



# Williams' Tell Weekly – Parent Edition

Week of May 12 - May 23, 2025

The mission of The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School is to develop literate students who are innovative, well-rounded lifelong learners and critical thinkers. We aim to foster caring global citizens who maintain inclusive and respectful interactions with others.

The Dr. G.W. Williams SS

### Administrative Team

Andrew Gazaneo, Principal  
Elisa Shiffman, VP (A-Le)  
Jeffrey Foran, VP (Li-Z)

### Contact Us

39 Dunning Avenue  
Aurora, Ontario  
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(P) 905-727-3131  
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### Phone Extensions:

Reception 0  
Attendance 1  
Guidance 3  
Staff Directory 4

### Office Hours

7:45 am - 3:45 pm

### Daily Schedule

Period 1 8:20-9:40  
Period 2 9:45-11:00  
Period 3 11:05-12:20  
Period 4 12:25-1:40  
Period 5 1:45-3:00

School Website: <http://drgwilliams.ss.yrdsb.ca/>  
Email: [dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca](mailto:dr.g.w.williams.ss@yrdsb.ca)

Social Media: [@drgwilliams](#) (Instagram)  
Attendance: [drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca)

### This week:

<b>Monday, May 12</b>	Spirit Day - Adam Sandler Day Grade 9 Science EcoSparks (in-school) IB Biology Exam - afternoon Provincial Court House Trip Ultimate Frisbee game @ Newmarket HS (2:30) <a href="#">School Council</a> (7-8:30pm)
<b>Tuesday, May 13</b>	Spirit Day - Beach Day IB Biology P.2 - afternoon Track and Field - North/Central Meet @ Dr. Denison SS Girls Varsity Rugby @ St. Maximilian Kolbe
<b>Wednesday, May 14</b>	Spirit Day - School wear HHOF and St. Lawrence Market Trip Track and Field - YRAA Meet Day #1 @ Bill Crothers SS Ultimate Frisbee @ home game against Pape Francois ERG event - Room 205 (4-5:30pm)
<b>Thursday, May 15</b>	Spirit Day - Jersey Day Slo Pitch Varsity Girls @ Hallmark Park 2 Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament @ Holy Cross CHS IB math P.1 - afternoon Junior Girls Flag Football @ GW Williams Girls Varsity Rugby @ Huron Heights SS UOW - Avogadro Contest - Period 1
<b>Friday, May 16</b>	Spirit Day - PJ Day IB Math P.2 - morning IB Chemistry P.1 - afternoon Junior Girls Flag Football @ Markville SS Senior Girls Flag Football @ Markville SS Student Council Executive Elections Forms Released

### Next Week:

<b>Monday, May 19</b>	Victoria Day IB Chemistry P.2 - morning IB Global Politics P.1 - afternoon
<b>Tuesday, May 20</b>	IB Global Politics P.2 - morning IB French P.1 and 2 (R)- afternoon Regional Parent Council Evening Leadership Team Meeting (3:15-4:30pm) Girls Varsity Rugby @ Huron Heights SS
<b>Wednesday, May 21</b>	IB French P.2 - morning Ultimate Frisbee game @ Sacred Heart CHS (2:30pm)
<b>Thursday, May 22</b>	Grad Breakfast/Assembly Slo Pitch Varsity Girls @ Hallmark Park 2 Senior Girls Flag Football game @ home Track and Field - YRAA Meet Day 1 @ Bill Crothers SS Art Night - Library - 5-8:30pm
<b>Friday, May 23</b>	Track and Field - YRAA Meet DAY #2 @ Bill Crothers SS

To support your family planning, the prospective 2025-2026 YRDSB School Year Calendar is available on the [YRDSB website](#). Additionally, all dates for school events are continually updated on our [Google calendar](#) on our [school website](#) and all confirmed events have been updated for 2024-2025 on our [website](#).

