



Ajax High School Quadmester 1 Reflections

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and in the territory covered by the Williams Treaties.

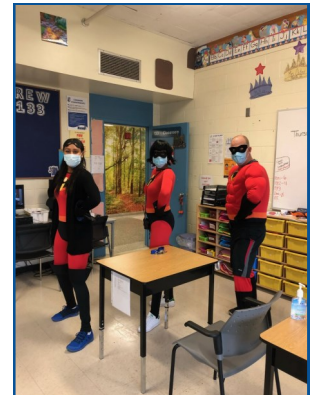
Bell Times

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 10:00 AM | Morning Bell Start |
| 12:30 PM | Dismissal Bell |
| 9:05am- 3:05pm | 6 Hour Day Bell Time Schedule for DV/PLP/SLC |

Principals Message – November 2020 Newsletter

Hello Ajax family. Our new school year has started off very well. It is amazing that we are already in the middle of November. I would like to celebrate the success of our students and staff who have persevered through challenges that in our lifetime we never thought we would have to endure. The landscape of public education has certainly shifted. Co-Vid 19 has increased our awareness of health and safety and put a spotlight on good hygiene practices within our community. As we usher in our next Quad we look forward to continuing on with a focus on learning and success for all. As the weather gets colder, it is important that students continue to take care of their health. Dress warmly for the weather, stay home if you feel sick, monitor your mental wellness, and follow public health measures to reduce the exposure and transmission of Co-Vid 19.

While we cannot offer our regular co-curricular programs and social engagement opportunities, there are options available virtually through our youth hub and student activity council (SAC). We hope that you stay connected and stay well!



SECONDARY REGULAR CALENDAR
QUADMESTER 2
Term Dates and Cohorting Days

Quadmester 2 begins on **Tuesday, November 17, 2020** and ends on **Monday, February 1, 2021**

A Cohort A
Always attends in-person in the morning on **Monday and Wednesday**.

B Cohort B
Always attends in-person in the morning on **Tuesday and Thursday**.

*** Refer to calendar for Friday course and cohort schedule**

C Courses are identified by **C** followed by the course number **1 or 2** in white at the top of each day. These represent the in-person course scheduled for the morning. Courses scheduled in the afternoon are not cohorted.

PA/Board holidays
Statutory holidays
CREDIT COMPLETION DAY

DDSB
Ignite Learning

E. McIntosh, Principal
R. Davidson, Vice-Principal
A. Russell, Vice-Principal

School Community Council: Carolann Bell Prue
Superintendent: Margaret Lazarus 905-666-6379
Administrative Officer:
D. Fitchett, 905-666-6366

105 Bayly Street East
Ajax, Ontario
L1S 1P2
Tel: 905 683 1610
Fax: 905 683 0856
E-mail: AjaxHS@ddsbc.ca



News from your Guidance Department

The guidance team has been busy finding new ways to connect with our students during Covid. Although things look very different at school, we are here to support our students in new and innovative ways. September and October were busy with information sharing and celebrating our 2020 graduates.

- Drive Thru Commencement
- Virtual University Information Night
- Virtual College Information Night
- Virtual and In-Person Take a Student to Work Day for out grade 9's
- Virtual University Application Seminars
- Virtual Meet and Greets with our incoming Grade 8's
- Meet and Greets with our grade 9's, 10's and 11's and Introduction to My Blueprint

Important Events Coming Up:

- Virtual Grade 8 Meet and Greets throughout November
- Virtual College Application Seminars on Nov. 25th (Cohort B) Nov. 26 (Cohort A)
- Virtual Grade 8 Information Night December 10th, time TBA



Reminders:

- Check the Guidance Google Classroom relevant to your grade for Important Reminders and Announcements.
- Timetable Changes can still be made for Quadmester 3 and Quadmester 4, remember to fill out the Timetable Change Request Google Form in your specific grade Google Classroom.
- January 15th is the University Application Deadline.
- February 1st is the College Application Deadline.
- Course Selection will take place in February through My Blueprint.

As always, we can be reached via phone, email and each day between 2:45-4:00pm on Guidance Google Meet.

