



Bloomsburg Area School District

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Dear Panther Families:

Welcome back to school!! Over the summer, we worked diligently to create the transportation schedule for eligible students. Please login to the Sapphire Portal to access your student's schedule. This information includes bus numbers, bus stops, and bus pick-up and drop-off times. Please note that while we try to make the pick-up and drop-off times as accurate as possible, you should allow for a time variance for the first week or two of school as we have a large number of new students enrolling and withdrawing during this time. If you need a copy of that information please contact emocarski@bloomsd.k12.pa.us

To help ensure families understand what is expected of them and their children with regards to transportation, we ask that you please carefully read all of the information in this letter. Additionally, we ask that you please review the bus schedule at your earliest convenience. If you have questions about any of the information contained in this letter, you are strongly urged to contact me as soon as possible. It is much easier to resolve issues a week before school starts rather than the first day of school.

Temporary Bus Pass

The Temporary Bus Pass will allow students to be picked up/dropped off at a bus stop other than their residence on a temporary basis (e.g., if a student's parents will not be home one evening so he/she must be dropped off at a grandparent's home). In order to receive a Temporary Bus Pass, a student must take a signed note from a parent/guardian to the school's main office. Upon submitting the note, the student will be issued a Temporary Bus Pass from an authorized school employee.

Please be sure to adhere to this procedure and plan ahead if you know your child will need to be picked up or dropped off at a stop other than

the one assigned to him/her. Also, please note that students with a Temporary Bus Pass may only be picked up or dropped off at an already established bus stop for his/her school. The Temporary Buss Pass will be issued by the administrative assistant at your child's school.

Special Bus Stop Request Form

The Special Bus Stop Request Form is to be used to request a permanent change to a student's morning and/or afternoon bus stop. **A new Special Bus Stop Request Form must be completed for each school year.** As is the case with the Temporary Bus Pass, a student will only be permitted to change a bus stop to one that is already in existence for their school. This form may be obtained on the district's web site (go to www.bloomsd.org, click on "Information," and then "Transportation"), at the district office, or at the main office of any of the schools. Once completed, it should be submitted to the transportation department, and we will let the parent know whether or not the request is approved.

Delayed Buses

Parents will be notified of any major bus delays (more than 15 minutes) that may result from a traffic accident, road closure, etc. via Sapphire Notification System. Throughout the school year, any questions or concerns should be addressed to the transportation department.

Bus Stop Changes

As new students move into the district and other students move out of it, there will inevitably be changes to the bus schedule. Long-term road construction projects may also necessitate a bus being rerouted until the project is complete. While we understand such occurrences may be inconvenient for our families, these things will happen and we respectfully request your understanding as we face them. Whenever a bus stop pick-up or drop-off time, or even location (in the case of road work), is changed, we will notify families via e-mail as far enough in advance as practical.

Student Behavior on Buses

In Pennsylvania, pupil transportation is a privilege, not a right. This being the case, our principals have the authority to suspend a student from district-provided transportation due to behavioral/disciplinary issues.

Bus Evacuation Drills

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) requires that bus evacuation drills be conducted at the beginning of each school year and again each March. These drills will be conducted at all schools in accordance with this PDE mandate.

For more information on transportation services provided by the Bloomsburg Area School District, you are encouraged to visit the transportation section of our web site (<https://pa01000125.schoolwires.net/Page/155>). Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the course of the school year, please contact me by calling 570-784-5000 ext. 4435, or via e-mail at emocarski@bloomsd.k12.pa.us. Due to the high number of parent inquiries occurring, you are encouraged to send an e-mail if you would like to contact us. This way, we can respond quickly to your requests or questions.

We look forward to seeing our Panthers return to school later this month, and we wish everyone a happy and safe 202-2025 school year!

Sincerely,

Beth Mocarski

Beth Mocarski

PIMS and Transportation Coordinator