



# Unionville High School Grade 8 Newsletter

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June, 2015

## 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.

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 Opening Day—Tuesday Sept 8th, arrive at 8:15 a.m.**

Our Welcome Day takes place for Grade 9 students on **Tuesday, September 8th**. All parents and/or guardians are invited to spend the first part of the school day with their son/daughter. An information session will be held for parents/guardians to outline what life at high school and answer any questions.

Students will spend the morning attending a community welcome assembly and spending time in each of their classes. Many student mentors will be on hand to help everyone find their class and a map will be printed on the back of the timetables. The afternoon will be spent participating in welcome activities.

#### Welcome Day Schedule:

8:30 – 9:10      Period One  
9:10—9:45      Student Assembly (Large gym)  
                         Parent Information session  
                         (Cafeteria)  
9:50—10:20    Period 2 Class Intro  
10:25—10:55    Period 4 Class Intro  
11:00—11:50    Period 5 Class Intro/Peer Mentors  
10:50—12:45    BBQ Lunch  
12:45—1:45     Amazing Race  
1:50—3:06      Motivational Assembly

1	<b>School Activity Fee</b> <i>Helps to support a wide number of school activities throughout the year including Students' Council Activities and Theme Days, After School Clubs, Dances, Gr. 9 Orientation, Oktoberfest, Winter Assembly, Mayfair, Black History Presentations, Motivational Speakers, Year End Assembly and Video, Athletic Team Transportation, Music Competitions, and more.</i>	\$40.00
2	<b>School Yearbook</b>	\$46.00
3	Phys Ed Uniform (2 T-shirts & 1 pair shorts)	\$25.00
4	1 T-shirt	\$7.00
5	1 pair of shorts	\$12.00

**Inspire Learning!**

#### 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 8.** 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. We hope you have a great summer.

**Unionville Staff**

## Welcome Procedures Grade 9 Students

### **Grade 9 Curriculum Night - Thursday September 17, 2015**

The Grade 9 Curriculum Night is scheduled for September 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Parents \ guardians and Grade 9 students are invited to attend and learn about the grade 9 curriculum.

### **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.

Traffic is quite slow in 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 1. 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 mp3 players, iPod's, and cell phones are turned off in classrooms.** Students take responsibility for any devices they choose to bring to school. Devices should not be left in the changeroom, on desks or 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 midriiffs 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 the student attends 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 province-wide 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.**

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

## **SCHOOL INFORMATION**

### **Guidance Services:**

All grade 9 timetables have been checked for balancing of courses. Guidance counsellors will be available on Tuesday, September 8 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 31. 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 Grade 9 Curriculum Night on September 17 2015. Discuss with your child his or her impressions and use them to frame questions of your own for school officials at Information Night.
- 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. While school projects now require the use of computers and Internet access, it isn't necessary to buy a top end computer for the home.
- Review the school's start-up package. Find out what extra-curricular activities are offered and encourage your teen to get involved. There are so many opportunities available in high school to help your teen become an active and involved member of the student body.
- 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 first School Council meeting will take place on Thursday October 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

# 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.

With summer fast approaching it 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 elementary 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](http://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;

Unionville High School

2015-2016

# Registration Day Tuesday September 1

<b>Grade 9</b> 9:00—10:30	<b>Register for School Cash Online to prepay for the following items:</b>  <u>School Activity Fee</u> <u>Yearbook</u> <u>Physical Education Uniform</u> <u>Graduation Fee</u>
<b>Grade 10</b> 10:30—12:00	
<b>Grade 11</b> 1:00—2:30	<b>Items will be available for pre-order through School Cash Online on July 9.</b>  <a href="https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/">https://yrdsb.schoolcashonline.com/</a>
<b>Grade 12</b> 2:30—4:00	

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