# Message from the Admin

Dear Virtual Secondary School Students and Parents/ Guardians,

We hope everyone had a great first day of Semester 2! We are pleased to welcome students who are new to VSS. Please be sure to visit our *Club Hub* where you can find ways to join our school community through our virtual clubs and academic support opportunities. Go to our <u>Guidance BrightSpace Classroom</u> to find the link.

Orientation Day is traditionally held at VSS near the start of each semester to help set students up for success. This year, we will have our Semester 2 Orientation Day on Monday, February 3rd. All students participate in the workshops listed below during their regularly scheduled classes. We will share the links to each workshop next week.

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

**Please note that VSS is open for the 2025-2026 school year.** Students who are currently enrolled at VSS will automatically be enrolled at VSS next year. On a similar note, starting next week students will be able to choose their courses for next year through myBlueprint. Our Guidance Team has organized some key events to help students learn about their course options so they can make course requests to best support their pathway.

In addition to our *Course Selection Assemblies* on Thursday, February 6th, we will be following a special schedule on Friday, February 7th to accommodate our *VSS Course Promotions Fair*. During this fair, students can visit any VSS department to learn more about the courses being offered next year. These are drop-in sessions where students can visit as many departments as they choose. Details will be shared next week.

If you have missed or would like to review our past *Weekly Updates*, please visit our <u>school</u> <u>website</u>.

Sincerely,

Praveena Sivarajah Principal <u>Praveena.Sivarajah@tdsb.on.ca</u> Zorica Prekajski Vice Principal (A - L) Zorica.Prekajski@tdsb.on.ca Marlena Rivett Vice Principal (M - Z) Marlena.Rivett@tdsb.on.ca

# **Reporting Student Absences:**

Student absences must be reported to the school, not individual teachers. To report a student absence, please 416 393 8240 or email <u>TDSBVirtualSecSchool@tdsb.on.ca</u>.

VSS follows a remote, synchronous learning model. Asynchronous learning options are not available. Teachers cannot mark the work submitted by students who are not attending their class. VSS cannot award credits to students who are not demonstrating their attendance and engagement in class.

Upcoming Events:	
Monday, February 3	Semester 2 Orientation Day
Wednesday, February 5	Course Selection Opens via myBlueprint
Thursday, February 6	Course selection Assemblies
Friday, February 7	<ul> <li>VSS Course Selection Fair - Special Day Schedule</li> <li>9:00 a.m 9:50 a.m Virtual Course Promotions Fair</li> <li>9:55 a.m 3:15 p.m Late Start Schedule</li> </ul>

# VSS Course Selection - 2025/2026

In the TDSB, course selection for the 2025/2026 school year will be completed during the month of February. Students must submit their course requests or disclose their destination for the 2025/2026 school year through the <u>myBlueprint website</u>. **Student access to myBlueprint opens on Wednesday, February 5th. Students must complete their course selection by Friday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 by 4pm.** 

It is very important that all students accurately complete the course selection process as it directly impacts the courses offered next year at VSS. All VSS students and parents/guardians will receive an email on Monday, February 3rd with detailed information about our course selection process. Please be sure to read the information in this email very carefully.

#### **Important Dates:**

- Feb 5: myBlueprint opens for students
- Feb 6: Grade Assemblies Regular Day Schedule (course requirements and selection process)
  - Period 1 Grade 9s
  - Period 2 Grade 12s
  - Period 3 Grade 11s
  - Period 4 Grade 12s
- Feb 7: Virtual Course Promotions Fair Special Schedule
  - 9:00 a.m. 9:50 a.m. Virtual Course Promotions Fair
  - 9:55 a.m. 3:15 p.m. Late Start Schedule
- Week of Feb 10-14: Teachers will provide class time to complete MyBlueprint
- Week of Feb 17-21: Guidance will be visiting class to provide MyBlueprint/Course Selection Support
  - Period 1 Grade 9s
  - Period 2 Grade 12s
  - Period 3 Grade 11s
  - Period 4 Grade 12s



- Feb 12, 19, 26: After-school Parent/Guardian Drop-In (3:15-4:15 PM)
- Feb 28: Deadline for course selection (4:00 PM)
- <u>Guidance Zoom</u> is always open at lunch for support

# VSS School Council

Our VSS School Council now has their own email account: <u>1465SC01@tdsb.on.ca</u>.

Please note that if you respond to emails from this account you are communicating with the VSS School Council (other parents/guardians of VSS students), not Virtual Secondary School. Please keep this in mind when sharing confidential information about your children.

#### Message from our School Council

Good day to all parents and students of TDSB's VSS,

This email is from Margarita Salvatore (Chair of the parent/school council). I am writing to you on many fronts.

First, I am writing to congratulate everyone on finishing semester 1. Thus, half of the year is done. It is a great achievement. YAY. So, enjoy the weekend before semester 2 starts.

Second, I am writing to let you know that I am sending the parent comment letter to the Ministry of Education about making VSS permanent at 6pm. So, if you want to add your comments too, there still is time.

Third, I am writing to wish everyone a good second semester. May it be a good one.

Fourth, I am writing to say what a great community this school has become and that I would like this to continue. So, again be aware that the next parent/school council meeting is Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:30pm so please consider coming out.

Fifth, I am writing to remind all of you that if you would like to connect with your parents/school our email is <u>1465SC01@tdsb.on.ca</u>.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely, Margarita Salvatore

#### **TDSB Transition Support website for Families**

The <u>TDSB Transition Support website for families</u> is a new resource designed to assist families (and educators) in navigating key transitions throughout a student's educational journey, from Kindergarten to Post-21. These user-friendly platforms offer valuable tools, information, and support tailored to ensure successful transitions for all students, including those with disabilities

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and special education needs. Whether transitioning to a new grade, moving to a different school, or preparing for life beyond secondary education, the website provides practical resources and guidance to help educators and families plan effectively and make informed decisions.

#### Parent Drop-In - VSS Social Work

Our VSS Social Worker, Doraine Mitchell, will be hosting Parent Drop-In Sessions on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 12th 10:00 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 26th 1:00 2:00p.m.

This is an opportunity for you to meet Dorraine and learn about the supports she can provide to parents and students.

Please <u>click here</u> for more information.

# Parenting for Liberation – In Conversation with Trina Greene Brown

Join the Parent/Caregiver and Community Engagement Office in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement for Parenting for Liberation – In Conversation with Trina Greene Brown. We invite parents and caregivers who identify as Black and/or are raising Black children to engage in a powerful storytelling experience. We will explore ways to amplify Black children's voices and nurture joyful Black families.

Date: February 5, 2025

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual

**Registration link**