



# ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Friday, May 17, 2019

## Important Note for Parents/Guardians

The current fiscal reality in the education sector is presenting school boards across the province with difficult decisions to make in order to preserve the highest possible levels of programming for students. For the 2019-2020 school year, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (SMCDSB) is facing financial pressure and a funding shortfall in its transportation portfolio of approximately \$500,000.

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium (SCSTC) - the independent organization responsible for the delivery of transportation services for both the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board and Simcoe County District School Board - recently recommended changes to bell times for several schools in both boards. Changing the start and end times for the school day enables our bussing provider to create efficiencies and cost-savings by using one bus to transport students to multiple schools.

At our Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, May 15, our trustees approved a change to the start and end time at **St. John Vianney Catholic School**, and some other schools in the board. The new bell times for our school, beginning in September 2019 are as follows:

**Start of Day Bell : 9:10 AM**

**Dismissal Bell : 3:40 PM**

*Please note: this change is contingent upon the Simcoe County District School Board's approval of bell time changes for their affected schools, which will be decided in the upcoming week.*

We recognize that change can sometimes be difficult, but after much research and deliberation it was determined that this was the best course of action in order to achieve the necessary cost-savings in transportation and protect classroom programme. The approved bell time changes for 2019 will result in a cost-savings of approximately \$250,000 for our board.

The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium will be providing letters to families of students who currently take the bus to outline the details of new pick-up and drop-off times. As always, please feel free to contact the school directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours in Faith,

James L. Murphy  
Principal  
St. John Vianney Catholic School