

Board Office

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Dear families,

October 30th, 2026

As we approach the winter months, Seven Oaks School Division would like to remind families of the importance of student safety when travelling to and from school, particularly as Manitoba transitions to permanent Daylight Saving Time on November 1, 2026. This means that clocks will no longer be turned back in the fall or forward in the spring.

While this means clocks will no longer need to be adjusted seasonally, it also means the sun will rise approximately one hour later during the winter months. As a result, many students will be travelling to school in darker conditions, particularly from November through mid-March.

In Winnipeg, sunrise is expected at approximately 8:21 am on November 3, 2026, and as late as 9:26 am in early January, before gradually returning to earlier times as spring approaches.

There are several simple ways families can help ensure students remain safe while commuting to school.

Some important safety reminders include:

- Plan a safe route using sidewalks and well-lit areas whenever possible.
- Stay alert and avoid distractions, including phones and headphones.
- Reflective strips on jackets or backpacks and small safety lights can improve visibility.
- Use designated crosswalks and look carefully before crossing streets.
- Make eye contact with drivers and ensure vehicles have stopped before crossing.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic where sidewalks are unavailable.
- Wait in a safe location, away from traffic, when using school bus stops.
- Allow extra time for the morning commute to avoid rushing.

Families are encouraged to discuss these safety practices with their children to help them feel more confident and prepared when travelling in low-light conditions.

With reduced visibility during the morning hours, we also ask motorists to use extra caution when driving in and around school zones, especially during morning drop-off times. Drivers are reminded to reduce their speed, pay close attention at intersections and pedestrian crossings and allow additional time for their morning commute. Drivers should also be alert for students who may be difficult to see in darker conditions, particularly during periods of snow, rain or reduced visibility.

The safety and well-being of our students remain a priority for Seven Oaks School Division. As our community adjusts to permanent Daylight-Saving Time, we encourage all families, students and motorists to remain mindful of changing daylight conditions throughout the fall and winter months.

If you have concerns about your child's route to school or safety during their commute, please contact your school administration.

Thank you for your continued support and for taking the time to review these important safety reminders with your children. By working together and encouraging safe travel habits, we can help ensure students travel safely to and from school throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Seven Oaks School Division