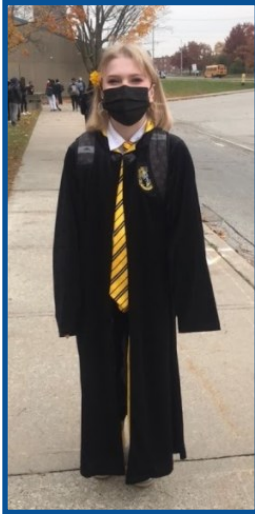
Sincerely, Mr. Pakosta, Mr. Farndon, Mr. Edmunds and Ms. Callis

Student Activity Council

School spirit is alive at Ajax High! Students and staff came together to show their pride for their school during our first Spirit week of the school year. We relaxed in our pjs, donned our fancy attire, shared our

favourite memes and finished off the week dressed in our Halloween Costumes. Check out the "Incredible" costumes. Stay tuned for our next Spirit Week coming in December.

Follow your Student Council @ajaxhs21 to find out about upcoming events. We have some things in store and are always looking for your ideas and suggestions



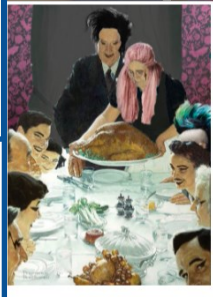
Technological Studies

News from Grade 10 Construction

In crews of four, Mr. Crooks' Grade 10 Construction class built full size walls and joined them. The hardest part seemed to be stripping everything down and removing all nails.

The class also soldered copper plumbing running through the walls and tested them with the hose for leaks.

Students made wood projects of their own design they also mixed and poured concrete to a variety of molds...Turtles, Gnomes, Frogs, Skulls and more...many developed an appreciation for the weight of concrete as they carried home their work.



Technological Studies

Ms. Scirocco's Communication Technology class has spent some of their in-class time working on special effects makeup and Pho-

News from Grade 10 Transportation

After 2 days of hard work with wrenches, hammers and student power, Mr. Crooks' Grade 10 transportation class managed to get the 2003 Mazda protégé out of the compound (where it had been rusting for years) and into the shop and running.



RAMS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Good day Parents/Guardians,

Quadmester #1 is quickly coming to a close and we have had a great start to this unpredictable and challenging time. Fortunately for the Physical Education program at Ajax High, we were blessed with amazing weather which allowed us to teach and learn outside! Students were able to play sports such as Softball, Soccer, Lacrosse, Flag football and Ultimate Frisbee. The Fitness classes were able to complete runs in the community as well as utilizing our new fitness spaces with new cardio equipment. Our new Health and Wellness SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) program is underway and has been very successful thus far. If your son/daughter is interested in this program please have them come by the PE office for more information.

The Physical Education Department has taken many precautions in keeping students safe. Hand sanitizer is offered to students at the beginning, mid-way and at the end of class. Students are given their own equipment and sharing is not permitted. All equipment is sanitized at the end of class and stored to dry for up to 48 hours afterwards. Each student must bring their own water bottle and changerooms are closed for use.

The students are to be commended for their ability to be flexible and adapt with all of the changes in PE this year. Our Physical Education students continue to be able to perform strategies and movement skills as they engage in a wide variety of physical activity even with a mask on!



We look forward to new students coming our way in Quadmester 2.

The Ajax PE Dept.



Art Department

The Arts department was thrilled to engage with our students face-to-face once more! We have really missed being able to develop all of our actors, musicians, and artists in a live classroom environment. We have all agreed that we have enjoyed everyone's focus, positive attitudes, camaraderie, and enthusiasm. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that the Arts are vital to well-being, and both students and teachers have benefited by being back together in the classroom. We are all learning new ways of thinking and doing, but we are all getting through it together.



We hope to continue to help students engage with the Arts as this very new format evolves. Be safe, be well, be creative.

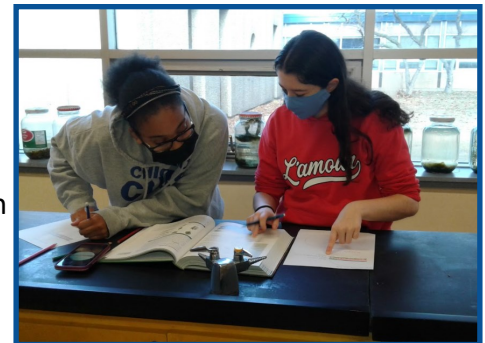
English Department

The English Department is extremely happy to see our students again – whether face-to-face or online. We've all noticed a great deal of gratitude for being able to return to school and that is reflected in their work ethic and their engagement with the stories we read together. We watch them support each other in their work, listen attentively, and act responsibly and empathetically towards themselves and their peers. Congratulations to all of them and many well wishes for the upcoming term.



