



RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – FAMILY BULLETIN

Where Tomorrow Begins

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RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, February 16, 2024



Semester Two Photo Day

All new students for Semester 2 will have the opportunity to have their photo taken in Room 328 on Wednesday, February 21st. Please see this [link](#) for more information.

End of Semester 1 Newsletter

Please find the special edition end of semester newsletter [here](#).

Guidance

Course Selection for 2024-2025

2024/25 course selection is now open. Students should select their course through MyPathwayPlanner. Instructions on how to do this were provided through grade specific presentations. Students and parents can access the presentations on the Guidance google classroom. The course selection window is February 15th to February 23rd. Students must submit their courses no later than February 23rd.

Students can book a guidance appointment through Teach Assist if they have questions.

Tips For Secondary School Course Selection

Grade 8 and secondary school students select courses in February for the following September. Here are some tips and reminders for students and families planning their course selection.

1. **You do not need to make decisions alone.** Consult with your family. Teachers, [guidance counselors](#), student success teachers, graduation coaches and other school staff are there to help you.
2. **Plan.** You can use [My Pathway Planner](#) to track your courses, find post-secondary pathway options and look up course descriptions and prerequisites. Learn [how to create your plan](#).
3. **Explore your options.** There are many courses, programs and opportunities available at all YRDSB secondary schools that let you gain skills, experience, credits and certifications in the fields that interest you. You can now [search for these opportunities by sector](#). There are also [other ways to earn credits](#), including summer school, night school, online learning, Indigenous and International languages and more.
4. **Review [graduation requirements](#).** You are responsible for ensuring you select courses that meet diploma requirements.
5. **Review course types.** Selecting courses that meet your needs is the first step to experiencing success in secondary school. Your guidance counselor will help you to choose appropriate courses throughout secondary school as students plan for their initial post-secondary destination.
6. **Be aware of course prerequisites.** This is a course that must be successfully completed before taking the course that follows. You can use My Pathway Planner to look up course descriptions and prerequisites.
7. **Know where to go if you have questions.** Speak with your guidance counselor or other staff members at the school. Talk to your family members. Learn more about [course selection](#), [graduation requirements](#) and options available to you in [secondary school on the Board website](#).

Night School Registration

For students who have registered for night school on My Blueprint: You must print a “sign off” form and have it signed by a parent or guardian to approve your night school registration. Please then submit it to Guidance. Guidance will NOT approve your registration until we receive this sign off form. You will risk losing your spot in the class, if you do not submit this form.

For students still interested in registering for night school:

Registration will close at noon on Thursday, February 1, 2024. It will re-open on Friday, February 2, 2024 and **students can register in limited courses that show availability up until the second night of classes which is Tuesday, February 20, 2024.**

Traditional in class face-to-face [Night School program](#) (Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:45 pm) will continue to use a *remote* learning delivery model. The program will be delivered virtually in real-time (synchronous).

First class Thursday, February 15, 2024 and the program ends Thursday, June 6, 2024. Students who register prior to Thursday February 8, 2024 will receive a Welcome email. Students with unapproved course requests will not be registered.

Should a course be cancelled, YRDSB students will receive an email through their gapps account.

2024 Celebrating Black History Month/BHM 365

Celebrating Black History Month / BHM365 Events 2024		
* Dates and Events subject to change		
Student Events and Family Engagement		
Date and Time	Event Information/Details	Location
February 27, 2024 7:00-8:00pm.	Anti-Blackness in Schools - Virtual Affinity Session for Black Students, Families and Black Staff with Presenters Dr. Joi Spencer and Dr. Kerri Ullucci Register Here	Online Register to Receive Link
February 29, 2024 5:00pm - 6:30pm	Family Cookout with Chef Maxine Knight - Open to All: Student & Families Light refreshments will be served. Register In person Experience Details to be shared upon registration. Register Here	Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning 36 Regatta Ave. Richmond Hill Rm 113

SEAS Family Engagement Evening: Understanding the Ontario Education System

Session 1

Welcome to our first “Family Engagement Evening” supporting families and caregivers to develop a deeper understanding of the Ontario Education System. In this first session, we will provide an overview of the K-12 Ontario Education System with an emphasis on **transitions, pathway planning, the OSSD and the course selection process.**

Presentations will be available in English, Mandarin, Korean and Cantonese.

This event is brought to you in partnership with Community and Partnership Developer for East Asian Families, YRDSB Inclusive School and Community Services, CCSYR Settlement and Education Partnership in York Region, NEKS (Network of Educators for Korean Students) and Curriculum and Instructional Services of YRDSB.

