



## Message from the Admin

Dear Virtual Secondary School Students and Parents/Guardians,

Just a reminder that today was the last day of classes before March Break. Classes will resume on Monday, March 17th. We hope everyone has a happy and safe break!

For VSS students graduating this year, please note that our Commencement for the Class of 2025 will be on Thursday, June 26, 2025. Details can be found below.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday, March 17th!

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](mailto:Praveena.Sivarajah@tdsb.on.ca)

Zorica Prekajski  
Vice Principal (A - L)

[Zorica.Prekajski@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Zorica.Prekajski@tdsb.on.ca)

Marlena Rivett  
Vice Principal (M - Z)

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### 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](mailto: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:

<b>March 10 - 14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MARCH BREAK! - No Classes</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, March 17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classes Resume</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, March 19</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Late Start (PLC)</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, March 26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Late Start (Staff Meeting)</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, March 28</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pause and Pace Day</li> </ul>



Student of the Week		
Name	Teacher Nominator	Description
Emmanuel M.	Ms. Strickland	Emmanuel consistently asks great questions, participates in class and promotes a sense of community in our grade 10 english class. He is always ready to share his work and communicates effectively using his mic and having his camera on. Emmanuel makes a consistent effort to check in with classmates about how their day is going and make conversation and this brings joy to the morning for others. Thank you for your positive attitude and kindness Emmanuel. Keep up the good work.

## 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 writing to you to wish you and your family a great March Break, so, please enjoy the time with your family.

Second, I am writing to you all to update on our last meeting, we spoke about school/parent council endeavors to date which are having a bridge Interim Chair for the school to bridge from one year to the next until a new Chair is elected in the next year, having a school council and the importance of it, having events, and more.

Third, I am writing to remind you that the next school/ parent council meeting is May 7th, 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](mailto: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.

## Course Selection - 2025/2026 School Year

Course Selection for students is now closed. Guidance Counsellors selected courses for students that did not pick courses before the deadline. If students that did not choose their courses they should come to the [Guidance Drop In at Lunch](#) to review their courses after Monday March 17<sup>th</sup>.

## March Break - Post Secondary Visits

Just a reminder that Post Secondary Institutions have tours for prospective students during March Break. More information is posted directly on their websites. This is a great opportunity for students in Grade 11, in particular, to explore their options!



## Commencement - Class of 2025

Attention Graduating Students. We have confirmed the date, time, and location of our Commencement for the class of 2025.

**Date:** Thursday, June 26th

**Time:** 10:00AM onwards (Grads arrive at 9:30AM, Staff arrive 8:45AM)

**Location:** Markham Convention Centre (2901 Markham Rd, Toronto, ON M1X 0B6)

This will be a hybrid event where students can join in-person or online.

More information will be provided over the next few weeks.

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## Special Education - March Learning Sessions for Staff and Families

Learning and engagement sessions continue to be made available for both staff and families, providing valuable opportunities to explore inclusive and anti-ableist practices and implement concrete strategies in the classroom and at home. These sessions are designed to support student achievement and well-being. Please click this [link](#) to access the sessions being offered.

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## Parent Drop-In - VSS Social Work

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

- Wednesday, March 19th - 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 26th - 1:00 - 2:00p.m.

This is an opportunity for you to meet Doraine and learn about the supports she can provide to parents and students. Please [click here](#) for more information.

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## Big News from the Skills Competition! (Mr. Patel)

We've got some exciting news to share! On Tuesday, March 4th, two of our amazing VSS students, **Emily L. and Nihal B.**, took on the **Skills Competition** at Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute in the **"IT – Office Solutions for Business"** category. They put their Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint skills to the test - and absolutely crushed it!

Emily and Nihal were chosen to compete based on their strong performance in their BTA30 class in Semester 1, and we're so proud to announce that they both passed and are moving on to the **Provincial Skills Competition** on May 5, 2025!

To get even more prepared, they'll be working on their **Microsoft Specialist Certification**, making sure they're ready to take on the best in the province.

Let's give them a huge shoutout and wish them the best of luck as they continue their journey! We're all rooting for you, Emily and Nihal!

Go, VSS!



## **Black Mental Health Week 2025: Joy as Resistance**

This year's theme, Joy as Resistance, is deeply rooted in Afrocentric principles such as Ubuntu ("I am because we are") and Sankofa ("returning to fetch what is at risk of being left behind"). It reflects the enduring strength, brilliance, and collective care within Black communities (see [City of Toronto webpage](#)).

In March 2020, the Provincial Government passed Bill 178, officially recognising Black Mental Health Day, first championed by the City of Toronto, Taibu Community Health Centre, CAFCAN, and Strides Toronto. By 2021, this recognition expanded to Black Mental Health Week, affirming the importance of centring Black well-being.

From March 3rd to 7th, 2025, the TDSB Mental Health Team proudly honours Black Mental Health Week. While this designated time brings awareness, we recognise that supporting Black mental health must be a daily and an ongoing commitment. Anti-Black racism deeply impacts emotional well-being, yet Black communities continue to resist, heal, and cultivate spaces of joy, empowerment, and care. Schools play a vital role in fostering environments where Black students feel seen, valued, and supported. This requires us to learn, unlearn, and centre culturally responsive and identity-affirming spaces that contribute to healing and positive mental health outcomes.

Honouring Black mental health means ensuring meaningful and accessible resources while recognising the importance of support from professionals who identify within the Black Diaspora. The TDSB [Black Mental Health 2025 link](#) provides TDSB and community resources, activities, and videos designed to uplift and sustain Black mental well-being—every day.

For any questions and/or inquiries, please contact [mentahealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:mentahealthandwellbeing@tdsb.on.ca) .

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