Moderns Department

The Modern Languages' Department welcomed back both Mme Wang and Mme Beaulieu in September. Mme Wang taught the grade 9 French Immersion students during this first Quadmester. Their class took a virtual trip to the Louvre museum and practiced their writing and presentation skills through comic strips; while Mme Beaulieu took on the grade 9 French Immersion geography course. Mme Beaulieu has been using a new digital textbook with these students. Mme Allard and Mme Nundy have been collaborating on the grade 9 Core French program this Quadmester. They have taken on the challenge of piloting a new program with this energetic group of students. The focus has been on increasing oral proficiency and competency with authentic tasks including presenting themselves, ordering from the Juice Bar and travel dialogues. The pilot program was successful and we have purchased a new A1 program that is in line with the French curriculum and the DELF levels. We are encouraging our Core students to carry on with the French program in subsequent years so that they will have the opportunity of earning their International Language Certificate for French and have the opportunity to write the DELF exam in grade 12. Mme Milot has been working with the grade 10 French Immersion students in both French language and History. Unfortunately guest speakers were not available to present virtually to our students this quadmester, but hopefully we will access those resources in the second Quadmester. We are currently implementing authentic virtual resources to enhance our online component; these include the Canadian War Museum and the Oshawa Museum. Señora Porco has been teaching the grade 10 Spanish program this Quadmester. The group has been working on cultural activities highlighting festivals, celebrations and history from the Spanish speaking countries. Señora Porco's students have been concentrating their efforts on the oral components including presenting themselves, their routines and describing others. The students' final task will be to create an audition video for their favourite reality TV show all in Spanish. These students are encouraged to continue studying the Spanish language in grades 11 and 12 to earn their International Language Certificate in Spanish. Mme Mavin has been working with the grade 11 biology students. They have been using online resources when not in class and completing labs and lab activities during in class lessons. The final project for these students focuses on a dissection with questions from all five of the curriculum units. These French Immersion students will earn their French Immersion Certificate from Durham District School Board upon the completion of the grade 12 French Course.



Canadian & World Studies

All of us in the C.W.S. Department would like to say how happy we are to be teaching students directly again. We are all aware that the current situation is not ideal, but having facetime and direct interaction with our students is so important in education and we are grateful that it is back. The students in our classes are overwhelmingly glad to be back in class and student attendance across the department has been outstanding. Student engagement and enthusiasm has been excellent despite the pandemic related changes. Special acknowledgment needs to be given to our grade 9 students, who are not only returning to in-person learning, but are doing so in a new school with new people. Grade 9 can be socially challenging under the best of circumstances, but our grade 9's have taken everything in stride and have adapted extremely well. In Geography and History the current pandemic has been used as a basis for numerous subject related discussions, such as looking at similarities and differences between now and times during the Spanish Flu pandemic or the SARS outbreak. Our American history class was and continues to be captivated by the strange and history making drama of the American Presidential campaign and election. The Grade 11 Travel and Tourism class, even though they were not able to travel physically around Canada and the world, the class was able to virtually visit many of the world's top tourist attractions! Using google maps, they explored ancient ruins, nature trails, major cities and created a virtual map that was used to go on a cruise to the Caribbean. Our Issues of Indigenous Peoples class has been working hard on Calls to Action in support of Treaty Recognition Week, and specifically concerning the Mi'kmaq fisheries in Nova Scotia. With enormous help from Ms McIntosh, information was posted on the Ajax High School Instagram account throughout the week to educate and rally support for treaty rights of Indigenous Peoples. The class also held picketed protests against violence towards the Indigenous fish

harvesters in front of the school. The students worked very hard and had great days out there pounding the pavement. As Quadmester 1 draws to a close we are all thankful to be back in class we are all looking forward to continuing our work in

Quadmester 2.