### Message from our Principal

Hello families,

As part of the Creating Pathways to Success program, all students in Grades 7–12 in the York Region District School Board develop an [Individual Pathways Plan](#) (IPP). This student-led plan helps students identify their strengths and interests, explore opportunities, set meaningful goals, and make informed decisions about their futures.

Students review and update their IPP twice each year using My Pathway Planner, a tool they are already using for course selection. Each student's plan includes assessments, goal setting, career and post-secondary research, course planning, and reflection.

How you can support your child:

- Talk with them regularly about their interests, strengths, and goals.
- Ask them to show you their IPP and explore it together.
- Encourage them to consider all post-secondary options, including apprenticeships, college, university, or going directly into the workforce.
- Support their course selections based on learning styles and career interests.

Revisit the four key questions that guide our students in their planning: Who am I? What are my opportunities? Who do I want to become? What is my plan for achieving my goals?

Together we can help our students make informed, confident choices about their future. Each student's classroom teachers and guidance counsellors can be a great support as well, as they plan for the future.

Have a good weekend!

Andrew Gazaneo  
Principal

## **School Notices**

### **TeachAssist for Parent and Student**

TeachAssist is a platform for students and parents to access the student record information. Students can see their courses and progress on TeachAssist. Parents can access TeachAssist through the use of the parent portal. Please click this [link](#) for instructions.

### **Medical Documentation**

Fillable Health Care forms are available for families who have children with asthma, seizure disorders, anaphylaxis, diabetes. These forms can be accessed through the [link](#) provided or a paper copy can also be requested from the office. Please choose the one that applies to your child.

Please email the completed form or return to Mrs. DeGeer in the Main Office. Please note: **If your child no longer requires a Health Care form, please email us letting us know.**

Please supply the main office with an epi-pen if your child is anaphylaxis.

### **Student Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter**

Please see the [Mental Health and Addictions Newsletter](#) for the month of May with a focus on Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

The [Parent/Caregiver Toolkit](#) includes themed mental health resources that parents/caregivers may utilize with their children, conversation starters on important mental health related topics, as well as links to recorded YRDSB Learning about Mental Health Presentations (LAMPS) on a variety of topics like anxiety, social media and mental health, and much more!

### **Graduation June 25, 2025**



### **Extra Graduation Ceremony Ticket Information**

The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Graduation Ceremony is fast approaching. Graduation will take place on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Hazelton Manor.

Each graduate has been given two tickets for their guests to attend the ceremony. Currently, we have a limited number of additional tickets available due to capacity requirements in Hazelton Manor. Some families may want to request an **additional guest** graduation ticket for our ceremony.

The graduating student must fill out this [Google Form](#) if you would like to request **one** extra ticket. The form opens at **9 am on Monday, May 12th**. Completing this form is not a guarantee, tickets will be offered on a first come first serve basis.

We will do our best to accommodate your request. The cost for an additional ticket will be \$20. Once we have finalized our list of additional guest tickets you will receive a personalized email allowing you to pay for the ticket through School Cash Online.

### **Roses for your Grad**

If you are interested in pre-ordering roses for your graduates please see the website : <https://www.thecommcementgroup.com/williamsss>

## Semester 2 Exam Information

Below is a schedule that outlines our exam schedule and important dates for the end of semester 2.

Date	Exam to Be Written
Tuesday, June 17th (Grade 12 Exams only , everyone else regular class)	Period 4
Wednesday, June 18th	Period 5
Thursday, June 19th	Period 1
Friday, June 20th	Period 2
Monday, June 23rd	Period 3
Tuesday, June 24th	Period 4
Wednesday, June 25	Exam Review Day (am classes only)
Thursday, June 26th	PA Day
Friday, June 27th	PA Day

Exam Review Day Schedule - Wednesday June 25	
8:20 - 8:25	Homeroom
8:25 - 9:02	Period 1
9:07 - 9:44	Period 2
9:49 - 10:26	Period 5
10:31 - 11:08	Period 4
11:13 - 11:50	Period 3
11:50	Dismissal (please note, buses will run at normal times)

Please note:

- All exams begin at 8:30 am.
- Performance-based and oral exams are scheduled directly with the classroom teacher.

