

## **TCGIS Busing FAQ List**

*Please email [mwallace@tcgis.org](mailto:mwallace@tcgis.org) if you have questions that are not covered on this list! We will be responding to these questions for the August 14, 2015 Elternbrief.*

### **Q: How much does it cost to ride the TCGIS bus?**

*A: A suggested donation of \$50 a month is encouraged to help defray costs.*

### **Q: Who qualifies to ride the bus?**

*A: Any student who is enrolled in our school and Great River School elementary from any zip code of the metro area qualifies.*

### **Q: Can our intern ride the TCGIS bus to school with our children?**

*A: No. Unfortunately, the bus is a service for the students. Due to high interest for our families, both buses will be full.*

### **Q: What is the bus capacity? How many students will be on the bus?**

*A: Bus capacity varies based on the age/size of the students. JME Transit is planning for 60 students since there is a mix of Kindergarten to Eighth grade.*

### **Q: How were the routes determined? And why doesn't the route go through the neighborhoods closest to the school?**

*A: Routes have been determined taking into account the entire community served by our school. We have made sure to serve all students to the best of our capacity. Efficiently serving those who live closest to school is difficult due to length of ride times. Our bus serves students from across the city of St Paul and neighboring cities, with some satellite stops for students coming from even farther away. We appreciate the cooperation and support of our community in supporting this service.*

### **Q: Can I sign my child up for the bus later in the school year? Can I switch my busing needs? Can my child ride only AM, only PM, or only certain days of the week?**

*A: We will have a consistent route each day with the same stops each day both AM and PM. We set our routes based on need expressed through the bus stop registration form. We ask each family to commit to using the service consistently. While a regular schedule of riding a certain number of times per week is acceptable, we also need to make sure that each stop along the route is efficiently serving all students. Therefore, we cannot guarantee a stop request if it is only intermittently used.*

### **Q: Do we have a policy about bus ridership? Is discipline addressed in the policy?**

*A: POLICY 709: Student Transportation Safety Policy is in progress and is likely to be read and discussed at the upcoming school board meeting on August 20th, 2015. The policy has a great deal of specific and detailed information about the bus safety, bus rider conduct, parent notifications and responsibilities, bus operation, emergency procedures, etc.. Riding the bus is a community privilege. We reserve the right to suspend the use of the bus for any student who is unable to demonstrate respect for the bus, their peers, or themselves.*

**Q: Can my child walk home from the “drop stop”?**

*A: Children younger than 3rd grade generally should always be met or have an older student buddy who rides to the same stop in order to escort them off the bus and to their home. Students older than 3rd grade must provide written permission to the office. The office will contact JME Transit with the information of students who have permission to walk, once the written permission is provided.*

**Q: What happens if I’m not at the “drop stop” on time in the afternoon? the morning? is there a late fee associated with missing the pick up?**

*A: Students without written permission to walk home from their drop stop will remain on the bus and return to school at the end of the route. We highly recommend that all families have a clear backup plan/person in the event that a parent/guardian cannot be at the stop.*

**Q: How do I notify someone that I will be late at the drop stop?**

*A: Please call the bus dispatch number for JME Transit. The number is: **651-634-9159***

**Q: How many bus stops are there? How long is the bus ride?**

*A: The ride times vary according to stops. The predicted bus travel times are below:*

*North Bus - 5 stops - all travel times are under 60 minutes start to finish*

*South Bus - 8 stops - all travel times are under 60 minutes start to finish*

**Q: What happens on early release days?**

*A: Students will be bused home in the same fashion as regular release days - arriving home earlier. Parents will receive the arrival time for each stop in advance of the school year.*