



April 30, 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 to 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 nine bus routes and another 11 to 12 shared bus routes have been identified for next year.
- Using fewer buses by incorporating shared busing
- Introducing tiered bussing so that one bus can be used on two trips.
- Creating consistent four-day kindergarten programs throughout the District by no longer offering Thursday morning kindergarten at 14 schools. This will eliminate the need for noon hour Thursday kindergarten busing.
- Adjusting start and dismissal times at 30 Edmonton Catholic Schools to allow for the school transportation changes.

Other school districts in the province have made similar adjustments to school transportation with success.

This is how the changes will affect our school:

- Times for the morning and dismissal bells have been adjusted. Classes for grades 1-6 will now begin 8:55 and dismissal will be 3:30. Thursday dismissal will be 11:44 AM. Early Learning times will be 8:55 to 11:52 and 12:29 to 3:30.
- We will be sharing buses with St. Martha School next year and St. Martha bus runs will be before our bus runs.
- If your child takes the yellow bus, ride times next year will remain comparable to what they are currently.

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 enough 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.

Sincerely,

Boyan Yarovenko  
School Principal