

August 28, 2018

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you of two new safety measures that will come into effect in schools of the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord (CSCN) in the upcoming weeks. CSCN regards the safety of your children as a priority and that is why these new measures are important for our schools.

Firstly, starting this fall, all school doors will be locked during normal school hours. In many of our schools, this practice is already in place. However, in some of our schools, adjustments will be required in the first few weeks of the new school year. In most cases, the system in place will involve door bells and cameras. It is likely that schools will regulate the hours for transitions to limit interruptions during the school day. Transition times will be provided (morning, noon and end of day) to ensure parents have access to the facility. Otherwise, the school doors will be locked and visitors will have to announce themselves before having access to the school. While we understand this approach will change some habits, it is necessary to move forward with this initiative to ensure student and personnel safety.

The second measure will require volunteers to submit a criminal record check before volunteering with students. In today's society, this requirement has become the norm for coaches and volunteers in parishes or in other activities involving children. CSCN has developed an administrative procedure for this purpose. Many parents already have proof of a criminal record check. For others, it will be necessary to obtain it from the authorities. CSCN will facilitate this by providing a letter to interested parents indicating that they will be invited to volunteer in our schools. Over the next few days, your school will inform you of the procedure specific to your locality.

I am aware that these measures will require adjustments and time to meet the expectations of our school board. However, it is essential that the CSCN update its procedures to ensure the safety of all stakeholders in its school communities. I thank you for your cooperation and your understanding.

In closing, I wish you a great start to the upcoming school year. We are excited and proud you have chosen CSCN schools for your children's education. Please note that we consider your trust in our board a privilege and that we are committed to providing quality Francophone education. Have a great 2018-2019 school year.



Robert Lessard
Superintendent

