



Message from the Admin

Dear Virtual Secondary School Students and Parents/Guardians,

We hope you are keeping safe and warm amidst this winter weather! The snow day yesterday has provided our students with an extra-long, long weekend. We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, February 18th.

Near the bottom of this update is some very important information from Toronto Public Health (TPH). Students who are not up-to-date with their vaccinations or do not have a valid exemption can be suspended from school. **Please be sure to update your vaccine record with Toronto Public Health by March 31, 2025.** This year, TPH is assessing the vaccination records of Grade 11 students (born in 2008). So, students born in 2008 should make sure they have provided all the required information to TPH. Please see below for more information.

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

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

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

TDSBVirtualSecSchool@tdsb.on.ca.

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 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Day - School Closed
Tuesday, February 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathify Workshops (for all students enrolled in math courses)
Wednesday, February 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Start - PLC
Wednesday, February 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late Start - Staff Meeting
Friday, February 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pause and Pace Day Course Selection Deadline



Students of the Week		
Name	Teacher Nominator	Description
Ryan R.	Ms. Rollon	I'd like to nominate Ryan for Student of the Week! Ryan was always ready to participate and ask questions in my math classes. He is responsible, submits all work on time, and always produces excellent projects and assignments. His hard work resulted in him finishing with an excellent mark in Gr. 10 Math. Keep up the great work, Ryan!
Liza V.	Ms. Rollon	I'd like to nominate Liza for Student of the Week! Liza was always eager to learn in my Gr. 10 Math class, and never failed to participate in class and show us her work. She created beautiful notes and was always so kind to her classmates. Great job, Liza!

Message from the VSS Student Council

Happy semester two! We are your VSS Student Council and would like to take some time to introduce ourselves. We hope that all students are settling well into the great learning and community environment here at VSS.

VSS Student Council is a united body of independent members who are passionate about student representation and bring meaningful perspectives to the table. With significant student input, we take action on issues affecting student well-being, togetherness, and success. We do this through hosting events, ensuring student access to support resources, and advocating for student issues. Keeping students' perspectives and priorities at heart, Student Council bridges the gap between students, staff, and other stakeholders to build a spirited school community and make change for the good of all VSS students.

This year, your dedicated elected members are:

- Joshua Han, President
- Iman Soliman, Vice-President
- Kelechi Ojukwu, Social Convenor
- Valentina Battrick, Social Convenor
- Anna Maria Adamo, Grade 12 Representative
- Roberto Adamo, Grade 12 Representative
- Alisha Rizwan, Grade 11 Representative
- Nihal Bhatti, Grade 11 Representative
- Avika Kaushik, Grade 10 Representative

Since our formation this year, we have been diligent in planning outreach, academic events, and community activities. We have recently hosted a successful post-secondary supplementary applications session and continue to work on future events. Among many more, we look forward to hosting an orientation and introduction session, an art-focused social, and a university financing presentation. We would also like students to complete our survey to inform our community-building endeavours, advocacy positions, and academic events:

<https://forms.gle/dqh2CQpXVpEdAgst5>



Thank you very much for your support! We look forward to continuing to improve our school for all VSS students.

Sincerely,
VSS Student Council

Message from the VSS School Council

Good day to all TDSB parents, students, and staff,

This message is from Margarita Salvatore (your school/parent council chair). I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to you on a few fronts.

First, I am wishing everyone a Happy Valentines Day to this incredible school community. I, as well as the rest of the school/ parent council, appreciate you all. As it is Valentines, please consider sending a message of appreciation to others such as a classmate, a teacher, a principal, a parent, a sibling, and more at this time as it will mean a lot.

Second, I am writing to you to wish you and your family a great Happy Family Day, so, enjoy time with your family.

Third, I am writing to remind you that the next school/ parent council meeting is March 5th, 2025, at 6:30 pm. I hope to see you there.

Lastly, I am writing to let you know that if you want to connect and see about what school/ parent council does, you can reach us at 1465SC01@tdsb.on.ca . So, feel free to contact us at any time.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Margarita Salvatore as well as the rest of Your School/ Parent Council.

Guidance Team - VSS Course Promotion Fair

Thank you to all the students who attended our VSS Course Promotion Fair and VSS Course Selection Assembly.

If you missed these events we have an [FAQ Course Selection Sheet](#) with information and resources to support you. [All courses](#) for next year are chosen through [myBlueprint](#).

Students and parents/guardians can also meet with a guidance counsellor afterschool for help with myBlueprint or course selection every Wednesday during the month of February in our [Guidance Drop In](#) from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

We are also available during our [Guidance Drop In](#) every lunch hour (if we have to cancel we post on BrightSpace). Guidance will be visiting classrooms during the week of Feb. 17th- 21st for any students that have questions or need support completing their course selection. The Ministry of Education graduation requirements can be found [here](#).

The deadline for course selection is Friday, February 28th, 2025.



Mathify Presentation [UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKER]

On **Tues, Feb 18th** all Math classes will be attending a 1 hour seminar during their scheduled Math period led by a guest speaker from TVOLearn Mathify.

Link to the website: <https://mathify.tvolearn.com/>

The goal is to help students get registered on the website and learn how to make full use of this **FREE 1 on 1 Virtual Math tutoring support**.

