



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:

Elementary:

First Bell: 8:38 a.m.
Instructional Start Time: 8:41 a.m.
Dismissal Time: 2:55 p.m.
Thursday Dismissal: 12:04 p.m.

Junior High:

First Bell: 8:38 a.m.
Instructional Start Time: 8:45 a.m.
Dismissal Time: 2:55 p.m.
Thursday Dismissal: 12:04 p.m.

- Yellow bus routes that are shared will be scheduled based on Junior High school times.
- Our school is sharing bussing with J. H. Picard School. The bus will come to our school second in the morning.
- In the afternoon, one shuttle bus will arrive at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School to transfer our students to the other buses waiting at J. H. Picard School.
- Ride times will remain comparable to the current school year or shorter.
- Stop locations may change as J.H. Picard's network of stop locations has a greater coverage. Bussing information will be available mid-August.

Email notification will be sent in mid-August advising parents to check PowerSchool Parent Portal to get their child's bus route information.

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.

Sincerely,

Kevin McGoey
Principal, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School