

Transportation@TDChristian, 2023-24

Every day, 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 most students, their day begins and ends on our buses. Currently, we have 15 different bus routes originating from all over the GTA.

Our long-time transportation service provider is Parkview Transit. Their drivers often speak very highly of our students, including some who have been driving buses for our school for over 10 years. We appreciate their work and look forward to continuing our strong partnership with them again this year.

When creating our bus routes, we make every effort to provide stops that are as convenient as possible for our families. The great distance from where some students travel makes it a challenging task; some are on the bus for an hour and forty-five minutes one-way. We work diligently to provide the best possible route for each family while keeping in mind the needs of the entire TDChristian community.

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. We desire a safe place on our buses for our students and drivers. We expect all students to follow the instructions of their bus drivers including their expectations with respect to food and drink, keeping the bus clean, bus behavior including staying seated, and being respectful to everyone on the bus.

A safe place on the bus for all students means bus riders need to adhere to the items listed in the "School Policies" section of the Student and Family Handbook. Students should use only acceptable language, refrain from wearing scented cologne or perfumes, and refrain from taking unsolicited video or photos of themselves or others on the bus.

There is a zero-tolerance rule for vaping on our bus. Strict penalties will result which include the loss of bus privileges for a time. Not only does vaping often physically harm the individual vaping, it is illegal for most students to vape, and there is the potential to spread viruses and do physical harm to others through the exhalation of vape particles.

In short, let's work together to make the bus ride to and from TDChristian a positive experience. Please encourage your son or daughter to communicate with me and/or your listed Bus Rep whenever there are concerns about anything regarding life on the bus.

Thanks, and I look forward to working with you again this year!

Joel Dykxhoorn, *Associate Principal*