

July 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

Over the last few months, we have seen a mobilization of our whole community; students, parents and staff, that brought us all together while we were being asked to stay apart. Everyone had to find new ways of connecting which was not always easy.

We want to recognize the efforts of our students who persevered in spite of the circumstances. As well as each of you, their parents, who despite the challenges of trying to juggle school work, working from home and the stress of the pandemic, also persevered. Thank you for your understanding and collaboration.

A special congratulations to all our students who graduated this year. We wish them much success for their future and want to remind them, to not give up on their dreams.

The planning is underway to greet students for the new school year, with all the necessary measures in place. As the new school year approaches, please take the time to talk with your child and reassure them that their safety and security is our main priority. A special message for our students who will be starting secondary 4 and 5, that even if the end of the school year was difficult at times, we are looking forward to seeing them in August. It is important that they continue with their studies, and know that their teachers and everyone at school will be there to help them.

One area that we know will be challenging is school transportation. The latest directives we received from the Ministry, which were developed in collaboration with Public Health (*Santé publique*) will have an impact on our capacity to transport students to and from school. Here are some of the main considerations that we have at this time:

- The capacity on our buses will be reduced to 2 students per seat, therefore a maximum of 48 students on a bus.
- High school students must have a mask and wear it on the bus. For elementary students it is strongly recommended that they also have and wear a mask. We encourage you to have your child use a reusable mask, possibly homemade, colourful and washable. For information on masks, how to wear them, how to make them, etc. visit the Quebec.ca website [Wearing a mask or a face covering in public settings in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

- Walking distances will be strictly enforced as per the transportation policy, therefore if your child has had bus transportation in the past as a courtesy, this will not be the case for the start of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Students will be limited to one address for transportation purposes, unless the two addresses are on the same route/bus. In this case, the student is occupying only one place on the bus for both addresses and not two seats on two buses, every second week.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for students when they get on and off the bus.
- All school buses will be thoroughly cleaned between the morning and afternoon bus runs.

Under the current circumstances some parents may prefer to drive their child to and from school. If so, we ask that you let our transportation department know as soon as possible to assist us in organizing the routes. If transportation is not necessary for the upcoming school year, please email transportation@etsb.qc.ca

We realize that the information can and most probably will change over the summer, therefore we ask that you keep an eye on your emails as well as the [ETSB website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for important information.

In the meantime, we hope that you take advantage of the summer break to relax, recharge and reconnect with family, friends and the things that bring you happiness.

Have a great summer and we are looking forward to greeting all our students back in August.



Michel Soucy
Interim Director General



Michael Murray
Chairman