Date: Wednesday, **February 28, 2024**

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Location: Markville Secondary School, 1000 Carlton Road, Markham, ON L3P 7P5

Please [register](#) by Monday, February 26, 2024

<https://bit.ly/3Ot1p0X>

For additional inquiries, please contact: pauline.guo@yrdsb.ca or bronson.chu@yrdsb.ca

Supporting East Asian Students (SEAS) is a group of YRDSB educators and supporters who are committed to responding to the lived experiences of East Asian students by advocating for their improved achievement and well-being through equitable practices. Building relationships with students, families, educators, community members and partners are also a focus of our work.

Computer Purchase Program

Please see the following [letter](#) and [flyer](#) for information about the computer purchase program. This information has also been sent directly to your email.

Virtual Consultations for Parents/Caregivers of the Tamil Diaspora Community

Consultations will provide an opportunity for Tamil parents/caregivers to:

- Acquire strategies for cultivating meaningful interactions and connections with their child
- Explore ways to support their child’s mental health and well-being
- Understand how to request and navigate accessing support, including mental health services, for their child at school

- Discuss current difficulties and challenges experienced by their child
- Learn about resources in the York Region community to better support their child's needs

Please see the following flyers for more information:

[Tamil Parents-Caregivers Consultations Flyer \(English\).pdf](#)

[Tamil Parents-Caregivers Consultations Flyer \(Tamil\).pdf](#)

UBUNTU Healing Circle

A virtual healing circle for Black identified students in grades 7-12 across YRDSB to join together in an inclusive affinity space, focused on supporting emotional well-being. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information.

Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter – February 2024

School Washrooms

Students are reminded that school washrooms are not to be used for social activities including eating. At the beginning of the year, we introduced school “zones”. The Green zones are areas where students may sit, collaborate, socialize and eat. Yellow zones are for collaborating and socializing. Red zones are spaces such as stairwells (walking through only) and washrooms (bio breaks only). The zones are for everyone's safety in the school.

Parent/Caregiver Series Supporting Learning about Mental Health

The YRDSB Central Mental Health Team is proud to be offering the *Learning about Mental Health Presentation Series (LAMPS)*. The objective of the series is to promote and enhance mental health literacy. The first session is “**Anxiety in School-Aged Youth, a Presentation for Parents and Caregivers**” and will occur virtually on February 28 from 6 - 7 p.m. The presentation will focus on the characteristics of anxiety, and some general strategies that may be beneficial in supporting your children and their anxiety. These sessions are offered to any parent/guardian. Translation will be provided in a limited number of languages. If your preferred language is not offered, we recommend watching with a friend or family member who is able to translate.

To register please visit [this link](#). Please Register by February 27, 2024

Personal Property

The school and the Board are not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen personal items. You can reduce the risk by leaving valuable items at home. Always secure items. More information can be found in the [2023-2024 Guide to the School Year](#).

Engagement Fee

We are proud at Richmond Green to host a vast number of clubs, sports teams and other activities and events for students. The Student Engagement fee supports the operation of these activities for students. The Student Engagement Fee is an optional but recommended fee on School Cash Online. Please note that there is differentiated pricing for school events based on payment of the Student Engagement fee.

Students Can Now Explore Secondary School Opportunities by Sector

A new collection of webpages will let students explore [16 different career sectors](#).

Our secondary schools offer courses and programs that let you explore your interests, build skills and gain experience in areas that interest you. You can now [search from 16 different sectors](#) to learn more about:

- career pathways in the fields that interest you
- courses and programs you can take in secondary school that let you gain sector-specific skills, knowledge and experience
- how you can earn certifications, post-secondary credits and job experience while in high school

Find out what courses and programs are available in the fields that interest you at your school. Visit www2.yrdsb.ca/experience-yrdsb.

RGSS is on Instagram!

Follow @rgssofficial to receive updates on school news, events, student achievement, and more!

Student Expectations in the Community

We are lucky to have positive relationships with community vendors. Many students enjoy eating lunch at the Costco food court. Costco has asked if students could please:

- purchase their food and leave once done eating
- use debit and credit as preferred payment methods (for speed of transactions)
- stay in the food court only unless entering the store with a membership card

Following these guidelines will ensure students enjoy continued access to the food court.

