



May 3, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Edmonton Catholic School District has been working to find cost efficiencies for student transportation for the 2018/19 school year. Without making significant changes, the District will be facing a school transportation budget deficit of more than \$1 million. There are several reasons for this deficit and they include a 22% increase in yellow bus ridership and a 12% increase in Edmonton transit ridership in the past five years. Provincial transportation funding has not increased in the same time frame. A strategic plan has been developed and changes for September 2018 include:

- Sharing additional bus routes with Edmonton Public Schools. Currently we share 9 bus routes and another 11 to 12 shared bus routes have been identified for next year.
- Using fewer buses by increasing the number of schools that share bussing.
- Introducing tiered bussing so that one bus can be used on two trips.
- Adjusting start and dismissal times to allow for the school transportation changes.

Other school districts in the province have made similar adjustments to start and dismissal times with success. This is how the time changes will affect our school:

First Bell: 8:35 a.m.  
Instructional Start Time: 8:40 a.m.  
Dismissal Time: 3:03 p.m.  
Thursday Dismissal: 12:05 p.m.

- Our school will be using tiered bussing meaning that one bus will be used for two trips. The first trip will drop off a bus load of students at the school and then leave for a second trip by picking up additional students. There will be supervision at the school for the children arriving on the first trip. The afternoon will operate with two trips and supervision will also be available for students leaving on the second bus trip.

Email notification will be sent in mid-August advising parents to check PowerSchool Parent Portal to get their child's bus route information. Letters will be mailed in mid-August to new kindergarten students (either AM or PM) who have requested noon hour/regular yellow bus service.

Please know that these modifications are only being made after careful consideration. We realize these changes will affect your family's schedule and wanted to give you time to prepare for these changes. Thank you for your support as we work together to make our school transportation system as efficient as possible. If you have additional questions, please call District Transportation Services at 780-441-6078 or email: [transportationservices@ecsd.net](mailto:transportationservices@ecsd.net).

Sincerely,

Fran Toohey Connolly  
Principal, St. Augustine School