



# TransportNews

GUILDERLAND CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 

## Post cards to be mailed in late August

Post cards containing routing information (route number, pick-up/drop-off times and locations) for the 2011-12 school year will be sent out to all families in late August. Parents will also be able to view general bus routes on the district's Web site throughout the first two months of school. Please remember that these times are approximate and may be adjusted during the first month of school. **In order to shorten transportation time for students and to make sure that buses keep on schedule, students should be at their bus stop five minutes before their bus is scheduled to arrive.**

## YOUR CHILD'S ROUTE NO.

Please write down your child's bus route number (the number displayed in the bus window, not the number painted on the side of the bus itself) for easy access in case you need to communicate with the transportation department. Parents are also encouraged to find out the name of their child's bus driver and write it down.

*Please note:* Medication **may not** be transported on school buses. If your child needs medication, please deliver it directly to the nurse's office at your child's school.

## Welcome back to the new school year!

**A**s the temperatures cool and the days grow shorter, students and parents throughout GCS D are gearing up for another school year.

From new pencils and backpacks to new teachers and friends, 2011-12 promises to be filled with excitement and change. In addition to new experiences in the classroom, families will also see some changes in the transportation department, as well.

You may notice that the annual transportation newsletter looks a bit dif-

ferent this year. While the publication itself is smaller, all of the valuable information typically shared in it (safety tips, FAQs, information about cameras on buses, etc.) is still available at [www.guilderlandschools.org](http://www.guilderlandschools.org).

Parents and students will also see a continued effort to consolidate bus stops in the coming year. In general, bus stops often change depending on the age of the students being transported. For example, buses may enter a street for an elementary level run, but not for middle

or high school levels. Please do not ask the bus driver to change the bus stops. If you need to discuss a change, you are encouraged to contact the transportation office directly.

Finally, and perhaps most notably, late bus runs have been reduced to three times a week at all levels (K-12) for the 2011-12 school year. Late buses will be provided for all students on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday only. This applies to our private and parochial school students, as well.

## Opening & Dismissal Times

SCHOOL	OPENING	DISMISSAL	LATE BUS
Altamont Elementary School . . . . .	7:50 a.m. . . . .	2:05 p.m. . . . .	3:00 p.m.(M,T,Th)
Guilderland Elementary School. . . . .	7:50 a.m. . . . .	2:05 p.m. . . . .	3:00 p.m.(M,T,Th)
Lynnwood Elementary School. . . . .	7:50 a.m. . . . .	2:05 p.m. . . . .	3:00 p.m.(M,T,Th)
Pine Bush Elementary School. . . . .	7:50 a.m. . . . .	2:05 p.m. . . . .	3:00 p.m.(M,T,Th)
Westmere Elementary School . . . . .	7:50 a.m. . . . .	2:05 p.m. . . . .	3:00 p.m.(M,T,Th)
St. Madeleine Sophie . . . . .	8:00 a.m. . . . .	2:30 p.m.	
Farnsworth Middle School . . . . .	8:45 a.m. . . . .	3:25 p.m. . . . .	4:05 p.m.(M,T,Th)
Guilderland High School . . . . .	7:30 a.m. . . . .	2:25 p.m. . . . .	3:25 p.m.(M,T,Th)

**Please note:** Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, there will no longer be Friday late bus runs at the elementary and middle school levels. In addition, the Wednesday late bus run at the high school has also been discontinued. This applies to all private and parochial students, as well.



## Transportation guidelines

GCSD operates under transportation guidelines developed by the administration, parents and staff, and approved by the Board of Education. According to these guidelines, the district will:

- Provide transportation out of their elementary zone only to students who attend **licensed** daycare centers. Students are permitted no more than two different drop-offs a week at unlicensed sites (i.e., a relative's home) within their elementary zone.
- Honor requests for daycare transportation and transportation to private and parochial schools, provided requests are made no later than **April 1** in any given school year and are within legal and policy guidelines. New residents have 30 days to submit daycare transportation requests.
- Use bus transfers for private and parochial students.
- Assign central pick-up points for private and parochial students who live more than 15 miles from their school.
- Try to keep riding times for private, parochial and special needs students to one hour or less.

**Please submit changes in your child's pick-up or drop-off locations via the GCSD transportation alternative location form, available in all school building main offices, at the district transportation office, and online at: [www.guilderlandschools.org](http://www.guilderlandschools.org).**



A past district study indicated that most buses are late for one of four reasons: traffic delays, weather delays, delays caused by waiting for children, and/or delays caused by substitute drivers unfamiliar with a route. **Please do not call the transportation office unless the bus is more than 10 minutes late.** Also, please not call the bus garage for information about school closings, since this ties up phone lines and can prevent emergency calls from getting through.

**For more information on any of the topics mentioned in this newsletter, please contact Transportation Supervisor Christine Sagendorf at 861-6434, or visit us online at: [www.guilderlandschools.org](http://www.guilderlandschools.org)**

## Is School closed?



School closings, delayed openings and early dismissals resulting from weather conditions or other emergencies will be announced over local TV stations (*see list at right*), as well as on the district Web site, [www.guilderlandschools.org](http://www.guilderlandschools.org). Notices will also appear on the district's Facebook and Twitter pages and be distributed via SNN.

Closings will usually be announced by 6 a.m., or shortly thereafter. Please continue to monitor all delayed openings, as they could turn into school closings depending on the weather. Whenever schools are closed for emergency reasons, continuing education classes will be canceled that night.

### FOR INFORMATION ON SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS, VISIT:

- **TV Stations:**

WRGB-TV 6	WXXA-TV 8
WTEN-TV 10	WNYT-TV 13
Capital News 9	
Guilderland cable channel 16	
- **Online at [www.guilderlandschools.org](http://www.guilderlandschools.org)**
- **GCSD's Facebook and Twitter pages**
- **School News Notifier (SNN):** Receive information regarding school closings and delays right in your e-mail inbox or on your mobile phone via text message! Visit the district Web site to sign up for the SNN service today!

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