



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.
- Creating consistent four-day kindergarten programs throughout the District by no longer offering Thursday morning kindergarten at 13 schools. This will eliminate the need for noon hour Thursday kindergarten bussing.
- 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: 8:40 a.m.
Instructional Start Time: 8:45 a.m.
Dismissal Time: 3:15 p.m.
Thursday Dismissal: 12:15 p.m.

- Our school is one of the schools that has tiered bussing. St. Charles School is the first school and St. Lucy is the second school which means a later start and dismissal time.
- Tiered bussing is when one bus is used for two separate routes for two schools. The students from each school are not on the bus at the same time.
- If your child currently takes the yellow bus, ride times next year will remain comparable or shorter.
- Thursday morning Kindergarten will no longer be offered at St. Lucy School starting September 2018.

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.

Sincerely,

Silvia Franzese
Principal, St. Lucy School