



Active Transportation at St. Martin of Tours
2021-2022 school year fall update
School page: [St. Martin of Tours | Daily School Route](#)

Schools serve as neighbourhood hubs, not just for classroom learning, but for nurturing kids to become the best version of themselves as they develop. We often think of the school day as being between the bells; however, if we want to capitalize on our large investment in education, it makes sense that children arrive to school in an optimum state. Physical activity helps prepare a child's brain to learn, interact with others, and deal with stress. Simply walking or biking to school can achieve this, so we think the school day begins as soon as a child starts their journey to school and ends when they arrive home.

The DSR is an active transportation system for kids with the aspiration of getting 100% of students who live close enough walking/wheeling to school daily. The DSR works closely with schools to answer the question of "how do we get the **next** student to walk/bike to school?" Then, projects are implemented based on the needs/opportunities within the community.

Like other transportation systems, the DSR is made up of three main components:

- Vehicles
- Guideway (with guidelines)
- Operations

Our vehicles are kids walking/wheeling to school.

Our guideway is the physical infrastructure that students use to get to school. Each school has an 'active transportation network' made up of their main routes to school. We believe every route to school should be a 'Student Street', which is a route to school that is safe, convenient, and desirable for a child to travel along.

Our operations are all activities to mobilize the vehicles along the guideway (e.g. encouragement, engagement, planning, training etc.)



Summary of activities to date

Activity	Description
<p>SchoolWalk Survey</p>	<p>In the fall of 2020, the school community participated in the SchoolWalk survey to identify student travel modes, routes to school, and safety barriers in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>The results of this survey, along with other relevant transportation information, an interactive map, and updated projects are reported on www.dailyschoolroute.org, at St. Martin of Tours Daily School Route.</p>
<p>Safety audits</p>	<p>In the fall of 2021, with the leadership of the Principal, the Catholic School Council co-chairs, and a class of grade 7/8 students, the safety barriers from the SchoolWalk survey were further investigated. We walked the main routes to school and discussed potential safety changes that help support 'Student Streets'.</p> <div data-bbox="467 1014 972 1688" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="972 1661 1252 1696">Student safety walk</p> <p>In March 2022, we were joined by Councillor Maria Pearson, officials from the City of Hamilton and the HWCDSB, members of parent council, and Mrs. Piro-Cinelli to observe and document the traffic safety issues around the intersection of Teak St. and Stoney</p>



	Brook Dr.
Encouragement	<p>Twice a month, St. Martin of Tours has been promoting 'wear yellow days'. Students who walk/wheel to school can wear a yellow shirt instead of their uniform top. Students must still wear uniform bottoms!!</p> <div data-bbox="678 541 1203 1192" data-label="Image">A yellow t-shirt is shown with three white logos. At the top right is the DSR logo. In the center is the St. Martin of Tours logo, which includes the text 'ST MARTIN OF TOURS' above a horse head with a cross, and the word 'MUSTANGS' in a stylized font below it.</div> <p>Students created posters that are located at the main entrance. With these posters, students shared the connection between physical activity and brain health. What an awesome mural!</p>



Choosing locations for wayfinding signs

In the spring of 2021, the school community participated in a survey to identify the main routes to school. The purpose of this activity was to designate the 'Active Transportation Network' at St. Martin of Tours. You can find the active transportation network at [St. Martin of Tours | Daily School Route](#)

We want these routes to become 'Student Streets', which are routes to school that are safe, convenient, and desirable for students to travel along. To begin this, wayfinding signs will be installed to indicate walking/biking times to school from the sign locations.

In the fall of 2021, a group of students walked the main routes to school to determine where the signs will be located. Installation will occur in Fall 2022.



Next year's activities (so far)

Next school year we will continue to build on the strong foundation that has been laid here at St. Martin of Tours. Activities to make the walk/bike to school more safe, convenient, and enjoyable for kids will be undertaken by the community. So far, this is what we have planned:

Activity	Description
Wayfinding signs installed	<p>As mentioned above, we walked with a group of students along the main routes to school to choose the locations for wayfinding signs.</p> <p>Installation will occur in Fall 2022.</p> <p>Sample sign:</p> 
Move to Grow	<p>Next year we'll be piloting a new program – 'Move to Grow'. The idea behind Move to Grow is to incentivize students to use active transportation, by rewarding them with trees to plant in their school yard or in their neighbourhood on the way to school.</p> <p>On the bulletin board near the main entrance, we will have an empty 'tree' (fake tree with no leaves). When a student walks to school, they will place a 'leaf' on the tree. Once the tree is full, we will plant a real tree as a community.</p> <p>We will measure before, during, and after to learn if the Move to Grow intervention had an impact on active transportation to school.</p>
Parking changes	In the fall there will be new parking changes in effect around the school.



	<p>On Jasper Drive, from Grays Road to Bonita Drive, there will be 'No Stopping' from 8:00am-4:00pm, Monday to Friday, from September-June.</p> <p>Grays Road will continue to be a no stopping zone around the school.</p>
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Want to get involved? Email info@dailyschoolroute.org or visit www.dailyschoolroute.org for more info.