- All tutors are **Ontario Certified math teachers**.
- Tutors are available Monday to Friday from 9am to 9pm, and on Sat/Sun from 3pm 9pm and can **support you with homework help**.
- This resource is funded by the Ministry of Education.

Agenda:

Introduction to Mathify (approx. 15 min)
Registration of students (minimum of 20 min)
Discovering and Exploring the website (flexible 10 - 20 min)
Tutoring Demo (minimum of 15 min)
Q&A



Attendance will be taken.

Looking to register ahead of time or, you've already registered before but forgot your login info?
[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).

Graduation Photos

Students planning to graduate this Spring, June 2025, can sign up for their graduation photos to be taken.

Graduation photos will take place starting Wednesday, March 5th and Thursday, March 6th.

Photo sessions will take place at 400 Rockcliffe Blvd, Main floor Cafeteria.

Please book an appointment online following the link and steps below:

<https://booking.edgeimaging.ca/portal/book/ZYW>

Click "Classic Sitting"

Choose date and time of your liking, click "confirm and pay now"

Enter student, contact and billing information and "click confirm and pay"

**Props will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own to personalize your session- a small item that shows off your personality or interests!



**Please come prepared in a white collared shirt or blouse and tie. More tips can be found here: <https://booking.edgeimaging.ca/>

**A black graduation gown, sash and graduation cap will be available

**Your confirmation email will confirm the location of your session will take place

EQAO OSSLT

The Ministry of Education requires that the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) be written in person. There are no exceptions.

Successful completion of the OSSLT is a graduation requirement. A passing score is a Level 3, 70%, and meets the provincial standard.

A student must have attempted the test once and have been unsuccessful before they are eligible to take the Ontario Literacy Course (OLC). This is the course equivalent of the test. Passing this course (50%) can be used to meet the graduation requirement.

The test is written following the successful completion of Grade 9 English. Typically students write the OSSLT in their grade 10 year.

The Spring session at VSS is for grade 10 students and any student in grades 11 or 12 who has yet to successfully complete the test.

Dates: March 24, 25, April 7, 8, 9

Locations: East - 140 Borough Drive or West - 400 Rockcliffe Blvd.

Students will sign up for the date and location of their choice.

More information to come.

Please contact Ms. Rivett (Marlena.Rivett@tdsb.on.ca) if you have any questions.

18+ Adult Student Consent to Share Information with Parents/Guardians

When a student turns 18 years old they are considered an adult under the Education Act. When the student turns 18 their parent/guardian no longer has access to student information. This includes school communications, report cards etc.

The default is No Consent when a student turns 18. [Students must complete and submit this form for Parents/Guardians to continue to have access to information and/or receive messages/notifications from school.](#)

This form will be sent by the VSS Main Office to student emails prior to their 18th birthday.

Completed forms must be submitted via email to TDSBVirtualSecSchool@tdsb.on.ca.

Reporting Student Vaccination Records

The Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) requires students up to 17 years of age to receive certain vaccines or have a valid exemption. Students who fail to comply may face suspension.

This year, Toronto Public Health (TPH) is assessing the vaccination records of Grade 11 students (born in 2008).



Students who are not up-to-date with their vaccinations or do not have a valid exemption can be suspended from school. Please be sure to update your vaccine record with Toronto Public Health by March 31, 2025.

[Click here](#) for information on how you can report a student's vaccination record to Toronto Public Health

Below is a message from Toronto Public Health.

Did You Know?

Parents and students 16 years of age* and older are responsible for reporting the student's immunizations to Toronto Public Health every time the student gets a vaccine to avoid suspension. Health care providers, such as doctors or nurses, are not required to report vaccines to TPH.

Here's what you need to do:

1. Check the student's yellow vaccine card to confirm required vaccines.
2. If vaccines are needed, book a free vaccination appointment with a health care provider and report it to Toronto Public Health (TPH) via Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON): toronto.ca/StudentVaccines
3. If the student already got the required vaccines, report the vaccination record to Toronto Public Health through [Immunization Connection Ontario](#) (ICON) or call 416-338-7600 and press '2' for immunization services.
4. Letters will be sent directly to parents/students who may face suspension in Spring 2025.

*In accordance with the Personal Health Information Privacy Act, 2004, students 16 years of age or older are required to give consent directly to TPH if they want their parent or legal guardian to access or update their immunization record. Students can report the information themselves online at toronto.ca/StudentVaccines.

Let's Talk About Adulthood Transition (Part 1)

Join Us to Start The Conversation About How to Support Your Young Adult as They Transition from TDSB To the Broader Community. Get Valuable Information on the Financial Supports Needed, Community Programs, Employment Opportunities, and Post-Secondary Options That Will Help Your Young Adult's Transition. Plus, Connect with Other TDSB Parents Dedicated to Supporting Children and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities and/or Complex Needs. [Flyer is attached.](#)

Presenters: Developmental Disabilities Ontario (DSO), TDSB Experiential Learning, Passport Program, and Ontario Disabilities Support Program (ODSP).

When: Monday, February 24th, 2025, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

THIS IS A ZOOM MEETING

JOIN ON YOUR COMPUTER OR MOBILE PHONE APP.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING](#) or use the link below.

<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/94015815609?pwd=zvXKxODRuh6GCza1hVFINtdGaxj1UQ.1>

Meeting ID: 940 1581 5609

Passcode: 445164

Phone In: +16475580588 Or +16473744685 – Canada