

Transportation @ TDChristian, 2021-22

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 14 different bus routes originating from all over the GTA. We were pleased to add another bus this year through Acton and Milton. 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 challenge that we continue to face this year is creating safe busses to limit possibilities for the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to follow the province's protocols and best practices to provide the safest transportation possible for our students. We will be following its recommendations and going beyond them 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 riders.

We will continue to use seating plans (which will be provided to our bus drivers prior to the first day of school) to assist with contact tracing, if needed. Where necessary, students will be sitting with someone from their family, or someone in their grade with whom they might share classes. This is done to limit close contacts, especially in a smaller area such as a bus. Sitting in assigned seats is essential to limit the possibilities of the spread of COVID-19 and must be taken seriously by our students; there must be NO 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 AM and PM routes.
- Weather permitting, we will drive our buses with the windows open for increased ventilation.
- Defined bus seating plans (supplied by school administration) to take advantage of existing home relationships and school groupings.
- The seat behind the driver will be left vacant.
- No bus passes will be given out this year (this will be revisited as we see how things are going).

Finally, as in the past, there is zero-tolerance for vaping on any of our buses. Strict penalties will be given for vapers including the loss of bus privileges for a time. While typically vaping primarily physically harms the individual vaping, we wish to prevent the potential to spread germs including viruses and any physical harm that might result due to the exhalation of vape particles.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to a new year as we continue to navigate through COVID-19. We are optimistic about the opportunities we have for our students – often it begins and ends on the bus.

As I take on the transportation role from Mr. Dykxhoorn, I look forward to working with you.

Colin Hoving
Vice-Principal