

# Berkshire Hills Regional School District

## Student Transportation Information for Students and Families



Berkshire Hills Regional School District provides busing to all students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade who reside in Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge. **Transportation is from and to home only.** If a student has two homes they will be scheduled for the homes on the specific days. Contact Massini Bus Company if this is the case for your student.

The goal of the District and the bus company is to safely transport students to and from home. Safety guides all decisions and practices.

### **How do I know what the BUS ROUTES are?**

Bus routes are published annually in the Shoppers Guide and can be found on our website at

Routes may change from year to year so parents/guardians should check the route list to ensure they are aware of any time changes for the new school year.

Students should be at their designated bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time of their bus. Transportation vehicles will not leave the pick-up stop prior to the designated time. You can rely on your bus/van to arrive within a reasonable 10-minute window. However, please note that inclement weather or road work may cause the bus/van to arrive a little late.

Parents/guardians should be at the stop at least 5 minutes prior to the bus stop time in the afternoon to ensure they are there to meet the bus/van.

### **Do I need to be at the bus stop to meet my student?**

Students in PK-4<sup>th</sup> grade must be met by a parent or guardian at the bus stop in order for elementary students to be released from the bus. The responsible adult must be outside their car and visible to the bus driver in order to meet the student. Elementary students will not be released if the responsible adult is not waiting outside the bus for them. If no adult is present the student may be returned to school to be picked up at Muddy Brook in the afternoon.

Students in grade 5 – 12+ can disembark the bus on their own.

### **Are there options for afternoon childcare stops?**

The District provides a bus from the elementary school to Berkshire South Regional Community Center (BSRCC) for students enrolled in Berkshire South's afterschool childcare program. Only elementary students enrolled in this program will be transported to BSRCC.

Middle school and high school students enrolled in one of Berkshire South's afterschool programs may ride the bus to the Center. Only students enrolled in a program will be allowed to ride to, and disembark at, BSRCC.

**NOTE: ONLY students may board the bus. Parents are not allowed to board the bus for any reason.**

### **Where are the bus stops?**

Per School Committee policy and transportation practices bus stops may either be at the end of a student's driveway or at a group stop closest to the students' homes. Per policy and practice transportation is on the nearest public road or street that is considered to be suitable for use by a school transportation vehicle. There may be some roads that are not safe or wide enough for a school bus or van and students may have to walk to another stop.

Students may be required to walk to certain centralized bus stops as determined by the bus company and approved by the Superintendent.

School transportation vehicles do not provide transportation on private roads.

### **Can my student ride another bus to a friend's house after school?**

For safety, students will only be transported to and from home or to childcare afterschool.

### **Can my student bring their large instrument on the bus?**

In order to ensure the safety of all students on the bus, large instruments such as cellos, French horns, etc. are not allowed on the bus. Aisles must be kept clear at all times. In addition, students must be

able to carry and contain all items they bring on the bus in their lap or between their legs. The same applies to large projects.

### **Can my student eat or drink on the bus?**

The safety of students with life-threatening allergies is a major concern. And, we want to provide students with a clean environment to travel to and from school. It is because of these concerns that food and drinks (including gum and candy) are prohibited on buses and vans.

### **Can Choice students ride the bus?**

Transportation routes are scheduled for resident students to travel to and from school as efficiently as possible. This may result in buses that are full on some routes and less so on others. We *may* be able to accommodate some choice students who would like to ride on our buses if a seat is available.

If a family that is choosing their student into the District would like to inquire about seat availability they should call Massini Bus Company at 413-229-7962 after the second or third week of school.

Please note that if there is a seat available the student will need to be brought to an existing bus stop in-district to get on the bus.

### **What are the rules for transportation to private schools?**

The District is responsible for transporting students that live in one of our three towns to the private schools in our geographic area – Berkshire Country Day School, Berkshire Waldorf School, and Berkshire Waldorf High School. Each year the bus company is provided with the names of the students who would like this transportation and they are scheduled for pick-up in the morning and drop-off in the afternoon.

Unfortunately, due to space limitations we are not able to accommodate any requests from families in surrounding towns to ride on this transportation.

### **What are the transportation rules?**

Please be aware that school transportation on either a bus or a van is an extension of the school itself and all rules regarding behavior are the same as in school. Safety is a primary concern and student behavior is important in ensuring safety. Students' behavior cannot endanger the safety or welfare of his/herself or other riders. The transportation rules are in place to provide safe transportation to and from school. Violations of the rules could cause a student to lose transportation privileges.

1. Wait for the bus to come to a full stop and put its red lights on and open the door before approaching the bus.
2. Families can walk their student to the bus door but cannot enter the bus.
3. Remain seated with feet on the floor.
4. Be Courteous, do not swear, talk quietly, respect your property, other students' property and the bus/van.
5. No eating, drinking or gum chewing.

6. Keep the bus clean and put trash in the trash container.
7. Cooperate with the driver and treat them with respect.
8. Keep your hands to yourself.
9. No dangerous items, such as knives, are allowed on the bus.

### **What if my student loses something on the bus?**

If your student leaves an item on the bus, they should retrieve it from the driver on the next ride. To ensure that items are not lost or damaged, please make sure that your student understands that all personal items should stay in their backpack or on them when on the bus.

If you have questions about anything that is not covered please call either Massini Bus Company at 413-229-7962 or the District at 413-298-4017 x716.