



SIMCOE MUSKOKA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

November 27, 2020

Dear Families,

We have important information to share with you related to inclement weather days at Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. **When school vehicle transportation is cancelled in your child's weather zone, schools will be closed for all students in that zone.** This means that all students, including those who walk or are dropped off, will not be attending school in person on those days. Instead, students will be expected to complete school work asynchronously on those days, by logging onto their virtual learning classroom environment, e.g., Google Classroom or Brightspace to access assignments and class exercises.

We understand and empathize with families who may have difficulties finding child care for their children so they can attend work. However, in this COVID-19 environment, we must make difficult decisions in order to ensure that the health and safety of students and staff is our primary focus. In a typical year, during inclement weather days, students are grouped together in order to provide adequate and necessary supervision, e.g., several students from different classes gathering in a common space. This practice would result in the mixing of student cohorts, which is not advised in accordance with public health directives, during COVID-19.

It is important for our secondary students in particular to recognize that completing assignments and learning activities in their virtual classroom during inclement weather days is especially important. As a result of the quadmester system, in which students have one class for the entire day (300 minutes of instruction), missing one day of class is the equivalent of missing four "regular" days of school work. In areas where we may experience multiple inclement weather days this would have a significant impact on meeting the expectations of the course.

Families are encouraged to make arrangements and have a plan in place for inclement weather days. We also encourage you to check your [transportation website](#) for bus cancellation information or tune into local media.

As always, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate changes to our normal practices during this pandemic. I continue to feel blessed to be part of this wonderful Simcoe Muskoka Catholic family.