



## River Valley School District

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August 22, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I want to inform you of some changes that we have made regarding student transportation for the 2017/18 school year. Many of you may recall that we have been running a single bus run with K-12 students on each bus since the 2012/13 school year. The purpose of the single bus run was to be more cost effective and to closer align the start/finish times of each building. Over the past five years, we have noticed an increasing number of bus discipline issues. Last spring, our administrative team began to explore a number of options to improve student transportation.

As a result, the District will be moving to a single bus run with three (3) elementary buses and three (3) middle/high school buses, which will result in the following changes:

- Students will be picked up later. Based on the current transportation schedule, no student will be picked up prior to 6:30 a.m. In the past, some students were picked up well before 6:30 a.m.
- The ride time of students will be shorter, since the buses will no longer drop off students at all three buildings. Based on the current transportation schedule, the longest ride time will be approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, with most of the routes averaging 1 hour. In the past, the ride time for some students was approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- The start time for Chikaming will be moved back to 7:45 a.m., from the current start time of 7:40 a.m. Since the elementary buses will no longer stop at the Middle/High School, we were able to move back the start time at Chikaming.
- While elementary and middle/high students from the same family will be picked up by two separate buses, we anticipate that this will be a relatively easy adjustment. Even with the occasions of two buses stopping at the same household, the total mileage that our buses travel will be reduced from the previous year.
- In the villages of Galien, New Troy and Three Oaks, there will be community stops for middle/high school students. No student will need to walk more than three blocks to get to the bus stop. This is consistent with community stops that have taken place in the past.
- Discipline issues will be addressed in a timely and efficient manner by the building principal and transportation supervisor, rather than having to coordinate with another building principal. We anticipate that this will significantly reduce behavior issues on the buses.

We anticipate that these changes in student transportation for the 2017/18 school year will help us reduce the number of discipline issues on the bus, and reduce the ride time for our students. The Transportation Department will be sending out postcards with route information for your students shortly. If you have any questions regarding these postcards or changes in student transportation, please contact our Transportation Supervisor Jennifer Templeton at 269-756-7899. If you have any concerns about the changes that we have made regarding student transportation, you may also contact me directly at 269-756-7675.

Sincerely,

William J. Kearney  
Superintendent of Schools

**“Home of the Mustangs”**