



Surpassing Your Greatest Expectations

school services

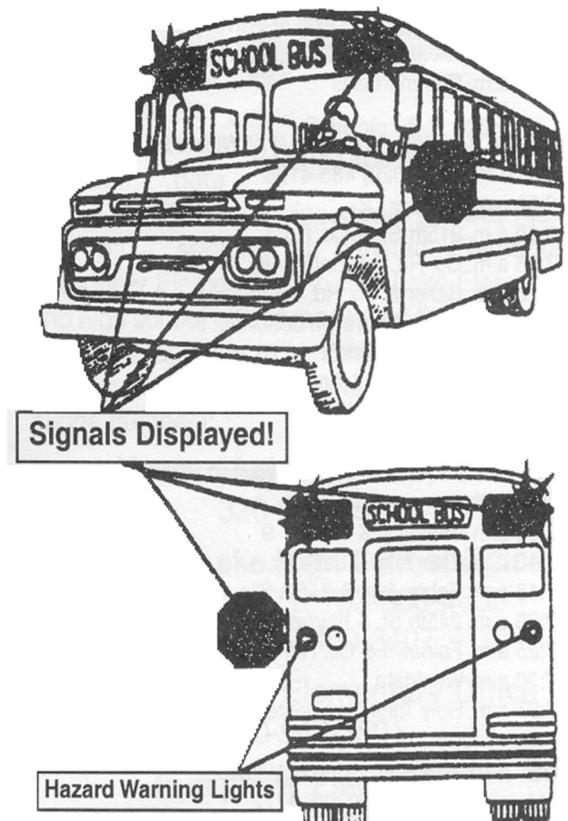
2020-2021

*4.0 School Services- I.S.D. #277
Mound Westonka*

Guide to Transportation Policies and General Information

- **Flashing Amber Lights** are a pre-warning that the bus is preparing to stop.
- **Flashing Red Lights** and extended stop arm means that the bus is stopped to either load or unload school children.
- Coming from either direction **you must stop** when you see signals displayed.
- Stop at least 20 feet from the bus.

School Starts
Tuesday, September 8th
PROTECT OUR CHILDREN
Know and Obey School Bus Laws



Joe Tulkki, Director of Transportation

952-491-8280

Joe@fourpointo.com

Westonka Bus Service
5910 Sunnyfield Rd E
Mound, MN 55328

The main objective of 4.0 transportation system is to provide your children with a safe and comfortable bus ride. It is important that we have open communication between us, the school district, the driver, and the parents.

Minnesota state law states that transportation by school bus is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate or unsafe behavior could result in the loss of this privilege.

SHUTTLES AND TRANSFERS

Elementary Students

Students attending school at either Hilltop or Shirley Hills but live in the other school's zone will need to transfer from the bus that picks them up to another bus, in order to get to the appropriate school. Bus transfers take place at Our Lady of the Lake School in Mound. There will be two buses waiting at OLL. One bus will take kids to Shirley Hills and the other bus will take kids to Hilltop. There will be signs on the bus letting them know which one to transfer to.

Shirley Hills Buses
0, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14

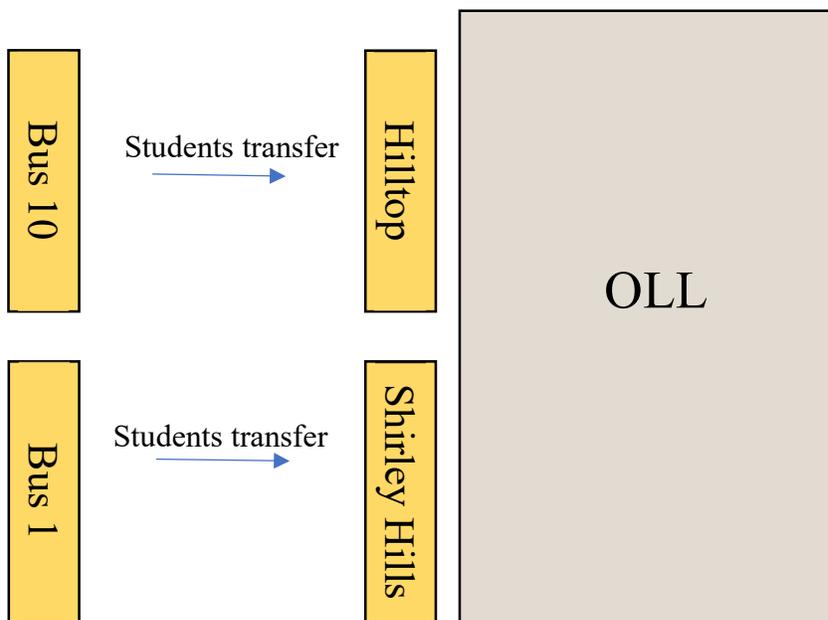
Hilltop Buses
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13

Example: If you live in the Shirley Hills zone and ride bus 10, but your student goes to Hilltop, your student will transfer to the Hilltop bus at Our Lady of the Lake (OLL).

If you live in the Shirley Hills zone and ride bus 10, but your student goes to Shirley Hills, they will stay on bus 10 at OLL.

If you live in the Hilltop zone and ride bus 1, but your student goes to Shirley Hills, they will transfer to the Shirley Hills bus at OLL.

If you live in the Hilltop zone and ride bus 1, but your student goes to Hilltop, they will stay on bus 1 at OLL.



Middle & High School Students

Students getting on buses at Grandview at the end of the school day should get on the bus that will take them home unless their bus is not lined up there. In that case, they should get on the ascending bus number which will transfer them to their correct bus at the high school. Example: If they normally ride bus #2, but #2 is not there, they will get on bus# 3; or, if neither #2 or #3 is there, but #4 is, they get on bus #4.

