
Office of the Regional Executive Director of Education

January 20, 2021

Dear Families:

I am writing with exciting news! As you've likely heard, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) announced in its 2019-24 [Capital Plan](#) that a replacement for St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay (SJAM) will be built on the current school site. Preparation is now underway and construction is expected to start in the summer of 2021.

While the new school is under construction, students and staff will be required to relocate to a new space for two school years. We explored all options that kept students as close to their current neighbourhood as possible. As we looked at those options, we asked members of the School Advisory Committee (SAC) what we needed to consider. Loud and clear, we heard the most important consideration was keeping the entire student body together.

I am excited to share that we are fortunate to be able to honour this request, and SJAM, in its entirety, is able to temporarily move to the former Beaufort School building, located on the corner of Walnut and Watt Streets. Beaufort is fully functional as an elementary school, as it was recently used to house students and staff while the new LeMarchant-St. Thomas was under construction. In an upcoming message, we'll send along some photos of the building.

We still have many details to work out between now and next September, but I want to assure you that we will work alongside the school's administration, the SAC and the school community to plan for a smooth transition. Please note that HRCE will provide bus transportation for students to Beaufort.

I recognize that SJAM is a part of the fabric of the North End. I know that many community partners, such as the Mulgrave Park Caring and Learning Centre, the Community Y, the North Branch Library, Veith House, various daycare programs – and countless other volunteers wrap their arms around SJAM students each and every day. Please know that we are committed to ensuring these supports remain in place. These partnerships are vital to our students' academic achievement and well-being.

Please look forward to regular communication as this process unfolds from HRCE and your school. We will also share information and updates at www.hrce.ca and on the SJAM website.

Stay well,



Elwin LeRoux,
Regional Executive Director of Education

c: Amy Hunt, Acting Principal, St. Joseph's-Alexander McKay