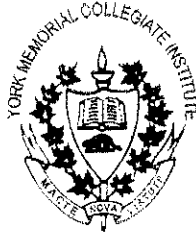


# YORK MEMORIAL COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Students/Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the start of the 2020-2021 school year! I recognize for many students and your families that this has been quite a worrying and challenging time both in regard to how the school year will pan out and daily living during these Covid-19 times. Rest assured however that York Memorial staff has been working hard to ensure that your transition back to school whether in person or virtually is a smooth and successful one!

Whilst school will start officially on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, students will be invited to come to the school the week beginning September 8<sup>th</sup> to collect timetables, take their school picture, drop off books/school items and to book appointments to adjust schedules (if necessary). Please note the following dates for students to come to school.

<b>Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Grade 12 Students</b>
<b>Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Grade 11 Students</b>
<b>Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Grade 10 Students</b>
<b>Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Grade 9 Move on Up Day (special event 😊)</b>

A more detailed separate email will be sent out to students and also posted on the school website showing the staggered days and times that students are invited to come to the school.

In the event that students are unable to pick up their timetables, they will be emailed out at the end of the week.

## FAQ's

I have spoken and/or responded in writing to a number of students and parents. Below is a compilation of frequently asked questions that you may find helpful.

### When will school really start?

- For students within the Developmental Disabilities program school will begin full time (8:45 – 3:00 pm) on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. For all other students classes will begin on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Classes will begin at 8:45 am and end at 12:30 pm. Students will then have virtual live classes from 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm.

### Will the cafeteria be open for snacks or lunch?

- Unfortunately during this time we are not permitted to open the cafeteria and no food will be available for sale.

### **Will YMCI be running the Nutrition program for students who qualify?**

- We are currently looking at a “Grab n Go” breakfast program – single serving-individual packaged for each student.
- Again, at this time there will not be any food available for sale in school cafeterias, as they will be closed until further notice.

### **What are the safety precautions that have been put in place to support the health of all students and staff in the building?**

- Please refer to the *Returning To School* web page on the TDSB website. You can access it by going to the following link: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School>. Here you will find a detailed explanation of the safety measures that each school has put in place.

### **How will students be dismissed without overcrowding hallways?**

- We will be using the PA system to dismiss students in staggered groups.

### **Will there be exams?**

- Yes, some courses are scheduled to have exams at the end of the quadmester. If there is a written exam at the end of the course this will be highlighted in the course outline which all students will receive from their subject teachers.

### **Will teachers be using Bright Space or Google Classroom?**

- There is no specific mandate outlining that teachers have to use Bright Space or Google Classroom. All teachers at YMCI are trained on Google Classroom and the TDSB has offered and continues to offer training opportunities for teachers to learn how to use both platforms. Which platform a teacher uses is entirely at their discretion.

### **Is the TTC going to continue to provide the 3 TTC buses that were made available to students last school year at the end of the school day in addition to extra buses in the morning?**

We reached out to the TTC asking for the continuation of the additional bussing when the school office reopened. Please see the response that we have received.

*“Thank you for reaching out to me regarding your school bell times. The TTC has been keeping close tabs on the developments and discussions regarding school bell times, and will have a plan in place to address the midday school dismissals. Please note that due to TTC’s internal scheduling deadlines which have already passed, we will not be able to have the trips in schedule for September. Instead, the trips will be operated through our demand-responsive service initiative, and will be making unscheduled departures at City schools for the midday dismissals.*

*TTC is assessing available capacity on the system during school dismissal times to identify potential hot spots where student demand may cause crowding issues and extra service is required. This work will be guided by student enrolment numbers, which we are awaiting from the school board, as soon as they are available”.*

### **Is the school going to continue to provide students who qualify TTC tickets?**

- I have reached out to TDSB senior management for further clarification in regard to this matter. I will provide an update once it has been communicated to me. As it stands right now everything seems status quo.

**Can students choose to attend school “in person” and then switch to remote (virtual) learning part way through the Quadmester?**

- Secondary students will return to school in September in a quadmester format. By breaking the school year down into four blocks -- quadmesters -- students will concentrate on two subjects at a time. This helps reduce potential contact between students and supports health and safety protocols.

At the beginning of each quad students’ choose between:

- Adapted In-School Day Model (Smaller Class Size Cohorts)
- 100% Remote Learning

**Students/parents must indicate their choice two weeks prior to the start of a quad. Switching during quads is not permitted.**

TDSB e-Learning Day School Program will continue to be made available in Grades 11 and 12 (contact your school guidance counselor for more details).

Please go to the following link for more information regarding Learning and Instruction

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Learning-and-Instruction/Secondary>

**Is there anything parents/guardians can do to support students and the school during this time?**

- Here at YMCI we welcome volunteers and encourage parent/guardian involvement. At this point in time however, we are still in the planning/organizational stages. As things become clearer we will be in a better position to assess where the additional assistance and supports are needed. Many thanks in advance for your willingness to help!

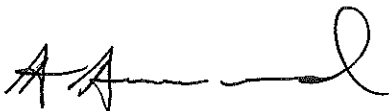
**School Council**

I will be hosting a pre-school opening School Council virtual meeting on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 pm - 7:45 pm. The meeting is more of an informal get together to simply say hi and to answer any questions that you may have prior to our official September 15<sup>th</sup> start date. A link to the meeting will be sent out closer to the date. School Council Elections will take place on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Parents must be in attendance at this meeting in order to become voting members.

Well this is certainly quite a long and detailed letter. My hope however is that it serves to help reduce or eliminate some of the anxieties or uneasiness many families have expressed they are feeling as we draw closer to the safe reopening of schools.

As always please do not hesitate to contact the main office or myself if you have any questions. A copy of this letter as well as additional information can also be found on the school website.

Wishing you a wonderful rest of the summer!



Donna Drummond  
Principal