Bussing

Bussing is provided to eligible students through Student Transportation Services (STS). STS operates bus routes for students in JK-12 for both the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board. More information, including daily late bus reports, can be found at www.schoolbuscity.com. Please note, **it is important that students ride only on their designated route. This is for everyone's safety and security.**

School Start Up Forms

School start up forms were sent to families and students this week. Please see the [Resources and FAQs for families](#) for more information. Secondary students received the following message:

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 [complete this form](#) 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.

Updating Contact Information

If you need to update any contact information (e.g., home or email address, telephone number, etc.,) please email: richmond.green.ss@yrdsb.ca

School Safety

Please be reminded that all visitors to the school must sign in at the main office and get a visitor tag. This tag should be clearly visible while in the building on business. Students are reminded not to bring guests anywhere on school property (indoors and outdoors) as well as to the library during school hours.

Attendance



Students are expected to be in their scheduled classes each period. If you sign your child out of school, they need to leave school property. This includes the library during school hours, as it is considered to be school property during the school day. Please do not give your child permission without calling and giving the office notice for them to be in the library during the day. If your child is going to be absent or away from any of their classes, please contact the Main Office **email is preferred** - richmond.green.ss.attendance@yrdsb.ca or

by phone 905-780- 7858, press option 1. Please let us know your child's student number, full name and grade.

TeachAssist Parent Portal

Students in Secondary School use TeachAssist to view their schedules and ongoing assessment. They can also schedule guidance appointments. Parent/guardians may also register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal. Through this portal, you will be able to view your child(ren)'s marks, and book interviews with teachers for the Interview evenings held each semester (more information on this semester's interview evening will come closer to the date).

To register for the TeachAssist Parent Portal, please visit:

<https://ta.yrdsb.ca/yrdsb/parents/index.php>

You will need to enter the email address you have on file at the school. You will then be sent a one-time email to confirm your registration.

Notice From Richmond Green Library

In recent years, we have faced recurring challenges in our library washrooms, including issues such as vaping, eating, and disruptive gathering during school hours. Despite the diligent efforts of both the library and RGSS, it's hard to maintain continuous monitoring due to limited staff availability.

After a thorough review of the situations, the library and RGSS will start to implement new measures to address these concerns. Effective November 9, 2023, the library will enforce restricted access to the washrooms during school hours.

1. Locking washrooms: Both library washrooms will remain locked during school hours.
2. Key sign-out procedure: Students may obtain a washroom key by leaving their student cards at the service desk. Student cards will be returned upon key return. **Only one student is permitted at a time.**
3. Limited occupancy: A maximum of two users will be allowed to enter the same washroom simultaneously.
4. Reporting disruptions: Any disruptive behaviours observed will be reported to both the library and RGSS administration for appropriate action.

We hope these measures will help create a more conducive and respectful environment within our library facilities, and promote a better learning atmosphere for all RGSS students.

Kinnect Youth Mentoring Program

Social support network and mentoring program for Black students. Please see [the flyer](#) for more information.

Medical Information

A reminder if your child has a serious medical condition and has not received the medical forms, please fill out the appropriate form(s) below and return to the Main Office. **Please complete new forms each school year.**

<u>Anaphylaxis HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with a life threatening allergy.
<u>Asthma HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with asthma.
<u>Epilepsy (Seizure Disorders) HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be complete for all students with a seizure disorder (including epilepsy).
<u>Type 1 Diabetes HEALTH CARE PLAN</u>	This form should be completed for all students with diabetes.
<u>Health Care Plan (Other)</u>	This from should be completed for all other serious and potentially life threatening health conditions that are not already specifically addressed (Asthma, anaphylactic, diabetes, and seizure health care plans).

COVID Health and Safety Protocols for 2023-2024

York Region Public Health has advised that schools continue to be required to follow the [Ministry's COVID-19: health and safety measures at schools](#).

All students, staff and visitors need to complete the self-screening tool. Students should complete the [COVID-19 self screening tool](#) and follow instructions and next steps. Masks are optional for students, staff and visitors.

Surfaces in the school building will continue to be disinfected and hand sanitizer is available. Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will continue to be promoted throughout the day.

Key Dates

- Family Day – Monday, February 19, 2024
- Photo Day for Semester 2 New Students – Wednesday, February 21, 2024
- York Region Public Health Vaccine Clinic – Tuesday, February 27, 2024
- Pink Shirt Day – Wednesday, February 28, 2024
- Mid-Winter Break – Monday, March 11, 2024 to Friday, March 15, 2024
- School Council Meeting – Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Interim Reports Distributed – beginning Monday, March 25, 2024
- Good Friday – Friday, March 29, 2024
- Easter Monday – Monday, April 1, 2024
- Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews – Thursday, April 4, 2024