



Virtual Secondary School - Weekly Update

Friday, August 30th, 2024

Message from the Admin

Dear Virtual Secondary School Students and Parents/ Guardians /Caregivers,

Just a few more days until the start of school. We hope that you are as excited as we are!

This edition of our *Weekly Update* has much of the same important information as last week's edition. We have had a number of new student registrations and wanted to make sure that everyone had access to this information.

We hope you have a great long weekend and we look forward to seeing all of our students on Tuesday. Just a reminder that we are following a special schedule for the first day of school and classes will end at 11:15 a.m.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Praveena Sivarajah
Principal

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Zorica Prekajski
Vice Principal A-L

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Marlena Rivett
Vice Principal M-Z

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Upcoming Events Next Week:

Monday, September 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Labour Day (School Closed)
Tuesday, September 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● First Day of School● Special Schedule (Classes end at 11:55 a.m.)● Access your classes through Brightspace
Wednesday, September 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Orientation Day

Students Out of Province/Country

Please note that Remote Learning at Virtual Secondary School is an option only for students residing in Ontario. Students who are currently not residing in Ontario will be demitted.



Accessing your Classes - Brightspace

At Virtual Secondary School, our classes are run through the **Brightspace** learning management system. Students can use the following link to access all of their courses:

<https://tdsb.elearningontario.ca/d2l/home>.

Alternatively, students can login to aw.tdsb.on.ca, click on the **Resources** tab and then click on **Brightspace**.

Students can view their updated timetable via the TDSB Connects App. [Click here](#) for more information.

If you need help connecting to your classes please go to the Guidance and Tech Support Zoom Room which will be open from 9 am to 3 pm every day during the first week of school (Sept 3rd to 6th) Zoom link: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/92897370418>

Student Attendance/Absences

A parent/guardian must inform the Main Office of a student absence by calling: 416 393 8240. Similarly, if a student is experiencing technical difficulties connecting with their online class a parent/guardian must call to inform the Main Office. Students who are 18 years or older do not need a parent/guardian to report an absence and can contact the Main Office directly.

To be marked present, students must be able to demonstrate their presence by having their camera on. If there are circumstances where this is not possible, the student will be directed to meet with their vice-principal to discuss an achievable plan.

Students are expected to be present for the entire duration of each class. If there is no response from a student for a period of 20 minutes or longer, the student will be marked absent for that class.

Students who arrive during the last 20 minutes of class will be marked absent for that class.

Student Timetables and Timetable Changes

Student timetables were emailed to students and parents/ guardians/ caregivers today.



During the first two weeks of school, we will be working to make sure that all students are scheduled in appropriate classes.

Requests for timetable changes can only be made through our ***Timetable Change Request Form***. A link to this Google Form will be available on Wednesday, September 4 on the Virtual Secondary School BrightSpace.

Please note that Requests for timetables changes will only be made for the following reasons:

1. The student has completed the course in summer school
2. The student did not earn a required course in summer school
3. The student needs a course to meet graduation/post-secondary requirements

Please do not email guidance counsellors regarding timetable changes. We will do our best to accommodate requests however many courses are already full. We will be contacting students based on the priority needs and on first come first serve sequence. Please do not fill this form out multiple times.

Guidance Staff

If you need to contact your guidance counsellors, please email vssguidance@tdsb.on.ca. All of the guidance counsellors will have access and will be answering their emails through this mailbox.

A guidance counsellor is available everyday at lunch in our Zoom Room:

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/92897370418>

Students are to speak with their guidance counsellors according to their last name but please note we work as a team and all counsellors could potentially be supporting the student.

- **Priya Misty (A-B)**
- **Lauran Walker (C-I)**
- **Chris Thomas (J-PA)**
- **Nalinee Dindial (PB-Z)**



First Day of School - September 3rd

The first day of school will be on Tuesday, September 3rd. **We will be following the Day 1, Special Schedule listed below.**

Schedule for Tuesday, September 3, 2024	
09:00 - 9:40 a.m.	Period 1 (Block A)
09:45 - 10:25 a.m.	Period 2 (Block B)
10:30 - 11:10 a.m.	Period 3 (Block C)
11:15 - 11:55 a.m.	Period 4 (Block D)
11:55 a.m.	Students Dismissed
1:00 - 3:15 p.m.	Staff Meetings

Orientation Day - September 4th

Orientation Day is traditionally held at VSS on the first day to kick off the semester and help set students up for success. This year, it will be held on the second day of school.

On this day, all students will receive the same carefully crafted workshops on the topics listed below. More information will be provided in our next Weekly Update.

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 4th - Orientation Day (Day 2)	
Period 1 (Block A)	VSS Orientation
Period 2 (Block B)	Tools for Success
Period 3 (Block D)	Well-being and Respectful Relationships
Period 4 (Block C)	All About Me



Brightspace for Families

Brightspace for Parents/Guardians allows Parents/Guardians/Caregivers to access their child's account.

- [Click here](#) to learn more about *Brightspace for Parents/Guardians*.
 - [Click here](#) for the *Brightspace for Parents Login Guide*
 - [Click here](#) for the *Parent Account Password Reset Guide*
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Self Service Password Reset - Registration

Students can register to be able to reset their own password without help from a teacher. Once registered, students will be able to use security questions, email, phone, text message or an “authenticator” smartphone app, to validate their password reset requests. For additional information, please view this [infographic](#) or [demo video](#). Register today!

Students New to the TDSB

Students new to TDSB will have their password set to the Shared Secret Password. Please [click here](#) for more details.

Student Timetables and the TDSB Connects App

The TDSB Connects App is the best way for a student to view their most up-to-date timetable.

The TDSB Connects app is available to all students through the [Google Play Store](#) and the [Apple App Store](#). In addition to listing a student's most current timetable, this app provides access to the school's Brightspace Homepage, school announcements, integrates with the school Google calendar, and is an excellent way for students to access important school information.

[Click here](#) for the TDSB Connects App Student Help Guide.