

May 7, 2021

Dear **Bridgewood PS** Families,

We are reaching out to let you know that your school will experience a change to the timing of the start and/or end of the school day, otherwise known as bell times, effective September 2021. This change will facilitate a district wide timetable and a standard length of the school day and may affect bus pick-up and drop-off schedules for schools in the South Region of the Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) jurisdiction.

For **Bridgewood PS** the change will be as follows:

Current Start Time	September 2021 Start Time	Current End Time	September 2021 End Time
8:05 am	9:15 am	2:25 pm	3:35 pm

UCDSB and CDSBEO in partnership with Student Transportation of Eastern Ontario (STEO), have been aligning scheduling to reflect these bell times across the entire region of service over a three-year period, to create consistent 8:00 a.m. start times for secondary schools and start times for elementary schools between 9:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Bell time alignment supports consistent planning for families, the implementation of district-wide learning opportunities and significant transportation related savings, without loss of service to families. To get a list of the full scope of changes taking place in the South region, please visit:

www.steo.ca/belltimechanges

Changing Childcare Needs

The school boards recognize that changes to bell times may require families to make use of before-and-after school care services that they did not require in the past. To address these concerns, the boards are actively working with parents and childcare operators to assess the need for additional support and therefore, they require your input.

Changes to Childcare (for schools offering JK-6 programming)

The annual survey of parents by individual schools concerning their need for childcare services has been aligned with the notice of bell time changes to allow parents to consider their own needs in light of the anticipated changes.

The information parents provide to the annual [childcare survey](http://www.steo.ca/belltimechanges) is critically important to helping childcare operators to properly assess demand and plan accordingly for resources in the new school year. Please complete the [childcare survey](http://www.steo.ca/belltimechanges), which is located at www.steo.ca/belltimechanges by June 4, 2021. For support in accessing or completing the survey contact **1-855-441-1589**.

Parents who have questions about existing before-and-after school programming or childcare opportunities, can also reach out to their school Principal, or directly to the childcare operator, who will provide the appropriate resources.

Some families may be eligible for financial assistance for their childcare needs through the municipality. Parents can learn if they are eligible for the assistance program by visiting the following websites:

Counties of SD&G and the City of Cornwall	https://www.cornwall.ca/en/live-here/child-care.aspx
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Information Resources and Sessions

UCDSB and STEO are providing several resources to assist parents with specific information about how they will be directly affected by schedule changes and how they can most effectively source in-school or other childcare services if needed.

STEO has set up a call centre that can be reached at **1-855-441-1589**. It will be active as of May 10, 2021 and can assist parents in accessing online information and providing direction on where additional information resources can be found.

UCDSB and STEO are offering two interactive parent information sessions, taking place on May 17 and May 18, 2021 to address questions. With COVID-19 safety measures in mind, these sessions will be offered through a virtual platform and will require pre-registration. Please visit www.steo.ca/belltimechanges to register for an interactive session. Registration support is available by reaching out to our call centre at **1-855-441-1589**. A recorded session will be made available at www.steo.ca/belltimechanges for those who are unable to participate.

Staying Connected and Ready for the Fall

In order to be ready for September, we encourage all UCDSB parents to register at www.myfamilyroom.ca in order to receive notifications by email. Parents can also download the free STEO BusPlanner Delays App to their mobile phone to receive direct notifications specific to their child's school. Use access code STEO.

SCHOOL and TRANSPORTATION
ELIGIBILITY

Parents can visit STEO's website at www.steo.ca and click on the icon to verify your child's eligibility for busing.



Detailed student transportation information, including pick-up/drop-off locations and approximate times, will be available **commencing August 23, 2021** using the FIND MY BUS STOP tool on STEO's website.

Please do not hesitate to contact STEO at 1-855-925-0022 or transportation@steo.ca for any clarification you may require as relates to transportation.

Wishing you the very best,

UCDSB and STEO