



RICHMOND GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL – FAMILY BULLETIN

Where Tomorrow Begins

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RGSS INFORMATION – Friday, January 12, 2024



We wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024.

Semester 1 Exam Timetable

The semester 1 exam timetable was shared before the break. It is also available on the [school website](#). During the exam period, bussing will run on the regular schedule. Students may engage in quiet study in the cafeteria or library after they finish an exam before bus pick up.

Students should come to school only on days when they have an exam or culminating activity.

Guidance

Friday, January 19, 2024 is the last day to make timetable changes for semester 2. Students should book a guidance appointment through teach assist to meet with their guidance counsellor. If students have already discussed their semester 2 timetable with their counsellor and have been placed on waitlists, there is no need to book another appointment.

There will **NOT** be a timetable change process at the start of semester 2.

University Applications

1. The deadline for students to apply to Ontario universities is January 15th. Students should apply through the Ontario University Application Centre ([OUAC](#))

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.

[Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter – January 2024](#)

This month's newsletter touches on exam stress and includes a variety of community supports and programs.

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](#).

February 2, 2024 PA Day Agenda for Staff

Here is the agenda for the upcoming PA Day:

Length: Half Day - AM

Topic: Violence Prevention Training on Student Safety and Violent Incident Prevention

Entity Hosting: All Secondary Schools

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Online module developed by Board staff, facilitated by Administration.

Description: Staff will be engaging in learning related to:

- developing relationships and identity-affirming working and learning environments;
- identifying warning signs that a person's behaviour may be escalating;
- responding to escalations using specific strategies;
- exploring case studies;
- following reporting procedures; and
- accessing support and resources.

Topic: School teams will engage in School Improvement planning facilitated by school leaders.

Topics will vary by subject and may include:

- preparation for Semester 2
- high yield instructional strategies in the de-streamed math, science, or English classroom
- data analysis for school improvement.

Length: Half Day - PM

Topic: Curriculum Implementation

Entity Hosting: All Secondary Schools

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School Administration and Board based personnel

Description: Equitable assessment practices and MLL learning
SIP/Department Meetings

Details: School teams will engage in School Improvement planning facilitated by school leaders.

Topics will vary by subject and may include:

- embedding strategies to support teaching multilingual language learners into the curriculum
- embedding subject specific high yield strategies into instruction and assessment
- data analysis for school improvement.

Tamil Heritage Month

On October 5, 2016, Motion M-24 was passed in the Federal Parliament, officially proclaiming January as Tamil Heritage Month in Canada. Tamil Heritage Month aims to celebrate the richness of the Tamil language and its literature, and highlight Tamil Canadians' vibrant

traditions, history, arts, and cultures. In addition, it seeks to recognize the significant contributions of Tamil Canadians in key areas of social, cultural, economic, and political spheres.

Also, of significance is January 15, 2024. According to the Tamil calendar, January 15, 2024, begins the month of “Thai.” On this day, people of Tamil heritage celebrate Thai Pongal, the Tamil harvest festival. Thai Pongal is the most important and widely-celebrated festival amongst Tamils around the globe. Thai Pongal is a time to give thanks for the previous year’s blessings and a time to look forward to the new year.

- [Thai Pongal Celebrations in York Region](#)
- [Tune In YRDSB](#) podcast episode about Tamil Heritage

Students Can Vote Now for Student Trustees

Students in Grades 5-12 will have an opportunity **January 15-19** to participate in voting for the student trustee candidate who will represent our geographic area of the school board.

How to Vote

All students in Grades 5-12 will receive an email in their GAPPS account. The email will include a link to a Google site where they will find information about candidates in our area, and a link to a form where they can submit their vote.

One candidate will be selected by students to represent each of the four areas of the school board in the final vote. In the final vote, scheduled for February, students can vote for two candidates who will represent them during the next school year.

Student Trustees

Student trustees play an important role representing students in the school board. They network with students, staff and the Board of Trustees to share information that gives students a meaningful voice.

This is an important opportunity for students to participate in the student trustee elections and vote for the students who will represent their voice, so we encourage students to check their email and take the time to vote.

Learn more about the role and the election process at www.yrdsb.ca/studenttrustees.

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.

Best Buddies Prom Fundraising



Best Buddies will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts to fundraise for the Best Buddies Prom coming up! Orders will open on January 16, 2024 and close on February 6, 2024. Pick up will be on Tuesday, February 27th. We are selling them by the dozen for \$15.00. Orders can be placed on School Cash Online. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Best Buddies Canada is a national charity that helps promote inclusion and reduce bullying through friendship for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). For the past 28 years, Best Buddies Canada has been in elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, universities, and colleges nationwide. Richmond Green students with an IDD are paired in one to-one friendships with a peer buddy. Students get to know one another and develop lasting friendships.

The Best Buddies group at Richmond Green Secondary School will be attending the York Region Prom which is for all of the Best Buddies schools in the region, reaching schools from across the school board and hundreds of students. This event gives students the opportunity to have a prom that is safe, inclusive, and fun. They can connect with other Best Buddies chapters across the region.

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.

Richmond Green Library Opportunity

The RHPL Community Engagement team will be running a new program, [Teen Community Leaders](#) at Richmond Green branch starting in the January.

It will run bi-weekly, and participating teens will have an opportunity to **earn volunteer hours** for attending. During the program, teens will have an opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the community and develop leadership skills alongside their peers. For the January – February session, they will have a couple speakers come in and talk about leadership and confidence, as well as an initiative with the Yellow Brick House. The Eventbrite registration link is: <https://teencommunityleaders.eventbrite.ca>

This event is open to all teens. The Richmond Hill Public Library choose the Richmond Green Library to host this program as an opportunity for RGSS Students.

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

- EQAO Math Grade 9 – Monday, January 22, 2024 and Tuesday, January 23, 2024
- Exams – Semester 1 – Thursday, January 25, 2024 – Wednesday, January 31, 2024
- Instructional Day/Mark Review Day – Thursday, February 1, 2024
- P.A. Day – Friday, February 2, 2024
- Semester Two begins - Monday, February 5, 2024

- Family Day – Monday, February 19, 2024
- Photo Day for Semester 2 New Students – Wednesday, February 21, 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