



Message from the Admin

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

We hope everyone had a great week!

Next week is *Call Home* week. Teachers will be contacting parents/guardians of students who may benefit from extra support.

Please note that we will have our Caring and Safe Schools Assemblies on Wednesday, October 16th. Details are listed below.

If you have missed or would like to review our past *Weekly Updates*, please visit our [school website](#).

Wishing you a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Praveena Sivarajah

Principal

Praveena.Sivarajah@tdsb.on.ca

Zorica Prekajski

Vice Principal (A - L)

Zorica.Prekajski@tdsb.on.ca

Marlena Rivett

Vice Principal (M - Z)

Marlena.Rivett@tdsb.on.ca

Upcoming Events:	
Week of October 7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CALL HOME WEEK
Thursday, October 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commencement for 2023-2024 Grads
Friday, October 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P.A. Day - No Classes
Monday, October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving - School Closed
Wednesday, October 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring and Safe School Assemblies
Tuesday, October 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 12 Post Secondary Assembly, Period 2

Caring And Safe Schools Assemblies

On Wednesday, October 16th, we will be following the assembly day schedule below to accommodate our Caring and Safe School Assemblies. Grade 9 and 10 classes will attend the first assembly from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Grade 11 and 12 classes will attend the second assembly from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

During these assemblies, students will review school expectations, learn how to access school supports (i.e. guidance, social worker, CYW etc.), learn about potential pathways, and learn about the extra- curricular activities available at VSS.

Assembly Day Schedule	Day 1 (assigned to odd calendar days) e.g. September 7	Day 2 (assigned to even calendar days) e.g. September 8
09:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Class A	Class A
10:05 - 12:05 p.m.	Class B	Class B
12:05 - 1:05 p.m.	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:10 - 2:10 p.m.	Class C*	Class D*
2:15 - 3:15 p.m.	Class D	Class C

* includes 5 minutes for opening exercises/announcements



Brightspace for Parents

Brightspace for Parents

- Overdue Alerts** → Assignments, Quizzes, etc.
- Upcoming Work** → Assignments, Quizzes, etc.
- Recent Grades** → Graded Items
- Portfolio Items** → Evidence shared with parents
- Latest Posts** → Activity Feed

D2L DESIRE2LEARN
D2L.com

Stay Connected with Your Child's Learning Journey!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to introduce **Brightspace for Parents & Guardians**, a powerful tool designed to keep you engaged with your child's education. With Brightspace, you can:

- **Monitor Progress:** Stay updated on your child's assignments, grades, and feedback from teachers.
- **View Schedules:** Keep track of important dates, upcoming tests, and school events.
- **Receive Notifications:** Get real-time updates on your child's academic activities and school announcements.

To learn more, visit [TDSB Brightspace for Parents/Guardians](#) or [click here](#) to create your account today!

Math Homework Support

Looking for FREE 1 on 1 Virtual Math tutoring from an Ontario Certified Math teacher?

Tutors are available Monday to Friday from 9am to 9pm, and on Sat/Sun from 3pm to 9pm and can support your scholar with Math homework afterschool.

This resource is funded by the Ministry of Education.



Website: <https://mathify.tvolearn.com/>



FIRST TIME USER? OR FORGOT PASSWORD?

First time users would need to register, or, if you've already registered before but forgot your login info you'll need to retrieve it as a new account cannot be made. [Watch this video.](#)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Math Department heads; Rowena.Rollon@tdsb.on.ca (Gr 9/10), Sadaf.Agha@tdsb.on.ca (Gr 11/12).

BRAINFUSE

Brainfuse is an online learning platform offering tutoring and homework help.

Professional tutors are available to help with math, reading, science, social studies, history, geography and language arts for students in grades K-12. French and Spanish tutors are available through the Language Lab. Students communicate with tutors using an interactive whiteboard to write, draw, copy/paste text or images relating to homework problems. A personal Brainfuse account is not required for live homework help.

You will need a valid **Toronto Public Library card** to access this service.

[Click here](#) for more information.

PAPER - Free Academic Support

The Toronto District School Board is working with Paper™ to provide all students in grades K-12 with free, unlimited, 24/7 access to live tutors.

[Click here](#) to see their flyer.

[Click here](#) for another flyer.

[Click here](#) to visit their website.

PAPER's registration form is currently unavailable. However, for any registration or support related questions please contact them at support@paper.co.

A Message from our Social Worker, Dorraine Mitchell

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

Our School Social Worker, Dorraine Mitchell will be hosting a series of mental health workshops throughout the school year, and we want to hear from our students! This week, a survey was sent out to gather their input on topics they'd like to learn about.

We are asking that you encourage and support your child(ren) in completing this survey, as their feedback is invaluable in shaping relevant and engaging workshops tailored to their needs. Please rest assured that all responses will be kept confidential.

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/1irmYQd7msjmFKVEA>

Thank you for your support in promoting mental health awareness at VSS!



Webinar Wednesdays

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement is hosting its first session of the Webinar Wednesdays series for the 2024-2025 school year. We invite parents and caregivers of Black children to join in the conversation as we discuss the Cell Phone/Mobile Device Use in Schools Policy at the TDSB. Claudine Tyrell, Principal of Humberside Collegiate Institute, and member of TDSB's cellphone guidelines working group, will be joining us alongside Graduation Coaches for Black Students and K-12 Learning Coaches.

