

**June 15, 2016**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: COOPERATIVE BUSING WITH CHINOOK'S EDGE SCHOOL DIVISION

As many of you may have heard, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools and Chinook's Edge School Division have partnered to provide cooperative busing in the Olds and Innisfail areas beginning in September 2016. The purpose of cooperative busing is to reduce the redundancy of buses traveling down the same roads, as well as increasing student densities to fill up the buses quicker. We anticipate that this will reduce ride times for the majority of students, as well as reduce operational costs for both Divisions.

Beginning in September 2016 Chinook's Edge School Division will provide busing to their students and some Red Deer Catholic students. Those Red Deer Catholic families that live within the Chinook's Edge busing boundary and the Red Deer Catholic formed areas will be transported by Chinook's Edge School Division. In order to ensure proper tracking for grants and service agreements are in place we will be asking families to complete the Red Deer Catholic online bus registration. This information along with student information will be shared with Chinook's Edge as per FOIP guidelines so they have the critical information to contact families, as well as complete the Alberta Education Transportation Grant Application. These families will be contacted by the Chinook's Edge bus drivers in late August to introduce themselves, provide pickup times and drop off times, as well as other pertinent information.

Families that reside outside of Chinook's Edge busing boundary (Didsbury, Sundre, Bowden, Spruce View) and within the Red Deer Catholic formed areas along with families living within the Town of Innisfail and the Town of Olds will continue to be bused by Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools. Our procedures will continue as in previous years and families will receive a call from their bus driver in late August to introduce themselves and provide pickup times prior to school starting.

Red Deer Catholic and Chinook's Edge School Divisions have aligned their calendars in an effort to ensure success in cooperative busing. We look forward to our new partnership with Chinook's Edge in an effort to continue to provide high quality transportation services. Should you have any questions feel free to contact your school principal or myself at 403-343-1055.

Sincerely Yours,



Ken Jaeger  
Supervisor of Support Service