Students **MUST** write their exam at school on the day and at the time for which it is scheduled. If students are absent from their exam, they will receive a mark of zero (0) for the final exam. Final exams will **NOT** be rescheduled to accommodate alternate activities which conflict with the timing of exams (i.e. vacations, employment commitments, appointments, etc.).

### Community Class - "Mix and Munch 108"

With generous support from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), Mrs. Veale's Community Class hosted "Mix and Munch 108"—a fun event where students from all grades had an opportunity to enjoy free snacks and lunch hour chats. It was a wonderful opportunity for Community Class students to build work skills and take pride in creating a warm and social experience. We look forward to more events like this! Click the [link](#) to see a picture to illustrate how our students set up the event.

### YRDSB and Community Notices

#### 4th Annual Robert Davidson Walk for Pulmonary Fibrosis

The Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation is having their 4th Annual walk on Saturday September 20, 2025. For more information please see the [link](#).

#### Student SIN & Summer Job Bank Clinic 2025

Service Canada representatives will be at the [following schools](#) to help students and newcomers apply for their Social Insurance Numbers, learn about the Canada Job Bank and Summer Program for Youth and the Federal Dental Program!

#### The Young Women in Leadership Award

The goal of the Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award is to encourage young women to participate in leadership positions by recognizing a young woman's commitment to the volunteer sector. For more information please click this [link](#).

#### 2025 Regional Speech Contest

Attention young speakers and future leaders! The 2025 Regional Speech Contest is YOUR chance to share your ideas and make an impact. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned speaker, use your voice to create real change in your community! Please click this [link](#) for more information.

#### Spectator Code of Conduct

As a Board, we value the participation of students, families, caregivers, and others at school events and activities. School sports, arts and cultural events may create future memories for some students and may build school spirit and community.

While it is important to have fans in the stands and the audience, being a spectator at any of our schools is a privilege. The Spectator Code of Conduct, which is a new addition to the [Caring and Safe Schools Policy #668](#), aims to ensure that these events are positive, fun, and safe for everyone. All spectators must follow the Spectator Code of Conduct in order to attend school events.

**Note:** The term spectator refers to anyone attending and watching a school event. The term spectator also applies to anyone participating in a school event (i.e., a team member whose team is not currently playing).

#### Family Dashboard

YRDSB has launched a family portal called the Family Dashboard. The dashboard will give parents/guardians secure, accessible one-stop access to information and applications. It is designed to make it easier for families to engage with their child's education. To access the dashboard, parents/guardians must have current email contact information with the school. In this first phase, the dashboard will include:

- parent/guardian authentication

- secure access to report card links

For more information click on this [link](#) which is available in 13 different languages.

## 2025-2026 School Calendar

The YRDSB 2025-2026 school year calendars have been approved by the Ministry. These calendars may be accessed on the YRDSB website at: <https://www2.yrdsb.ca/school-year-calendar>.

### **Guidance**

NEW - Check us out on Instagram at [gww.guidance](https://www.instagram.com/gww.guidance)

### **Volunteer Hours**

Toastmasters is offering the opportunity to gain volunteer hours. If you are interested please see the [link](#).

### **Summer School**

YRDSB Summer School information can be [found here](#). Students can begin to register via their My Pathway Planner account on April 15, 2025.

### **Newcomer Youth Program**

Are you new to Canada? Do you want to practice your English language skills and have fun at the same time? Come to the Guidance Office for more information on our Newcomer Youth Program and get a registration form! The program is free, and will run once a week for 8 weeks during lunch time.

Lunch period 3; sessions will start on Wednesday, April 23rd.

### **Youth Skilled Trade Event**

Please see the [link](#) with information about the City of Toronto Youth Skilled Trade Event on May 29, 2025.