Grandview students who either walk or are transported by a parent but have after school activities held at the high school, should ride bus 0 to the high school.

Trespass on a School Bus

There is a trespassing on school buses law that is now in effect. Minnesota Statute 609.605, Subd4a. (C), “Trespass on school, A person who boards a school bus when the bus is on its route or otherwise in operation, or while it has pupils on it, and who refuses to leave the bus on demand of the bus operator, is guilty of a misdemeanor.” Please be aware that the driver is in charge of the bus. If they ask you to get off - please follow their directions. If you do not, it is considered a **misdemeanor**.

Consequences for school bus/bus stop misconduct will be imposed by the school district under adopted administrative discipline procedures. In addition, all school bus/bus stop misconduct will be reported to the school district’s transportation director. Serious misconduct may be reported to local law enforcement.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PICK-UPS AND DROP-OFFS*

There **will not** be any changes made to routes the first two weeks of school!

Wherever possible, bus stops will be combined to reduce the number of stops and distance traveled. Bus stops will be no more than ¼ mile from end of driveway.

Buses **will not** go up driveways to pick up or drop off students. Bus stops may not be visible from your home. Bus stops are collector points in the neighborhood and at generally located corners. If a parent/guardian is concerned about watching their child at the stop, they will need to accompany them and supervise them at the bus stop.

Daylight savings time, dark roads, or cold weather **do not** determine bus stop changes.

Generally, we will not have busses travel into cul-de-sacs, private roads, dead-end streets or other areas that transportation is not able to safely and efficiently access. All students, regardless of age or grade, including pre-schools and daycares who reside in these types of areas, will need to walk or get a ride to the assigned bus stop.

****Bus drivers do not have the authority to make bus stop changes!**

Buses have a 5-minute window before and after scheduled time. Scheduled times are subject to change throughout the year with students being added to or taken off the bus. Students need to be outside waiting at their stop. Buses will stop at every stop but it is not the driver responsibility to wait for anyone. Substitute drivers have been instructed to stop, then proceed if no one is in sight. In cold or rainy weather, it is the parent’s/guardian’s responsibility to have children dressed appropriately.

A temporary/short-term reassignment of the designated bus stop may be approved if the request can be accommodated with another existing bus route and bus stop, provided there is available seating. This request must be submitted in writing to a building administrator or secretary and the transportation department 48 hours before the requested date of change.

Bussing information will be listed on the school website mid-August detailing the times and locations of stops. You can find that www.westonka.k12.mn.us. Go to Departments, Transportation, and then 20-21 Big Bus Routes.

If you have any questions, please contact **Joe Tulkki** at 952-491-8280 or by email at joe@fourpointo.com.

**** If your child will not be riding the bus or if he/she needs to be picked up and/or dropped off at a different location other than the previous school year, please contact the Westonka bus garage as soon as possible. ****

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

All school buses operated by 4.0 School Services are inspected annually and meet Minnesota and DOT standards and carry additional equipment including double crossover mirrors, lights on the stop arms and two-way radios.

PARENTS' ROLES

Each year we travel tens of thousands of miles transporting students to and from school and to school-related activities. Our goal is to accomplish this task safely and efficiently. Bus drivers have their hands full operating the bus safely with 70 or more children behind them. Safety awareness must begin at home.

- Stress the importance of remaining seated and quiet while the bus is moving. (Compare it to driving your car with several rambunctious, noisy youngsters jumping around in the back seat.)
- Train your children not to automatically expect traffic to stop for the red flashing lights. Teach them to be defensive and look before crossing the road. Many motorists fail to see or simply ignore the warning lights. Look before you cross.
- Have your children dress properly for bad weather. Transportation can be delayed under such conditions. Proper dress will keep them comfortable if a delay occurs. Bright colors will make them more easily seen, as winter brings dark mornings and snow piles around bus stops.
- Establish a leave time to get to the bus stop. A few minutes early will assure them catching the bus and keeping it on schedule.

SAFETY TIPS

Waiting: Wait quietly and away from traffic. Wait until the bus door opens. The bus could skid when stopping on the gravel or ice.

Loading: Quickly take your assigned seat and remain seated. A quick start may knock you down if you are not seated.

Unloading: Remain seated until the bus stops. Braking could cause falls and injuries. Move away from the bus quickly. There is a danger zone in front of and near the bus wheels. Wait for the driver's signal. The driver will signal when it is safe to cross. Students shall not board or exit the bus other than at their designated stop. We are responsible for your safe transportation to and from your stop.

Riding: A safe and more pleasurable ride can be accomplished with the full cooperation of students with the drivers. This includes a discipline policy which the School District has adopted to deal with behavioral problems. The following steps are necessary for the driver to keep the bus safe, orderly, and clean:

- Follow the driver's instructions - his/her full attention must be on driving safely.
- No throwing of anything.
- No abusive language, harassment or fighting.
- No food or drink on the bus.
- No pets or animals on the bus.
- No general abuse on the bus. Students will pay for vandalism.
- Overall avoid behavior that could cause discomfort to another student and/or the safe operation of the bus.
- Students who choose to disregard these safety rules will be given a Bus Report and dealt with by the administration.

Cellular Devices on Buses

- Cellular device usage on the bus is at the discretion of the bus driver and/or the student advisor/supervisor.
- Distracting behavior which creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.
- Cellular cameras and audio/video recorders may not be used on the bus.
- Light settings must be set to Low. Absolutely no FLASH is permitted while the bus is moving.