In this session, participants will learn:

- What this new policy means for students
- Impact on learning and accommodations
- Tips for parents, caregivers and students

Date: October 30, 2024

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3MY7Gka>. Registration closes October 28, 2024

For more information, please contact Jeffrey Caton, Centrally Assigned Principal for the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement at jeffrey.caton@tdsb.on.ca or Rukiya Mohamed, Program Coordinator for the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement at rukiya.mohamed@tdsb.on.ca.

A Message from the VSS Business Department

Hey VSS students!

The Business Studies Department is excited to kick off a series of Financial Literacy Lunch 'N Learn workshops in the coming months! We want to make sure these sessions are useful and relevant to you, so we'd love to hear your thoughts. Your feedback will help us design workshops that match your interests and help you prepare for the new financial literacy [graduation requirement](#) starting in 2025!

Please take a few minutes to fill out this [survey](#) by **Friday, October 11, 2024, at 3:15 pm.**

We'll be sharing info about our first workshop happening in October soon - stay tuned!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Mr. Patel at pritesh.patel@tdsb.on.ca, or ask your Business teacher if you're currently taking a Business course.

A Message from the VSS Awards & Scholarship Committee

[SCHOLARSHIP Alert - Due Wed., Oct. 9, 11:40 AM!] Lester B. Pearson International & National Scholarship

Are you graduating this school year? Check out the following scholarships:

- The **Lester B. Pearson International Scholarships** recognizes students who excel academically, demonstrate creativity, and are leaders in their school and



community. These scholarships will cover tuition, books, incidental fees, and full residence support for four years. Each school may nominate one student for this scholarship. **This is only open to international students who plan to attend University of Toronto in September 2025**

- The **National Scholarship** rewards original, creative and committed Canadian secondary school students. These are students who demonstrate superior academic performance, original and creative thought, and exceptional achievement in a broad context. This scholarship covers tuition, incidental and residence fees for up to four years of study. Each school may nominate one student for this scholarship.

If you'd like to submit your name for nomination to any of the above scholarships, please complete the following:

- [Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship Nomination Form](#)
- [National Scholarships Nomination Form](#)

If you have any questions about any of the above forms, please e-mail Ms. Rollon at rowena.rollon@tdsb.on.ca

Deadline for nominations: Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 11:40 AM!

Best of luck!

~ **Awards & Scholarship Committee**

A Message from the VSS Guidance Department

Hello VSS Families

We have received access to the October Issue of the Scholarship Report. This report is not just scholarship opportunities but a helpful resource to support students as they navigate through life after highschool. Please take a moment to review and encourage your student to look through the articles and opportunities that are shared. Virtual Secondary School has paid for this subscription so that VSS students and families can benefit from this resources. Please do not post/share outside of our VSS community. The VSS Guidance Department will be hosting a post secondary assembly later this month to support the transition to post secondary.

To view the October Issue of the Scholarship Report:

Click [here](#) to access the documents. The password is: **scholar678**

The following resources will be posted on the sidebar of the Scholarship Report website:

Fall Open House Schedules (College & University)

Resource list for Black students

Resource list for Indigenous students.



The September issue of The Trades Report (TTR) has been posted.

To access it:

- Click [here](#) to access The Trades Report.
- Password: **trades2425**

EVENTS COMING UP

Ontario Universities' Fair (OUF)

When: October 5-6, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. daily

Where: Toronto

Ontario Universities' Regional Fairs

Regions:

Southwestern Ontario: October 7-10

Central Eastern Ontario: October 15-17

Ontario College Fair (OCF)

When: October 16, 5-9 p.m. and October 17, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Where: Toronto

Study And Go Abroad Fair

OTTAWA: October 19, 1-5 p.m.

TORONTO: October 20, 1-5 p.m.

Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program (APSIP) In-Person Tours

Dates [here](#).

MAJOR UNIVERSITY AWARDS

University of Toronto: The National Scholarship

Students who have been nominated by their schools as National Book Award recipients may submit applications to the National Scholarship Program. If you are a school official and your school has not previously participated in the National Book Award program, please email national.enquiry@utoronto.ca to obtain the link to your school's customized nomination form.

- The deadline for schools to submit a Book Award nomination is October 10.
- The deadline for nominees to apply for the National Scholarship is October 17.

University of Toronto: The Lester B. Pearson International Student Scholarships

- School nomination deadline: October 11.
- Student OUAC admission application deadline: October 18.
- Student scholarship application deadline and documentation submission deadline: November 8.

OTHER MAJOR AWARDS

TD Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples

Deadline: October 13.



[Loran Scholars Foundation: Loran Award](#)

Deadline: October 15 before 8 p.m.

- [Information Webinar for English Students](#): October 2, 6 p.m.

[Ontario Heritage Trust Awards](#)

*[Nomination](#) required. Deadline: October 11.

****Note:** The criteria for the *Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement* and *Young Heritage Leaders* are the same.

OPPORTUNITIES

[\(Government of Canada\) Employment and Social Development Canada Enabling Accessibility Fund \(EAF\): Youth Accessibility Leader](#)

We are looking for young Canadians to help make Canada more accessible for persons with disabilities. Deadline: October 4, 3 p.m.

[Model Parliament for High School Students](#): Deadline: October 6.

[The Bronfman Fellowship](#)

[Information Session](#): October 10, 9 p.m.

SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

[Best Buy School Tech Grants](#): Submit your application for a \$15,000 tech grant. K-12. Deadline to apply is October 10.