### **Transition to the Trades**

Join [Support Ontario Youth \(SOY\)](#) for an evening virtual presentation designed for graduating students wanting to pursue a career in the skilled trades. The SOY team are subject matter experts in the skilled trades and apprenticeship sectors and provide information to help graduates navigate and understand the apprenticeship pathway. SOY will provide resources and tips on how to transition from high school to mainstream apprenticeship and better equip graduates to find that employer/sponsor. To add a real-world perspective, a licensed journey person will also join the discussion—sharing their personal journey in the trades and answering questions from attendees.

Date: Wednesday, June 4th

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Presentation Type: Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

[Flyer](#)

[Registration Link](#)

### **Guidance Counsellor Contact Information**

Ms. Morelli (last names A-G) [susanna.morelli@yrdsb.ca](mailto:susanna.morelli@yrdsb.ca)

Ms. Murad (last names H-K) [zahra.murad@yrdsb.ca](mailto:zahra.murad@yrdsb.ca)

Ms. Chow (last names L-R) [simone.chow@yrdsb.ca](mailto:simone.chow@yrdsb.ca)

Ms. Durbacz (last names S-Z) [sue.durbacz@yrdsb.ca](mailto:sue.durbacz@yrdsb.ca)

**Looking for volunteer opportunities?** - Check out the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office or visit [here](#). Need to submit your volunteer hours? Please [use this form](#) and submit it to the Guidance office.

### **OUAC/OCAS Transcript Transmissions**

- All grade 11 and 12 marks are shared with OUAC (Ontario Universities) and OCAS (Ontario Colleges). Our school sends grade 12 midterm and final marks for each semester on the following dates - please note that the grades are not updated in real time and universities and colleges only see the grades that are sent on these dates:
  - Ontario Colleges:
    - OCAS 1st Transmission: October 4, 2024
    - OCAS 2nd Transmission: November 15, 2024
    - OCAS 3rd Transmission: February 14, 2025
    - OCAS 4th Transmission: April 25, 2025
    - OCAS 5th Transmission: July 4, 2025
    - OCAS 6th Transmission: August 8, 2025
  - Ontario Universities:
    - OUAC 1st Transmission: November 7, 2024
    - OUAC 2nd Transmission: November 19, 2024
    - OUAC 3rd Transmission: February 13, 2025
    - OUAC 4th Transmission: April 24, 2025
    - OUAC 5th Transmission: July 7, 2025
    - OUAC 6th Transmission: August 1-29, 2025

### **Financing Your Post-Secondary Education**

On October 9th, Grade 12 students were invited to attend a Financing Your Education workshop. The slide deck is now posted under “Classwork” on the Guidance Google Classroom, along with a live document with other scholarship information and opportunities. Students are encouraged to make an appointment with their guidance counsellor for support in their application process.

Did you know that you can go to university if you take applied math or science in grade 10? For the vast majority of Bachelor of Arts programs, all you need is grade 12 university English, and then 5 other 4U/M credits, none of which have to be in math or science.

Did you know that you can graduate with a university degree if you go to some colleges? Many universities have Collaborative University and College Programs. Explore this option [here](#).

Did you know that apprenticeship, which is a post secondary pathway, allows you to earn an income for on-the-job training?

You will be selecting your courses for next year shortly. It is important to be well informed when making these choices. If you have any questions, or need help with this process please connect with your guidance counsellor [Ms. Morelli (last names A - K), Ms. Murad (last names L - R), Ms. Chow (last names L - R) or Ms. Durbacz (last names S - Z)], your SERT or student success (Ms. Brennan).

Tips to support learning at home:

- **Create a study space:** set up a quiet, distraction-free area for practice.
- **Ask questions** when you do not understand.
- **Review regularly:** Short daily or weekly review sessions to reinforce what you have learned. Highlight concepts and/or questions that require further action (ask your teacher, seek extra help, etc.).
- **Use online resources:** Use free online math games, tutorials, and practice problems.

