



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 2017-18 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 website throughout September. Please remember that times are approximate and may be adjusted during the first month of school. For the most current information on your child's bus route information, please log on to your SchoolTool Parent & Student Portal Account.

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.

Questions? Contact Transportation Supervisor Danielle Poirier at 861-6434, or visit us online at:

www.guilderlandschools.org

Live GPS tracking installed on buses

This past December, the district equipped its entire fleet of 113 buses with live GPS technology.

The new GPS system, Tyler Telematic GPS, will allow the district to view the current location of any bus in real time. This system is extremely helpful in the event a bus is delayed, suffers a breakdown, or is in an accident.

The system will also be able to provide important information that can be used to improve driver training and bus maintenance.

Cost-saving and efficient

Live GPS enables the district to plan the most efficient routes, resulting in fuel savings and reduced engine wear and tear.

Better maintenance

With the GPS tracking, alerts are sent whenever a mechanical issue arises, from a low battery voltage to a change in oil pressure. These alerts give district mechanics the opportunity to

enhance preventative maintenance and avoid untimely and costly breakdowns and repairs.

Track your child's bus route with the Versatrans My Stop app
 Download in the App store (for iPhones) and Google Play (for Androids)

Another benefit of the live GPS system includes an app that will allow parents and guardians to track their child's bus route. Parents will be able to log into a secure database to view the estimated time-of-arrival (ETA) of their child's bus. This will help families plan around school bus stop times and more importantly, stay informed when a bus may be running late due to traffic, weather, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Please note: The My Stop app cannot guarantee a split second update on bus location, so families should not rely on the app for up-to-the-second accuracy.

The reason why the GPS technology cannot guarantee split

second accuracy is related to factors associated with how quickly the GPS updates and the individual devices that families use to get their information. For example, each user's device refreshes at a different rate depending on the device itself, network connectivity and speed. Testing has shown that in some instances, the estimated time of arrival and the actual time of arrival may differ by a minute or more.

So while the app cannot guarantee a split-second update on bus location, it can provide an accurate time, within a minute or so, as to when the bus is expected to arrive.

Once the app is installed, the user ID is set to your child's student ID number and the password is their date of birth. (The My Stop app allows for a multiple student household).

For questions regarding the app, please contact the Communications Office at 456-6200, ext. 3115.

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)



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 resident students attending public or nonpublic schools located within the district with transportation to and from **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 90 minutes 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.



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.**

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.**

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.

Board of Education policy 8410-R states that bus drivers will not drop off students in grades K-2 unless visual contact is made with the parent or other designated individual unless the parent provides written consent stating otherwise. In those instances where there is no visual contact, the student will remain on the bus and be transported back to the school the child attends for parent pickup; or in the case of a student attending a non-public school, transported to the district bus garage for parent pickup.

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 website and district social media pages. Parents will also receive notification of school closings and delays via telephone through the One Call Now emergency alert system.*

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, all after-school and evening activities, as well as continuing education classes, will also be canceled that night.

* All GCSD parents are automatically entered into the One Call Now calling system based on information contained in the district's student management system. Parents do not need to sign-up for this service and may opt-out by calling (518) 456-6200, ext. 3123.

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS?

- **TV Stations**

WRGB-TV 6	WXXA-TV 8
WTEN-TV 10	WNYT-TV 13
Capital News 9	TWC Channel 16
- **Online at www.guilderlandschools.org**
- **GCSD's Facebook and Twitter pages**
- **Via telephone through One Call Now**
- **School News Notifier (SNN):** Receive information in your e-mail inbox or on your mobile phone via text message!

Parents are encouraged to rely on multiple sources of information for school closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals.

Please do not call the bus garage for information about school closings, since this ties up phone lines and can prevent emergency calls from getting through.