserved, assigned staff parking. We request that all visitors, parents or guardians park in designated visitor parking and register in the main office.

The parking lot and drop off areas can become quite congested during the pre-school and after school hours. Please leave sufficient time to allow your child to arrive at school so that he or she can be on time for Period One. If your child lives within walking distance of the school, we encourage him or her to walk for personal well-being, health and fitness.

Student Absences

Parents are asked to call the attendance office, (905) 479-2787 ext. 230, on each morning of their child's absence. Failing that, please send a note with your child when he or she returns to school. Your child should present the note at the attendance office to receive an admit slip for his/her classes.

Allergies

Some U.H.S. students have severe allergies to peanuts and/or peanut products. We ask that you refrain from bringing such products into the building. **Parents or guardians are asked to notify the school administration if their son or daughter has any medical condition or carries medication (i.e. inhaler, Epipen, etc.)**

Cell Phones & Personal Electronic Devices

Full engagement and participation in all classroom activities is crucial to student success. To support this, **it is an expectation that all personal electronic devices (mp3 players, iPod's, cell phones, etc.) are turned off during instructional time.** Students take responsibility for any devices they choose to bring to school. Devices should NOT be left in the change room, on desks/tables and should remain with a student or be locked in their locker at all times if they are brought to school. **The school is not be responsible for lost or stolen devices.**

Dress Code

Unionville High School students are expected to dress appropriately for school to ensure a focus on learning. Clothing that demonstrates respect for self and others is expected at all times. Appropriate dress is in effect while at school, on field trips, and during any other school-related activities or events. To this effect, tops with inappropriate text or graphics, tops with thin spaghetti straps, low-cut, backless or halter style tops, and extremely low or revealing pants are not permitted. In addition, bare midriffs are not allowed. All tops must meet the bottom clothing. Shorts should be an appropriate length. Students who do not dress respectably will be asked to meet with a school administrator and may need to return home to change into acceptable school clothing.

Lockers

Students who are new to Unionville High School will be assigned a locker and a Dudley lock for the duration of time they attend UHS. The locker and lock are school property. The locker must be emptied each year prior to exams and the assigned lock must remain on the locker at all times. Students will be charged to replace the assigned lock if it does not remain on the locker.

Email Bulletins

Unionville High School sends out a weekly e-mail bulletin to parents and guardians highlighting the events and activities. If you are not receiving this bulletin please update your e-mail address in the main office.

EQAO

All students in Grade 9 applied and academic mathematics courses will be participating in the provincial Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics. The tests will take place during your child's regular Grade 9 Mathematics class towards the end of either semester 1 or 2. Results of this test will comprise 5% of students' final mark in Grade 9 Mathematics. Please ensure that your child has no appointments on those dates as attendance is mandatory.

This assessment, administered by Ontario's Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), measures each student's achievement against the expectations of *The Ontario Curriculum*. The results show how each student performed in relation to the provincial standard. EQAO results are an additional tool to help students, parents and schools evaluate student progress. They provide valuable information that supports strategies for improving the quality of public education in Ontario. Unionville High School has consistently achieved results well above both board and provincial scores.

Further information will be forwarded to you closer to the test dates.

UNIONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE

School begins at 8:30 a.m. Please encourage your child/children to arrive by 8:15 a.m. so they can go to their lockers and get organized for the day.

Period 1	Opening Exercises/Announcements/ Homeroom 8:30 – 9:50
Period 2	9:54 – 11:09
Period 3	11:13 – 12:28
Period 4	12:32 – 1:47
Period 5	1:51 – 3:06

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Guidance Services:

All grade 9 timetables have been checked for balancing of courses. Guidance counsellors will be available on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 should you have any questions or concerns. Please note that courses are full and changing course selections at this time is not possible.

Timetable changes will be made for exceptional reasons only and solely by appointment. See a Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible, before school starts, if you:

- ⇒ have a blank space on your timetable;
- ⇒ are missing compulsory courses;
- ⇒ have too many compulsory courses in one semester.

Office Hours:

The office is open Monday to Thursday throughout the summer. Normal office hours will resume on Monday, August 29, 2016. Please phone before coming to the Main Office as there may be periodic closures.