### MATH: SUPPORTS FOR SUCCESS

**SUPPORTS AT SCHOOL**

- **Ask your teacher** for clarification and help.
- **Student Success**
  - o Room 246
  - o Extra help is available **before school** (7:30 - 8:15 am), **at lunch** (P3 & P4), and **after school** (3 - 4 pm)
- **Math Help Room**
  - o Monday & Wednesdays
  - o Period 3: Room 229
  - o Period 4: Room 227
- **Peer Tutoring**
  - o See Ms. Brennan (Room 246) for more information
  - o Google Classroom [g2y6Xje](#)

### Online MATH Resources

**JENSENMATH**

<https://www.jensenmath.ca>

This website has complete lessons, videos, and practice questions (including solutions) for MTH1W, MPM2D, MCR3U, MHF4U, MCV4U, and MDM4U.

An **excellent resource** to reinforce and practice concepts covered in these courses.

**two learn mathify**

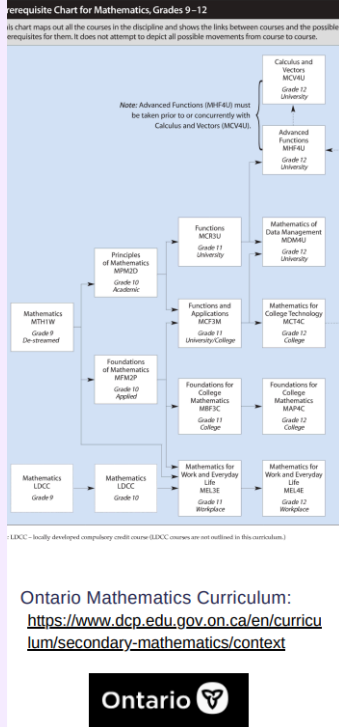
<https://mathify.tvolearn.com>

**TVO Learn Mathify offers free 1:1 online math tutoring with Ontario Ontario-certified teachers** for students in grades 4-12 (available 7 days a week). Accessible from any digital device, this service assists with homework, test preparation, clarification of math concepts, and visual sketching of math problems.

**The CENTRE for EDUCATION in MATHEMATICS and COMPUTING**

<https://cemc.uwaterloo.ca/resources/grade-level/>

The Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing (CEMC) is the largest outreach organization of its kind in Canada and its mission is to increase interest, enjoyment, confidence, and ability in mathematics and computer science among learners and educators in Canada and internationally. They do this through a commitment to our core values: future readiness, access, community, and impact.



### Attendance Procedures

#### Extended Absences

Planned absences of three or more consecutive school days require the completion of an "Extraordinary Absence" form at least one week in advance of the leave. The form is available in the Attendance Office. The process includes obtaining signatures from teachers and a school administrator. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on all work missed.

Parents/guardians should contact the Attendance Office to indicate when their child will be absent and the reason for the absence. The Attendance Office can be reached at 905-727-3131 ext. 100. If the attendance secretary is busy please leave a voice message OR send an email to [drgrwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca](mailto:drgrwilliamsss.attendance@yrdsb.ca). If a student leaves school resulting in a late or an absence to a class period, they are to go to the attendance office to sign out.

Students are expected to be in their Period 1 classroom at the start of the day. Classes begin at 8:20 am. If a student arrives late for Period 1 and before 8:35 a.m., they are asked to report directly to their class where their homeroom teacher will let the office know the time of arrival. If the 8:20 bell has rung, students are asked to stand in the hallway for the anthem before proceeding to their period 1 class. For any other period, whenever a student arrives at school after the first scheduled class period has begun they are to report to attendance to sign in.

Students are expected to be in class by the times listed above.

Students, parents, and staff have a role to play in ensuring that students attend classes regularly and punctually. Students are responsible for:

- attending all scheduled classes, and being on time;
- being prepared for classes, and participating fully in the planned learning activities;
- reporting absences (preferably in advance), and presenting proper documentation to staff, and covering the material missed when they are absent.

Absences must be both valid and authorized by a parent. Examples of valid reasons include illness, bereavement, medical appointments, court appearance, etc. If no phone call, e-mail, or note is received by the school, the absence will be considered "truant". Truancies are unacceptable.

