

Transportation Update – August 20, 2019



What's New for the 2019/2020 School Year

SIGNAGE

- *Signage K-2*

- Orchard Hill Elementary School

- Magnets with pictures of animals/insects on buses so younger students can recognize their buses
 - Brighter YELLOW vinyl letters for easier reading

- *Signage 3-4*

- Village Elementary School

- Brighter GREEN vinyl letters for easier reading

- PTO donated \$1,400 towards the purchase of the tags and magnets.



What's New for the 2019/2020 School Year

ID Tags Generated from Genesis

- For OHES, the badges will contain stickers with the picture of animals/insects which matches the bus they will be taking. Being placed on badges August 20th and 21st.
- All ID badges will have the student's "preferred" name or nickname.
 - For example, "Gia" will be shown as the preferred name for Giovanna.
- ID badges will contain the route #.
- New plastic ID badge holders which can be bound to the book bag.



What's New for the 2019/2020 School Year

GPS (Global Positioning System)

- The entire district fleet of vehicles (48) will be or were equipped with GPS devices by the start of the school year. This includes 31 buses, 12 vans, 2 wheel chair vans and 3 caravans at a cost of \$44,183.
- Two of the three contracted vendors also have GPS devices on their buses. We will have access to the GPS for Krapf (purchased Irvin Raphael.) Transportation will be reaching out to First Student to gain access to theirs. May does not have GPS devices on their vehicles.
- Real-time location of district buses at all times (within 5 seconds.)
- Allows the district to determine how safely a bus driver is proceeding based on time between stops along with braking and accelerating information.



What's New for the 2019/2020 School Year

GPS (Global Positioning System)

- Allows the district to know if a bus is idling.
- District also will know if a bus misses or completes a stop based on data received from the front arm on the bus going up and down.
- Any mechanical issues occurring on the vehicles will send a message to the computers of our mechanics so they can diagnosis the issue immediately and determine if the bus should be taken off the road.
- Training for the use of the GPS system occurred on July 29th through July 31st.

What's New for the 2019/2020 School Year

Other Items

- Full-time dispatcher in the transportation office for the entire 2019/2020 school year.
- Two full-time substitutes (one AM and one PM) to help answer the phone calls of parents/guardians who have questions/concerns for the first week of school. For all questions and/or concerns please call [\(609\) 466-7600 Exts. 6670 or 6671](tel:6094667600). There will be a total of 5 employees who will be on hand to answer calls.
- Instructional aides/substitutes will be on the buses for OHES for the first week of the school year to help the younger students.
- Police will be at the entrance of the High School and Upper Middle School for the first five days of school to help ease the traffic.



What's New for the 2019/2020 School Year

Other Items

- At the end of the school day, kindergarteners will be led onto the bus last, so they will be seated at the front.
- Increased supervision/duty assignments on the bus loop by staff members.
- 7 new buses were purchased for the 2019/2020 school year. The district will be removing 7 buses from service. 2 are being used for parts while 5 will be disposed as obsolete property.
- New route mapping for better efficiency including centrally located bus stops. The Somerset Educational Services Commission will come in to assist transportation.

Changes for the 2019/2020 School Year

- Enforcement of the assigned seating chart on buses by the bus drivers for grades K-8.
- Students may only ride on their assigned bus.
- “Dry runs” by contracted vendors will be verified by district drivers who will ride along and sign off that the routes were completed prior to the start of the school year.
- Revisions to the transportation handbook to complete all necessary updates.
- Clear daycare arrangements. Originally, all forms due to the transportation department by 7/26/19, extended to 8/9/19. Any changes will not be made until after the third week of school. Transportation is only available to students who reside within the boundaries of the school district.
- Pictures of drivers will be on the district’s website (under transportation department). We will attempt to include contracted drivers as well. Exceptions will be for substitutes and long term replacements.