Science Department

The 2020 school year saw a lot of changes at start up. The science department saw a few new faces join our teaching staff as we welcomed back the students. Right from the beginning, the science department was determined to offer valuable hands-on experiences through labs and activities. The staff worked hard to figure out how to provide these experiences with student safety as our top priority. Labs and activities were reimagined, and some new ones were created to suit our new learning environment. Needless to say, students were able to perform many labs through the Quadmester and experience all the fun that science has to offer! Students created chemical reactions, built electrical circuits, investigated how light works, performed dissections as well as many other activities. Looking forward to Quadmester 2, the science teachers are excited to build on our success of the first Quadmester and continue to provide fun, interactive courses for all our students.

Social Science Department

The Social Science Department has been working hard this quad to try and bring back some of the experiences that students were a part of in "pre-pandemic" times. Our Food Room is currently under renovation and when complete it will be a state of the art teaching and learning space for all students interested in the area of Nutrition and Health.

Featured this news letter, the HHG4M1 (Ms. Stowell-Smith's class) have been working their "Brain's" out. Throughout their course, they were looking at how humans develop with regards to their physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional development from childhood to end of life. During the Physical and Cognitive Development unit of this course, students learned not only how the brain develops but also where the different structures of the brain are located and what they do. To show their learning, students created a 3D model of the brain with labels to show the significant parts of the brain that are connected to other developmental aspects.

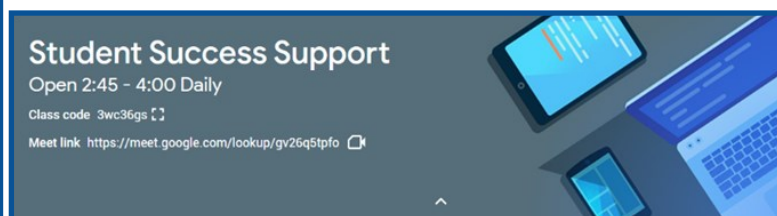


Inclusive Student Services

Student Success

Although this year may not look the same, the Inclusive Student Services department has continued to support students in many capacities. In the Student Success room, our staff has been working hard to support mainstream students virtually and in face-to-face formats.

All students have access to Google Clinic everyday from 9:00- 10:00 am **AND** 2:45-4:00 pm, where they can receive individualized support, specific to their needs.



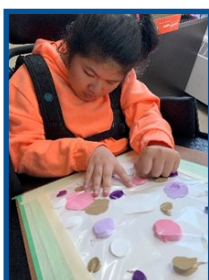
Google Clinic is available for students who would like extra support and assistance **in any of their courses** throughout each Quadmester. Please join our Google Classroom to take part in the Google Clinic. If you have questions about this program, please contact Ms. Yasodaran or Ms. Ireland

Special Education Classrooms

The PLP 1, PLP 2, PLP 3, Developmental and SSP teams have been working hard to create dynamic programming for students. Students in these classes have adapted extremely well to the new school year and have experienced significant success already!

Earlier this year, our Department held its own Terry Fox Community Walk. It was a great way for classes to get outside, explore the neighbourhood and talk about the legacy of Terry Fox.

Mrs. Franco's PLP 3 class did an amazing job creating signs to raise awareness for Terry Fox donations.



In October, PLP 2 students had a great time dressing up, designing and painting their own pumpkins. Some of the designs included lots of colour, spooky ghosts and flower power! This was a fun activity and really allowed some of our artists to shine through!

This month, classes are participating in the Special Olympics Ontario Walking Challenge. We are tracking all our activity and movement each day to see how far we collectively walk as a team by the end of the month. Morning movement has been an important part of our programs and each class has risen to the challenge!

Our Art teachers, Ms. Robinson and Ms. Smith have also been hard at work making and creating! We have seen some beautiful works of art as well as some wonderful creations such as homemade hand soap! Our Developmental class really enjoyed playing with paints!

More recently, students in the PLP 1 class worked together to create meaningful display boards for Remembrance Day. These were on display in the Pit for the school to see and reflect on.

We are so proud of all that our students have accomplished so far this year and look forward to many more successes.



