



St. James–Assiniboia School Division

Great Schools for Growing and Learning

Jenness Moffatt
Superintendent / Chief Executive Officer

Michael Schroeder
Secretary-Treasurer / Chief Financial Officer

October 29, 2026

Dear caregiver,

As you are likely aware, Daylight Saving Time (DST) will become permanent starting on November 1, 2026, following an announcement by the [Province of Manitoba](#) in September.

The sun will rise one hour later from November to mid-March, and most students will be walking or commuting to school in pre-dawn light for a portion of the fall and winter, depending on school schedules. Start times range from 8:20 a.m. to 9 a.m. for most schools.

For example, sunrise takes place at 8:21 a.m. on November 3, 2026, and is pushed to as late as 9:26 a.m. on January 4, 2027, returning to 8:21 a.m. on February 24, 2027.

There are many actions caregivers and students can take to support visibility when walking and commuting to school, including:

- *Take note of sunrise.*
- *Chart a well-lit path to school.*
- *Use crosswalks whenever possible. Wait until vehicles have stopped.*
- *If sidewalks are not available, walk facing traffic to see oncoming vehicles.*
- *Look both ways before crossing the street and make eye contact with drivers.*
- *Be alert and avoid distractions (put away headphones/cell phones).*
- *Wear bright clothing.*
- *Place reflective strips on clothes or backpacks.*
- *Invest in LED walking gear, such as armbands or light clips.*

We encourage caregivers to have discussions with their child about the risks of lower lighting conditions and the measures they can take to stay safe.

We would also like to remind motorists to exercise caution in or near school zones. Slow down, be aware of schools on your commute and their associated start times, drive to conditions, be on the lookout for pedestrians on the side of the road or about to cross the road, and please make eye contact with and yield to pedestrians at controlled intersections, crosswalks, and when exiting private driveways. Wait for pedestrians to fully cross before proceeding.

We want to assure caregivers that SJASD staff members have adjusted lighting timers to ensure schools and buildings are well lit. Staff have also audited community bus stops for streetlight conditions and are reaching out to a small number of families impacted by low lighting levels.

We are continuing to evaluate the visibility of our patrols, and supervising staff will exercise increased vigilance at drop-offs, bus loading areas, and street crossings during the first week of permanent DST and as lighting conditions are reduced throughout the fall and winter.

We will continue to monitor the situation and encourage caregivers with concerns to reach out to school administrators.

For more information on driver and pedestrian safety, visit:

[Manitoba Public Insurance – Pedestrians remain vulnerable on Manitoba roads](#)

Student safety remains our highest priority. Thank you for taking the time to review this information and for speaking with your child about safe travel practices. We appreciate your continued support as we adapt to permanent Daylight Saving Time and the changing conditions that come with it.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jaime Siska'.

Jaime Siska
Assistant Superintendent Educational Planning and Policy
St. James-Assiniboia School Division