

Grass Lake Community Schools

Transportation Department

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Welcome to Kindergarten Roundup 2020. The Grass Lake Transportation Department looks forward to serving our school families as we safely transport your children to and from school.

Our **drivers receive regular training** updates as mandated by the State of Michigan as all of them are fully certified to operate Commercial Motor Vehicles specifically for transporting students. All drivers are required to pass and maintain federal DOT physical status. All drivers are on a drug and alcohol testing participation list from which they are randomly checked throughout the year.

Our school district has **eleven (11) regular bus routes**, with each route being identified with an animal to help our younger students identify their specific bus. Our Kindergarten teachers will be informed of each child's specific bus assignment and will be shepherding each child to their bus each day after school. **During the first couple of weeks of school, we will be late departing each afternoon** until we are assured that all of our new passengers have successfully boarded their correct buses.

All eligible students will be assigned to a bus. If and when you make a decision not to use bus transportation, please inform the Transportation Office of your decision to do so. You may initiate busing later in the school year by contacting the Transportation Office if you decide to do so. **If you will be using a daycare for morning or afternoon**, please inform us of that as soon as possible.

Transportation packets for eligible families will be in the mail directed to your homes on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. These packets will include your child's bus assignment (animal designation), bus stop time, bus driver's name, and the expectations of our passengers.

Grass Lake has **limited busing to our Schools of Choice families who already have a child on a bus route.** Due to growth in the Grass Lake area, we are now limited to the number of Schools of Choice students we can add to our buses.

We request that our **bus riders be at their designated stop a minimum of five (5) minutes in advance of their scheduled bus stop time.** While we strive to be extremely consistent, there are a myriad of possibilities that could throw us off our schedules. We advise that parents be with their children at the bus stop in the morning. **We require that a caregiver be obviously present in the afternoon when the bus arrives for drop off if your Kindergarten or 1st grade child is not accompanied by an older sibling on the bus**, and we strongly recommend that your children have an alternate location if they are not able to access their home when they arrive.

If your child misses the bus in the morning **DO NOT CHASE THE BUS AND SEND YOUR CHILD TO THE BUS FROM BEHIND.** Please take your child to school on that day. Once the bus has left your stop it cannot immediately stop again. Also, we do not wait at a stop if it is apparent that the student is not at their designated location.

If your child is required to **cross a lane of traffic** to get on or off the bus, your child must wait for the bus driver to wave them across the road to ensure that all traffic is stopped and the stop is secure.

Our school district has **scheduled two-hour delayed starts** on the third Wednesday of every month. On these days your bus will be arriving two hours later than normal.

Our school district has limited **half days of school.** Our buses will be arriving 3.5 hours earlier than normal on these days

We do not allow bus transfers for children to ride home with others, unless there is an emergency and there will not be a caregiver available at the student's normal stop. All requests must go through the Transportation Office.

Any request for a student to **get off at a stop other than their own designated stop** must be cleared through the Transportation Office. We will not allow a student to get off at an alternate stop unless we have been notified.

If we decide to close school for any reason, information will be shared with you by phone, on TV and radio, by our website at www.grasslakeschools.com, and on our Facebook page at "Grass Lake Community Schools".

It is **very important to us that your child feels comfortable and safe on the bus,** thereby making our parents more comfortable. Our drivers are extremely conscious of the apprehensions parents have toward sending their Kindergarten student on a bus. We work very hard to make sure we are doing the best job possible for our families. Please contact the Transportation Office with any concerns that arise.

More school transportation information can be found on our web page by going to <https://www.grasslakeschools.com/domain/35>.

Feel free to call or e-mail the Transportation Office at any time with questions or concerns. We are interested in making your transition as seamless as possible.

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