Math Department

NUMBERS IN THE NEWS – AJAX MATH DEPARTMENT

WELCOME – STAFF UPDATE

We are thrilled to welcome Matt Burns and Adam Whitehead back to the Ajax Rams math department.

EXTRA HELP

The extra help clinic is available daily during block 4 (2:45 pm to 4:00 pm) via Google Meet. Separate Google Meets are being hosted for grades 9 & 10 (Junior) and grades 11 & 12 (Senior) to help meet student needs and encourage participation within the online clinics. The Google Meet Links to access these clinics have been posted to your student's virtual classroom.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

The math department is using Google Classroom and D2L for their virtual classroom platforms. In addition, students are expanding their knowledge and resource base by using Knowledge Hook, Desmos, Virtual Whiteboard, Jamboards, and GeoGebra in their math class.

PARENT RESOURCES FOR HOME SUPPORT

There are a variety of resources available to assist your child at home

Khan Academy (Elementary to Post Secondary): <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

UWaterloo Courseware (Grade 7 to 12): <https://cemc.uwaterloo.ca>

TVO Mathify (Grades 6 – 10): <https://www.tvomathify.com>

YouTube (several teacher led lessons available): <https://www.youtube.com>



SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

SHSM 

Ajax High School's new Specialist High Skills Major programs shine.

Our two new SHSM programs, Business & Humanities and Health & Wellness, were off to a great start! With over 70 students in the programs and word spreading quickly, they are destined to grow rapidly.

Although the program names seem limiting, the selection of courses that fulfill the credit requirements is *vast* and most students already have one or two on their timetable without even knowing.

These programs include experiential learning, sector-recognized certifications and training, reach-ahead experiences and more. Successful completion of the program leads to the Ministry of Education Red Seal upon graduation. All aspects of the program are paid for by the Ministry of Education...WOW!

It's not too late for students to join the programs. Anyone who is interested should see Ms. Beaulieu (Business/Humanities SHSM) or Ms. Andrews (Health & Wellness SHSM) to how these programs could work for them.

brigitte.beaulieuplatnar@ddsbc.ca

jacquelyn.andrews@ddsbc.ca



SHSM **Student Success**
GRADES 7-12
SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

BUSINESS



Welcome to SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJORS (SHSM)

What are SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJORS (SHSM)?

The SHSM is a specialized, ministry-approved program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

SHSMs assist students in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

These programs enable students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in engaging, career-related learning environments, and to prepare in a focused way for graduation and postsecondary education, training, or employment.



6 KEY BENEFITS for STUDENTS

- 1 Customize their secondary school education to suit their interests and talents;
- 2 Develop specialized knowledge and skills that are valued by the sector and postsecondary education institutions;
- 3 Earn credits that are recognized by the sector and postsecondary education institutions;
- 4 Gain sector-specific and career-relevant certification and training;
- 5 Develop essential skills and work habits that are valued by the sector;
- 6 Identify, explore, and refine their career goals and make informed decisions about their postsecondary destination.

HOW DO I ENROLL?

- Contact lead SHSM teacher in your school, preferably in Grade 10
- During course selection in Grade 10
- Contact the Guidance Department in your school



COMPONENTS of an SHSM

1. BUNDLED CREDITS

Eight to ten Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits focused in the area of the skilled career, including cooperative education credits

2. CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

Sector-recognized certifications and specialized training courses

3. EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & CAREER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

Experiential activities within the sector and career field

4. REACH AHEAD EXPERIENCES

Learning experiences connected with the student's postsecondary plans, including apprenticeship, college, university or workplace

5. SECTOR PARTNERED CONTEXTUALIZED EXPERIENCE

The offerings within this component include, Innovation Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) training, sector-delivered contextualized coding, sector-delivered contextualized mathematical literacy

All SHSMs are offered in all four pathways: apprenticeship training, college, university, and workplace.

What do GRADUATES RECEIVE?

Students who complete the requirements for the OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) and for the SHSM will receive an OSSD with an embossed SHSM seal on it. Credits earned towards the SHSM are indicated on the Provincial Report Card, and completion of the SHSM is recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript (OST).

HEALTH & WELLNESS



Welcome to SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJORS (SHSM)

What are SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJORS (SHSM)?