Textbooks:

Teachers will distribute textbooks during the first few weeks of each semester. Students are responsible for keeping them in good condition and returning them at the end of the semester. Replacement costs for lost or damaged textbooks are the responsibility of the student.

Procedures and Policies

Detailed information about behavioural and course expectations, student responsibilities and various school procedures is provided on our website. Copies of these important pages will be provided for students to review. Parents and students will be required to sign-off that you have reviewed the school policies and procedures at the start of the school year.

Tips to Prepare for Secondary School

Now that your child has graduated from elementary school, an exciting new experience awaits him or her at UHS. Although they are now older, the passage from elementary school and preparation for the next level will still come with some anxieties. For parents who are preparing for their first experience with secondary school, there may be many questions and concerns.

- Attend the parent/guardian information session during Grade 9 Welcome Day on September 6, 2016. The parent session will begin at approximately 9:00 a.m. UHS staff will be available to answer any questions you may have.
- Consider attending events at the school such as School Council, sporting events, music concerts, visual arts nights, dance or theatre productions. This will provide you with an opportunity to get to know the school, its routines and extra curricular offerings. It's also a great way to meet other parents, the staff, and the principal of the school.
- Talk about any anxieties your teen may have before the school year begins. Reiterate how, as with all new situations, high school will take some getting used to, but will provide many new and exciting experiences for him or her. Discuss choices and consequences as they relate to new friends.
- Discuss expectations for homework, assignments and tests, and how each of these will be more demanding at the secondary level. Consider all the extra-curricular community events your teen is currently involved in to determine what, if anything, may have to be dropped or scaled back in order to meet the time demands of school.
- Make sure that there is a good workspace available for your teen. She or he will likely need additional supplies this year—have them ready before the school year begins. School projects and assignments may require the use of computers and/or Internet access. The school library provides computers for student use, and printing is also available.
- Review the school's start-up package that you will receive in September. There are many opportunities available in high school to help your teen become an active and involved member of the student body and UHS community.
- Discuss lunch plans, particularly if your son or daughter will be eating in a cafeteria for the first time. Discuss where you expect your child to eat their lunch and where to spend their free time after lunch, as students in secondary school are given more freedom to leave school property. Reiterate the importance of healthy eating and how it affects learning. Talk about the vending machines that will be available at the new school and how to make healthy selections.
- If your teen will be travelling to school by public transit, ensure that he or she is familiar with the route. Have an emergency contact available in case there is a problem during the first weeks.
- Before school begins, start a night time routine that will allow your teen to get up on time. Most teens stay up late and sleep in late. Remind the student that getting to school on time will require getting up earlier than he or she may be used to. Even teens need 8-12 hours of sleep each night to perform well in school.
- Set clear expectations about attendance and the consequences of skipping classes. Students need to understand that truancy will not be tolerated by the school, and may result in missed lessons and lost marks. UHS requires a call from parents in advance if a student will be away, or a follow-up note on the student's return. Make it clear to your teen that you will be attending all Information and Parents' Nights and that you will maintain an open dialogue with teachers. Please call teachers when you have questions or concerns about your child's academic progress.
- As a parent, get involved in the School Council and other parent-related events. This will provide great opportunities to become an active and informed part of your child's school. The date of the first School Council meeting will be announced in early September.

Hello from the U.H.S. Library



When you come to U.H.S. in September, drop by the library to say hello!

Did you know?

- All you need to sign out resources is your **student card**
- Books may be signed out for **three weeks**
- You can **renew** your books--just bring them to the front desk to renew
⇒ Check out **our website!** Go to the Unionville High School website; click on the library tab.

We have a large selection of fiction so it should be easy to find something that appeals to you—but until we meet in September, here are some suggestions:

- Your local public library is a great place to start. There are suggestions on their website: look at the database **Novelist** to see recommendations—or go browse the shelves at the library.
- There are many sites dedicated to offering reading suggestions. A few are: **Goodreads**, **Amazon.ca**, **Indigo.ca**, **Teenreads** or **Reading Rants**. The last two sites provide an excellent archive of recommended reads for teens.

