

September 2, 2020

Return to School Updates

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to share a few important updates related to our return to school.

Delayed Start of School Bus Transportation

Halton Student Transportation Services (HSTS) has been working closely with our school board as well as the Halton District School Board to collate and coordinate the information received from parents, confirming which students will be returning back to school for in-class instruction, and how many of those students will require transportation. Due to the changes in the school schedules, as well as the enhanced health and safety protocols that will have to be in place on school buses, HSTS will require some additional time to finalize the transportation arrangements. **In light of this, the start of school bus routes will be delayed this year.**

School bus transportation to and from school will be available as follows:

- For elementary students in the self-contained **Community Living, Essential Skills**, and **Structured Teaching** special education classes, and secondary students in our **Life Skills classes**, transportation to and from school will be available beginning **Friday, September 11, 2020**.
- For **all other students (Kindergarten to Grade 12)**, school bus transportation to and from school will be available beginning **Monday, September 14, 2020**.

Please note that our schools will be open to students, as we [communicated last week](#). We appreciate that many families rely on school buses to get their children to and from school, and we are hopeful that you will be able to make alternative arrangements for next week.

Once transportation arrangements have been finalized, HSTS will be sending an email to parents so that they may confirm the route number, pick-time and location through the parent portal.

Board Motion to Lower Elementary Class Sizes

At the Regular Board Meeting held last night (September 1, 2020), Trustees passed a motion authorizing the use of Ministry funding and Board reserves (savings) to lower class sizes in our elementary schools. This will help us ensure as much physical distancing as possible in our Kindergarten to Grade 8 classes, by reducing the class-size *average* to approximately 22 students, with a maximum of 25 students per class.



Class Lists for In-School Instruction

Our elementary school principals are currently finalizing class lists, and while we are hoping the lists will be available on Friday, September 4th, the release may be delayed until the weekend. Parents will receive an email directly from the School Principal once the class lists are available.

Please note that due to the timing and complexity of the process this year, schools will not be able to accommodate requests for changes to class lists.

Updates and Additional Information

We will continue to share information and updates with parents directly via email, as well as post updates on our [Return to School Plan website](#) and through our social media channels:

- Twitter: [@HCDSB](#)
- Instagram: [@HaltonCatholicDSB](#)
- Facebook: [Halton Catholic District School Board](#)

We will also keep updating the [FAQs on our website](#) for more information about the return to school.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as we navigate through a very complex planning process that will help us ensure a safe and healthy return to school for students and staff.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Daly".

Pat Daly
Director of Education