



Guilderland CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER



Start times for the 2023-24 school year

The school day **start and end times are not changing** however, please note the revised bus departure times. The departure times have been refined, factoring in the time required for bus runs, traffic and the geography of the district. Dismissal time is not affected.

| School | Opening | Departure | Late Bus | Early Dismissal Days |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| AES | 7:45 a.m. | 2:05 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. (M,T,Th)..... | 11:05 a.m. |
| GES | 7:45 a.m. | 2:05 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. (M,T,Th)..... | 11:05 a.m. |
| LES..... | 7:45 a.m. | 2:05 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. (M,T,Th)..... | 11:05 a.m. |
| PBES | 7:45 a.m. | 2:05 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. (M,T,Th)..... | 11:05 a.m. |
| WES..... | 7:45 a.m. | 2:05 p.m. | 3:00 p.m. (M,T,Th)..... | 11:05 a.m. |
| St. Madeleine Sophie ... | 7:35 a.m. | 2:30 p.m. | | |
| FMS..... | 8:35 a.m. | 3:35 p.m. | 4:15 p.m. (M,T,Th)..... | 12:45 p.m. |
| GHS..... | 7:05 a.m. | 2:45 p.m. | 3:25 p.m. (M,T,Th)..... | 11:45 a.m. |

Transportation information for the 2023-24 school year will be available in the parent portal on August 31.

How families can help GCSD promote bus safety

The district is committed to keeping all students safe. In addition to conducting several yearly safety drills with students, the Transportation Department encourages families to promote bus safety by reminding students of these protocols:

- Arrive at pick-up location at least five minutes before the designated time.
- Stay back 15 feet from where the bus will stop; do not run after a bus.
- Wait until the bus is at a complete stop and the door opens before approaching.
- If crossing the road to board, please wait until the driver signals to cross.
- Look both ways when exiting the bus and before crossing the road.
- Follow the driver's instructions.
- Visibility may be limited at dawn and dusk. When possible, students should wear brightly colored clothing and put cell phones and earbuds away when boarding and exiting a bus. This will provide students with a better awareness of their surroundings.
- Remind students that if they can't see the driver, the driver can't see them – there are many blind spots around a school bus!

In accordance with the district's Code of Conduct and board of education policy 8410-R, students are required to exhibit the same respectful behavior that is expected in school; a GCSD school bus is an extension of the classroom. Students are prohibited from using offensive language on a GCSD school bus, including swearing and using terms that are demeaning or hurtful to others. When students are on a district school bus, they must obey the driver, who has the authority to assign seats, if necessary.

Track Your Child's Bus Route with the Versatrans My Stop App

The GCSD fleet of buses is equipped with live GPS technology, which allows the transportation department to view the current location of any bus in real-time. With the Versatrans My Stop App, parents can view the estimated time-of-arrival (ETA) of their child's bus. This helps to stay informed when a bus may be running late due to traffic, weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

Download the Versatrans My Stop App in your App store (for iPhones) and Google Play (for Androids). After installing the app, the user ID is your student's ID number; the password is your student's date of birth, entered as numbers, with no dashes (ex. 09062017).

***PLEASE NOTE:** The My Stop app CANNOT guarantee a split-second update on bus location, but can provide an accurate time as to when the bus is expected to arrive. There are a number of factors that affect the GPS updates, for example, each user's device refreshes at a different rate, depending on the device, network connectivity and speed. Please do not rely on the My Stop app for up-to-the-second accuracy.



School Closings, Delays and Early Dismissals

School closings, delayed openings and early dismissals resulting from weather conditions or other situations will be posted on the homepage of the school website and sent out via ParentSquare. In addition to the homepage of the district website, individuals may also access school closing information via the media outlets described in this flyer.

Morning closings may be announced as early as 5:30 a.m., but usually by 6:30 a.m. Whenever schools are closed for emergency reasons, afterschool and evening activities are also canceled, including continuing education classes and "PM School" for high school students.

Delayed openings mean all schedules will be delayed either one or two hours. Bus pickups will be approximately one or two hours later than the scheduled time. However, please continue to monitor all opening delays, as they could turn into school closings depending on the weather.



WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS?

District Website

- guilderslandschools.org

ParentSquare

ParentSquare is the best way to receive news from the district and its schools, including emergency notifications, such as school closings/delays and emergency situations in schools.

Radio and television stations

Radio

- WGY – 810AM (Please visit www.wgy.com for emergency closing information)
- WYJB – 95.5FM
- WRVE – 99.5FM

Television

- WRGB – Channel 6
- WXXA – Channel 8
- WTEN – Channel 10
- WNYT – Channel 13
- Capital News 9

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 as this ties up phone lines and can prevent emergency calls from getting through.