Here are just a few of the authors and titles that have been really popular with grade nines at U.H.S. this year:

Our grade nines continue to love Canadian author Don Aker's *The First Stone* and the sequel *The Fifth Rule* –finally some resolution with Reef and Leeza! Now Aker has a brand new book out called *Delusion Road* which we predict will be a new favourite. There is probably no one who captures the lives of teenage girls better than Sarah Dessen and her newest book, *Saint Anything*, doesn't disappoint. *Phoenix Island*, by John Dixon, has also been very popular; it's a real page turner and many of us are eagerly awaiting the sequel. Laure Halse Anderson's newest, *The Impossible Knife of Memory* is a beautiful father-daughter story that examines the effect of PTSD on a family. Finally, *There will be Lies* by Nick Lake and *We were Liars* by e. Lockhart grabbed our attention –who is lying? Who is telling the truth? These two kept us guessing!

Happy reading and see you in September!





Community Involvement Hours

As part of secondary school diploma requirements, students must complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement in order to graduate from secondary school.

Students may now complete these hours beginning in the summer immediately following their Grade 8 year.

The purpose of the community involvement requirement is to encourage students to develop an understanding of civic responsibility and the role they can play in supporting and strengthening their communities. Community involvement increases awareness of community needs and shows students how they can make a positive difference. Helping others enhances self-image and fosters a greater sense of belonging.

The summer is a great time for parents/guardians to encourage students to seize this opportunity to serve and to develop those lasting ties within their communities.

Before selecting an activity, students should review the lists of eligible and the ineligible activities. Questions may be directed to your school principal.

When choosing an activity, students may wish to consider their personal interests and possible career paths, as well as the needs of the community. There are many local organizations which will help find volunteer placements. Students may want to contact one or more of the following:

- charitable organizations;
- community agencies;
- community centres;
- government offices;
- service clubs; and
- volunteer centres.



Students are expected to use the *Notification and Completion of Community Involvement Activities Form* to plan and track the completion of activities. **Please ensure that the information for activities is documented and signed by a school representative PRIOR to engaging in the volunteer activity.** Additional forms are available through your elementary school office, or secondary school guidance office. Elementary schools will accept the notification forms and forward them to your secondary school. Completed forms will be accepted in the secondary school guidance office after school begins in September.

For more information about Community Involvement Hours, please visit our website:

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/communityinvolvement

Remember:

- ✓ begin community involvement activities as soon after Grade 8 graduation as possible;
- ✓ secondary school guidance departments offer supports for finding a suitable volunteer opportunity;
- ✓ obtain the *Notification and Completion of Community Involvement Activities Form* from your elementary school office or secondary school guidance office;
- ✓ have a school board representative sign the form **prior** to beginning the volunteer activity;

2016-2017

Unionville High School Registration Information

**Registration for the 2016/2017 school year will be completed online.
There will be no in-person registration day in August.**

School Cash Online will be used to facilitate this online registration process.

- 1) Visit <https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> to create an account.
- 2) Complete the payment of any applicable fees.
- 3) Look for School Start-Up email on September 1, 2016.

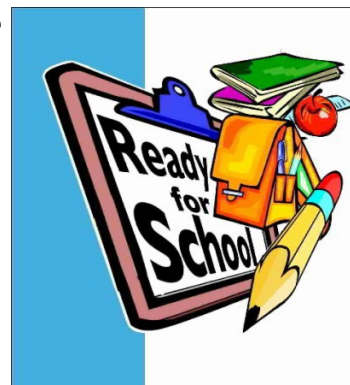
All parents/guardians who have completed registration online will receive a School Start-Up email containing:

- School Start-Up Information (School Calendar, Photo day, etc)
- Student Timetable
- Course Change Procedure

*Students are encouraged to register online **in advance**
to minimize delays on the first day of school.*

If your child is not attending UHS in the fall,
please contact the main office immediately.

905-479-2787



Registration Timelines:	
July 4th, 2016	Online Registration Opens - Link
August 31st, 2016	Online Registration Closes
September 1st, 2016	Confirmation Emails sent to online registrants (School Start Up Information, Student Timetable, Course Change Procedure)
September 6th, 2016	Grade Nine Day
September 7th, 2016	First Day of School for all grades
October 7, 2016	Grade 9 Camp Day @ Camp Robinhood