

Welcome to This Week's Guidance Update -- May 13

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1. Mental Wellness Committee Is Running a Wednesday Session

From the Mental Wellness Committee:

Hello everyone, we hope you and your families are all safe and healthy.

May 18th to the 24th is Wellness Week. We are running a Wednesday Session on May 27th. We need your help on what you would like to see during the session.

Attached is a google form with some possible ideas so fill it out and make sure to sign- up for the session!

Link to form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqmh8VWB_NqZhW_tl8Wy6jRqPwmiaX5m7-1JywOa5bicGypA/viewform

Also, please find attached material to be used in the session. Link to the attached document:

[Mental Wellness Wednesday Session \(1\) \(1\)-converted.pdf](#)

2. Thinking You Would Like to Make a Change to Your Course Requests for Next Year?

Students who are having second thoughts about what they requested on MyBlueprint this past winter now have an opportunity to request a change.

Please keep the following in mind:

- Please open the attached form ("**Request for Course Selection Changes**"), print it out, fill it in, get a parent/guardian to sign, scan it, and then send it back attached to an email to Ali.Callegarini@tdsb.on.ca. Click the link:

[Request for Course Selection Changes.doc](#)

- If you do not remember what you requested, you will need to log in to your MyBlueprint account to refresh your memory. A guidance counsellor will not be able to hunt down that information for you.
- In the interest of fairness, we will be resolving the conflicts of the students whose initial course requests have not changed BEFORE we attempt to make any changes that you want now.
- We cannot guarantee that we can make the change, but we know it is important to you and we will try our best.
- Please keep in mind that you must keep courses compulsory for graduating with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. You must also remain in full-time status (minimum of 6 courses at day school; grades 9 and 10 are not allowed to have spares).
- There is no particular deadline for submitting this form. Ali will accept them until the last week of June. You will also be able to request a change once school starts, but be aware that we typically only allow timetable changes in the first two weeks of school. To be clear, it is not any easier to make a change now as compared with at the beginning of September. The timetable situation remains in flux as students' situations change.
- NOTE: No student's timetable for next year is currently available for viewing. The timetables are just being worked on now, very slowly, and much can change. A student cannot find out what their timetable will look like until the week before school starts in the fall. In light of this fact, many students choose to wait until the first week of school to ask for a change, because they want to see what courses they were able to get.
- NOTE: If your request for a change of course is related to needing something that is a prerequisite for a post-secondary program, please note that fact on your form.

- Any general questions? Please contact your Guidance Counsellor by email:

Last names A-L: Heather.Strupat@tdsb.on.ca

Last names M-Z: Ali.Callegarini@tdsb.on.ca

3. Scholarship for 2SLGBTQ+ Students Studying in Ontario

The following scholarship opportunity was sent to us by the TDSB Guidance Coordinator:

The Bill 7 Award Scholarship application is now open for students who are currently enrolled in, or will be starting their FIRST post-secondary program at an Ontario institution. Last year we provided 15 scholarships of \$3000, and one recurring multi-year scholarship of \$3000 per year. Full details and the application form are available at www.bill7award.ca. Application deadline is Friday, August 7 2020 @ 5 p.m. Please note that a reference letter is required, so if necessary, please connect with school staff as soon as possible if you are considering an application.

4. PLAR Process Still Paused

Unfortunately for those students who prepared and submitted PLAR packages to challenge a credit because of "prior learning," we have been told by the TDSB Guidance Coordinator that the process has been paused and will possibly be started up again in the fall. This does not help a student who would like to access a credit for which the PLAR course would have been prerequisite. If you are in this situation, please contact your Guidance Counsellor to discuss options.

Last names A-L: Heather.Strupat@tdsb.on.ca

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