Students who have been signed out of classes by a parent/legal guardian cannot remain on school property.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students aged 18 and older and students who have declared their independence must report all absences, late arrivals and/or changes to departure plans to the school in a timely manner. Where possible, notify the school in advance by calling the school and leaving a message on the answering machine or emailing the school's attendance address.

If a student is unable to attend school and will miss more than two school days, homework may be requested from the Guidance Department and picked up at the school. Teachers require 24 hours to complete homework requests. If a student is absent due to a prolonged illness, he/she may be required to provide a medical note.

#### School Calendar for 2024-2025

Our School Calendar for 2024-2025 has been posted on our [School website](#) and will continue to be updated as events are added.

#### Website Resources for Families and Students

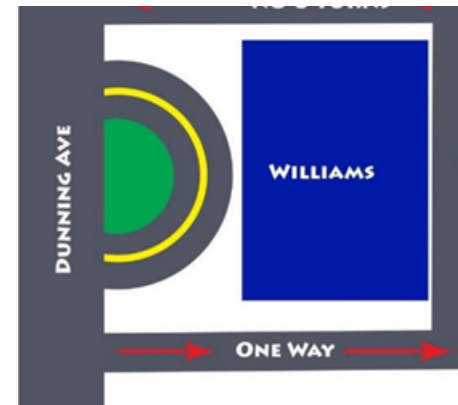
[Resources](#) for students and families on the YRDSB board website, including quick access to online tools, learning platforms and resources, community support, and translation tools.

## Driveway and Parking Lot

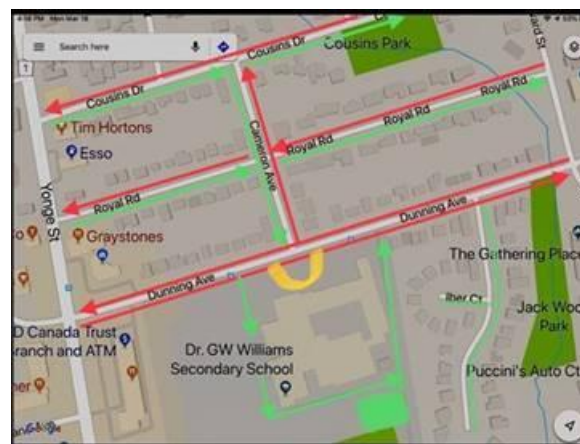
**At the end of the school day, the front driveway loop is closed to regular traffic from about 2:50 to 3:10 pm.** Only school taxis and buses are to use the front driveway loop at the end of the day in order to create a safe place for our students with special needs. Once all the school taxis and buses leave the front driveway loop around 3:10, regular traffic may use this area. To support our efforts to ensure physical distance, we ask that you make arrangements to meet your students at the nearest exit from their classroom (in one of the parking lots) or off school property (down the street, around the corner, etc.). Please see the maps below to support your efforts.



There is one-way traffic in our front driveway loop. In the front driveway loop, drop off/pick up students on the right side; drive through only on the left side. For safety reasons, do not drop off/pick up students on the left side.



If you **MUST** come to the school, enter via the West lot (beside the track, closest to Yonge Street) and drive around the school to meet your child. **DO NOT** block the driveway waiting. There is one-way traffic in the west entrance and on the south (back) side of the school. **It is two-way traffic on the east side of the school, however, during the end of the day pick-up time you will notice the admin directing all vehicles to enter the west lot ONLY so that we have a constant flow out of the east lot.** This makes a significant positive impact on safety for all and makes it easier and less stressful for everyone. When you are able to enter the east lot, do not make U-turns anywhere in the east parking lot from Dunning Avenue to the south parking lot. Making a U-turn in this area creates an unsafe condition for pedestrians and other vehicles. If you need to turn around, please pull into a parking spot and carefully back out.



Please note that Dunning Avenue is a **no stopping zone**. This is noted by the signage along the street and on the map above you can see the red arrows on both sides of the street.

**PA Days for Williams** (but not necessarily for elementary schools in our area) are:

- June 26 & 27, 2025