

# Transportation @ TDChristian 2020-21

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Every day, at TDChristian, our entire staff works hard to ensure that our students are **enfolded**, **engaged** and **empowered** to learn for service in the light of God's Word. For many of our students, this day begins and ends on our buses. Currently, we have 13 different bus routes originating from all over the GTA. Some of our students are on the bus for an hour and forty-five minutes one-way. Given this situation, it is essential that life "on the road" is an extension of the atmosphere that we are trying to build within the walls of TDChristian.

A significant challenge we face this year with our transportation is creating safe buses to limit the spread of COVID-19. Life on our buses is a place where students will experience a new normal. In the province's "Guide to reopening Ontario schools", there are protocols and best practices listed for how to provide the safest transportation possible for our students. We will be following its recommendations and going beyond by implementing further precautions as discussed with our transportation provider, Parkview.

The most obvious of these is the **mandatory use of masks** on all of our buses, for all of our riders.

Another significant change is that each student will be assigned to a seat on the bus. Where necessary, students will be sitting with someone from their family, or, in some cases, a student from their cohort at school. This will help us limit our close contacts, even in a smaller area such as a bus. Sitting in assigned seats is essential to limit the spread and must be taken seriously by our students; there must be zero switching of seats, a mandate of TDChristian and Parkview.

The COVID-19 mitigation measures being implemented in our transportation service include:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) provided to drivers (i.e. masks, shields, gloves, hand sanitizer).
- Spray disinfectant for wiping down high-touch surfaces between runs, with a thorough cleaning after a.m. and p.m. routes.
- Weather permitting, we will drive our buses with the windows open for increased ventilation.
- Defined bus seating plans (supplied by school administration) to maintain any cohort concept that exists in the school environment.
- The seat behind the driver will be left vacant.
- No bus passes will be given out this year

Finally, this year we plan to continue a zero-tolerance rule for vaping on our bus, where if broken, strict penalties will be given which will include loss of bus privileges for a time. While typically vaping has only physically harmed the individual vaping, there is potential to spread the virus and do physical harm to others through the exhalation of vape particles.

Thank you for your support as we look forward to a new, albeit different, year here at TDChristian. It is my prayer, that even on the bus, your child and your family feel that *you belong here*.

Sincerely,

Joel Dykxhoorn, *Vice Principal*