The SHSM is a specialized, ministry-approved program that allows students to focus their learning on a specific economic sector while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

SHSMs assist students in their transition from secondary school to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

These programs enable students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in engaging, career-related learning environments, and to prepare in a focused way for graduation and postsecondary education, training, or employment.



6 KEY BENEFITS for STUDENTS

- 1 Customize their secondary school education to suit their interests and talents;
- 2 Develop specialized knowledge and skills that are valued by the sector and postsecondary education institutions;
- 3 Earn credits that are recognized by the sector and postsecondary education institutions;
- 4 Gain sector-specific and career-relevant certification and training;
- 5 Develop essential skills and work habits that are valued by the sector;
- 6 Identify, explore, and refine their career goals and make informed decisions about their postsecondary destination.

HOW DO I ENROLL?

- Contact lead SHSM teacher in your school, preferably in Grade 10
- During course selection in Grade 10
- Contact the Guidance Department in your school



COMPONENTS of an SHSM

1. BUNDLED CREDITS

Eight to ten Grade 11 and Grade 12 credits focused in the area of the skilled career, including cooperative education credits

2. CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

Sector-recognized certifications and specialized training courses

3. EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & CAREER EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

Experiential activities within the sector and career field

4. REACH AHEAD EXPERIENCES

Learning experiences connected with the student's postsecondary plans, including apprenticeship, college, university or workplace

5. SECTOR PARTNERED CONTEXTUALIZED EXPERIENCE

The offerings within this component include, Innovation Creativity and Entrepreneurship (ICE) training, sector-delivered contextualized coding, sector-delivered contextualized mathematical literacy

All SHSMs are offered in all four pathways: apprenticeship training, college, university, and workplace.

What do GRADUATES RECEIVE?

Students who complete the requirements for the OSSD (Ontario Secondary School Diploma) and for the SHSM will receive an OSSD with an embossed SHSM seal on it. Credits earned towards the SHSM are indicated on the Provincial Report Card, and completion of the SHSM is recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript (OST).

Coming Up....

We are celebrating our 43rd seasonal Food and Toy Drive at Ajax High School.

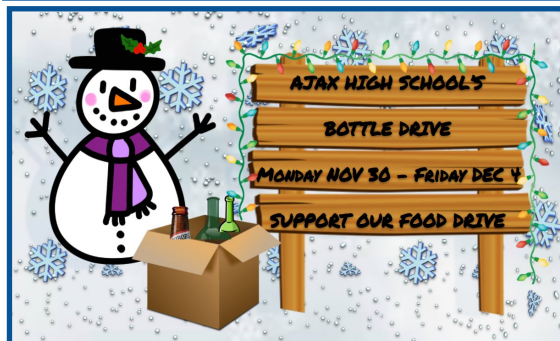
This year we have a calendar specifically highlighting the specific items the food banks are looking to collect. However, we will accept all non-perishable food donation of all sorts. We will also accept new packaged toys (no unpackaged items please). We will also accept Gift Certificates for local Durham stores or restaurants. We will collect monetary donations as well as Canadian Tire money.

All items collected will be donated to local charities including Feed the Need in Durham (<https://feedtheneedindurham.ca/>), Joanne's House, The local Salvation Army in Ajax and The Muslim Welfare Centre in Whitby (<https://www.muslimwelfarecentre.com/>)

Donations can be dropped off in class (the week the students are in class) and the community can drop off any time in the main foyer at AHS.



| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 16 Cooking Oil | 17 Cereal | 18 Pasta | 19 Rice | 20 Books |
| 23 Canned Vegetables | 24 Canned Fruit | 25 Baby Formula & Accessories | 26 Peanut Butter | 27 Pasta Sauce |
| 30 Canned or Boxed Soup | 1 Canned or Dried Beans | 2 Coffee and/or Tea | 3 Toiletries | 4 Granola Bars |
| 7 Sports Toys | 8 Nuts - Mixed Nuts | 9 Dessert Mixes | 10 Canned Tuna or Other Meat | 11 Spices |
| 14 Crackers & Cookies | 15 Puzzles & Games | 16 Oatmeal and Other Grains | 17 Canned Stew | 18 Powdered or Stable Milk |



**Stay Tuned....
Ajax HS
Spirit Wear is on
it's way!**