



St. Charles Public Schools

District Office
600 East 6th Street
St. Charles, MN 55972
(507) 932-4420

High School Building
600 East 6th Street
St. Charles, MN 55972
(507) 932-4420

Elementary Building
925 Church Avenue
St. Charles, MN 55972
(507) 932-4910

March 3, 2021

RE: Expansion of Transportation Services Effective March 8, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The return of full in person learning at both the Elementary and the High School reduces some of the transportation restrictions we were required to implement when in a hybrid learning model at either school. We still have restrictions, but we are no longer having to limit the capacity on buses to 50%.

The key requirements that still need to be followed include:

- Students need to self-attest that they do not have any cold, flu or COVID like symptoms before venturing out to the bus stop. Please keep your children home if they have any of the following single symptoms: fever, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing, cough or any of the following two symptoms: sore throat, headache, fatigue, chills, runny nose or congestion, muscle pain, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting.
- All students must be wearing a mask before they board the bus and must keep their mask on for the duration of their ride.
- Students must sit six feet or more from the drivers.
- Students will be assigned seating on the bus, they need to sit in their assigned seat for the duration of their ride, and their attendance on the bus needs to be documented to assist with contact tracing if needed.
- Guest riders are not allowed.

The full list of requirements can be found on page 21 of this document:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf>.

Working with our transportation providers, bus routes have been revised to try and accommodate as many families as we can who live outside of a one mile radius of our schools. When revising routes, proximity of our schools and access to a safe walking/biking route to the schools was considered. **These changes will start Monday, March 8, 2021.**

Updated bus routes can be found at: <https://www.scschools.net/page/3857>.

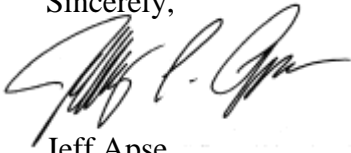
Along with the traditional routes provided by Haley Transportation and Mueller Transportation, two additional routes (Route 18 and Route 19) have been added. Routes 18 and 19 are being provided by the School District. Cory and Clarence Chuchna will be driving for Route 18 and Tim Reps will be driving for Route 19. The two routes bring back some of the stops that were previously covered by the Chicken Bus, but the routes do not bring back every stop. With the restrictions that we need to continue to follow bringing back the Chicken Bus as families had been accustomed to is not feasible.

The two Walking Bus routes that have been provided since the beginning of the school year will continue as long as there is a demand for the service.

With full in person instruction beginning at the high school this week, we have seen an increase in the number of riders on our buses. With the expansion of our services, we anticipate that even more students will be riding beginning next week. District transportation is not required. If you do not feel comfortable having your children ride on a full bus, please continue to make your own arrangements. If you continue to make your own arrangements, please continue to follow the drop off and pick up procedures established by both schools.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Apse', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Apse
Superintendent of Schools