

Welcome to This Week's Guidance Update -- May 27

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1. Scholarship Opportunity for Self-Identified Black Students

We received the following opportunity from the TDSB Guidance Program Coordinator:

Please take a moment to share this additional opportunity for self-identified Black students. The link below is to the Black Business Professional Association National scholarships. The BBPA National Scholarship Fund was established in 1986 and is dedicated to supporting and promoting the achievement of academic excellence by Black Canadian youth through an annual scholarship program. There are numerous scholarships available that would provided additional support to our students.

Applications are now open and close on July 12th.

Please share: <https://bbpa.org/bbpa-scholarships/>

2. Summer School - New Model This Year

Still thinking you might like to take a new course this July?

Worried that you are going to fail a course?

So far, students have had the opportunity to sign up for E-Summer E-Learning courses, which are all new credits, being offered in a July session and an August session. E-Summer E-Learning has been available for several years. Reminder: Registration for e-Summer July sessions closes June 15, 4:30 p.m. Registration for August sessions closes July 8, 4:30 p.m.

Before COVID-19, TDSB also offered a regular face-to-face Summer School program, that included new credits that ran all day for the month of July, and remedial credits for students who failed core courses but achieved at least a 35% (those remedial credits ran for half a day through the month of July). This year, TDSB has rolled out two alternatives due to the necessity for social distancing:

- Hybrid Remote Summer School Credit Program
- Remote Credit Recovery

Please note that we at UFA don't generally encourage students to take *any* summer school courses, and nor are they necessary unless a student has failed a compulsory credit. The same applies this summer, but students and their families are welcome to check out this new model:

A) TDSB Hybrid Remote Summer School Credit Program (July 6-31)

These courses are open to all current TDSB high school students who have the pre-requisites. Students are welcome to reach ahead, or retake a course if they wish to. This program is called “hybrid” because it may include both online and in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education. You will need to choose a location if you decide to register.

The course lists are now posted on the website at www.creditprograms.ca. You will see that courses are offered in grade 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Registration is now open. Follow the instructions on the website to register using e-Reg.

- You will need to print out and have your parent/guardian sign the **permission form** that is sent to you after you request a course. Scan that sheet and send it to your guidance counsellor, or have your parent send your counsellor an email giving explicit permission for you to take the course. Once we receive that email, we can approve the course request. You are not enrolled until this step is completed.
- Registration closes at 12:00 noon on Friday, June 26, 2020.
- As we've said before, students are generally discouraged from taking core, compulsory courses at Summer School. These courses are heavy, with 110 hours of classroom experience squeezed into four weeks of time, and the preparation is not considered to be as thorough as when you take the course during day school over the course of an entire year. If in doubt, contact your Guidance Counsellor to discuss options.
- Please note that only ONE experience can be pursued at a time, and that includes doing Credit Recovery, explained below. In other words, a student can't recover a credit while taking a new credit in July.

B) Remote Credit Recovery Program (July 6-31)

Remote Credit Recovery is replacing the face-to-face remedial summer school program of the past.

The Remote Credit Recovery Program allows students to "recover" a credit in a course in which they were unsuccessful within the last two school years. The student must have failed the course, but a minimum mark of 35% requirement does not apply. The program will be delivered only **online**, and focuses not on time, but on the overall expectations the student must attain before earning the credit. Students are able to recover more than one course through this program, but work on each course must be completed successfully by the end of July. Students will meet online with a teacher for instruction and consultation for at least one hour every day, and then will work to meet the course expectations as quickly as they can.

Because the home school will need to prepare credit recovery paperwork, UFA teachers and guidance counsellors will be in touch with families to let them know their child has failed a credit, discuss the option of Remote Credit Recovery (and discuss whether it might be better to take the course over again, whether in school this fall or at Hybrid Remote Summer School), and help guide families through the registration process (which, if choosing "Recovery," will involve choosing RCR101 as the course code).

To discuss any and all summer school options, or to submit permission forms, contact your Guidance Counsellor:

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

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

3. E-Learning Registration for Semester I and II Day School 2020-2021

As of late last week, registration for this program has been put on hold until the Ministry of Education can review the program.

4. **Graduating Students -- Thoughts Regarding the Ceremony & Your TDSB Data**

A big thank you goes out to Sofia Policelli, Aglaia Joithe, Michelle Lewis, Emma Stuart-Kiss and Katherine Zhang for assembling the compliments that we'll include in our fall graduation ceremony. We hope dearly that we'll be able to meet together in our auditorium on the Friday before Thanksgiving.

Typically, at this time of year, we come to classes to ask you to fill in a "Future Plans" card, telling us where you're headed next year -- what program, what school, if you're going to be travelling, etc. -- and if you've won any special scholarships. This year, we're going to wait until the fall, because we suspect that a lot of you are still making important decisions about what you plan to do next year. So, just know we haven't forgotten about this, but we'll be asking you in September for an update.

On that note, please submit your non-TDSB email address

to: <https://alumni.ufacademy.org/register.php>

Grad Slideshow -- Would the students who agreed to work on the grad slideshow please contact heather.strupat@tdsb.on.ca? We would like to get that process started now.

Note that after June 30th, you will no longer have access to your TDSB email and any documents you have saved in TDSB drives will disappear, so make sure you remove anything that you don't want to lose.

Also, grade twelves, please print out your Wednesday Enrichment Program transcript so that you have a record of what you took. Aside from it providing you a nice memento, it can come in handy when you're creating a resume, or applying for jobs in the future. You never know when the documentation might come in handy!

5. OSAP Is Now Open

The OSAP application portal is now open for students. Please see pasted below the information we've received:

Ontario has launched applications for the 2020-21 Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) for full-time students. Students can now apply to the OSAP program for the 2020-21 school year for help with their postsecondary education costs.

We encourage you to inform parents, guidance counsellors, Student Success Leads, principals, teachers, communications staff, and others within your networks that the application is [now open](#).

For many students, the loans they receive from OSAP are their first major financial commitment. This year, the OSAP application includes an information module to improve applicants' understanding of the program, their roles and responsibilities as OSAP recipients and provide some basic financial information. This information will help students build the knowledge and skills needed to make informed financial decisions throughout their lives.

The Ontario government is committed to minimizing the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on students and to supporting them going forward. With the help of OSAP, students can pursue postsecondary education to get the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in our highly evolving economy.

Students who have questions about OSAP or the OSAP application [can contact the Financial Aid Office](#) at the college or university they are attending, or plan to attend.

Graduating Students -- Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB)

The Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB) provides financial support to post-secondary students, and recent post-secondary and high school graduates who are unable to find work due to COVID-19. This benefit is for students who do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or Employment Insurance (EI).

From May to August 2020, the CESB provides a payment to eligible students of:

\$1,250 for each 4-week period

or

\$2,000 for each 4-week period, if you have dependants or a disability

Additional information for prospective graduates and their families can be found [here](#).

7. Mental Health Tip of the Day

Danielle Farmer, our Child and Youth Worker, shares this tip with all of us:

I Want to Reach Out for Help - But How do I Start a Conversation?

Here are some suggestions to help start the conversation:

- “I can’t seem to get past the feelings I’m having. I wanted to reach out before things got worse.”
- “I don’t know if you can help me, but I’m hoping you can help me to find someone who can.”
- “I’ve been feeling _____ lately, can I get your help?”
- “I have a tough situation; it’s really bugging me... Can I talk to you about it?”
- With difficult conversations, it may be easier to write things down on paper or through text. Reaching out to talk to someone doesn’t have to be in person. For example: “Hey _____, it’s _____. Do you have some time to chat with me tomorrow? I have a problem I want to talk to you about...”