



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR KINDERGARTEN PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Update on Kindergarten Bus Plan for Early Dismissal Days

Please ensure that you or your designee are at the bus stop on time to meet your kindergartener.

On a regular elementary school schedule (8:30 to 3 p.m.), if a kindergartener's parent/guardian or designee is not at the bus stop in the afternoon at drop-off time, your child will remain on the bus and will be transported to one of our middle schools.

The bus cannot return to the elementary school or make another attempt to drop off your child because that bus is needed to transport our middle school students home.

UPDATE: On early dismissal days only, when a parent/guardian is not present, your child will be returned to his/her elementary school. This change is necessary because no middle school staff are available on early dismissal days to help reconnect kindergarten students with parents/guardians.

**For more information, please check with your school office,
call transportation at 676-6546 or visit
www.bellinghamschools.org/transportation.**



September 6, 2011

Dear Kindergarten Family,

Kindergarten begins on Monday, Sept. 12. Updated bus routes and stops are posted on our website at <http://bellingshamschools.org/transportation>.

We are excited to help your kindergartener ride the bus. We want this to be a safe learning experience for your child, and need your assistance.

It is very important that if your kindergartener is riding the bus that you be at the bus stop to meet your child in the afternoon at the designated drop-off time. It is our procedure that we will not drop off any kindergartener at a bus stop without a parent/guardian waiting at the stop, unless prior written arrangements have been made. *Enclosed you will find a form to be completed and returned to Transportation if you are designating another adult or older sibling to meet your kindergartener.* Our bus drivers will not arrive at your bus stop more than one minute early. Buses can be delayed due to construction or other traffic-related issues, so please wait for several minutes in case the bus is running behind.

If a kindergartener's parent/guardian is not at the bus stop in the afternoon at drop-off time, the child will remain on the bus and will be transported to one of our middle schools. The bus cannot return to the elementary school or make another attempt to drop off your child because that bus is needed to transport our middle school students home.

Your kindergartener will be safely waiting at one of our middle schools for you to drive to pick up your child. If you miss meeting your child at the bus stop, please look at the enclosed **Reconnect with your Kindergartener** sheet which outlines the buses that go to each middle school. The phone numbers of the middle school staff assigned to be with your child are also on this informational sheet.

If you have any questions about this procedure, please contact your elementary school.

Thank you for helping us make your child's bus transportation a safe and enjoyable experience,

Rae Anne Thon
Transportation Manager

Enclosures: *How to Ride the School Bus* (backside of this letter)
 Afterschool Drop-Off Information and Permission Form
 Reconnect with your Kindergartener at Middle School



How to Ride the School Bus

Waiting at the Stop

1. Arrive at the stop three to five minutes early.
2. Wait in line at the bus stop and stay away from the road and off private property.
3. Do not litter. Use the garbage cans on the bus.
4. Do not chase a school bus.

Getting on the Bus

1. Stay a safe distance from the road.
2. Wait to move toward the bus until it comes to a complete stop and stop sign and lights on the bus have been activated.
3. When crossing the road, always cross in front of the bus.
4. Look for a nod from the driver before crossing.
5. Check for traffic one more time after the driver signals.

Getting off the Bus

1. Always wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before starting to unload.
2. Move away from the bus after exiting.
3. Do not attempt to retrieve dropped items anywhere close to the bus. Instead, notify the driver.
4. When crossing the road, always cross in front of the bus.
5. Look for a signal from the driver before crossing.
6. Check for traffic one more time after the driver signals.

Safety Tips

- Remind your child to always cross the road in front of the school bus.
- Remind your child not to run after the bus. If your child misses the bus, have an alternate transportation plan.
- Remind your child to leave possessions at home that might endanger bus safety. These include pets, large packages, instrument

cases, sharp objects, sticks, breakable containers, skateboards and any form of weapons.

- Arrange to have your child load and unload at his/her designated bus stops. To assist in a family emergency, students may obtain a variance pass. The pass allows him/her to load or unload at a bus stop other than the regular one. Passes are issued at school with a written request from a parent/guardian.
- Encourage your child to tell the bus driver if he or she has a problem at the school bus stop or during the bus ride.
- Know your child's school bus number and driver's name. The bus garage phone is 676-6546 and the office is open from 6 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Remind your child about safe walking procedures and respect for private property.

IMPORTANT: Keep this information for the 2011-12 School Year

Reconnect with your Kindergartener at a Middle School

In the event you are not at the bus stop to meet your kindergarten student, and have not completed and returned the permission form, the following chart indicates where your child will be waiting. Please note the name of the staff member and the telephone number associated with that middle school.

The following buses will take kindergarteners to FAIRHAVEN

Bus 3 Happy Valley	Bus 6 Wade King
Bus 10 Happy Valley	Bus 13 Wade King
Bus 40 Larrabee	Bus 36 Lowell

**Please call Shari Neilan at
647-6876.**

The following buses will take kindergarteners to KULSHAN

Bus 7 Parkview	Bus 46 Geneva
Bus 9 Northern Heights	Bus 65 Geneva
Bus 27 Wade King	Bus 2 Geneva
Bus 5 Carl Cozier	Bus 4 Carl Cozier

**Please call Jeanne Bach at
647-6877.**

The following buses will take kindergarteners to SHUKSAN

Bus 11 Alderwood	Bus 61 Sunnyland
Bus 15 Alderwood	Bus 60 Roosevelt
Bus 12 Cordata	Bus 41 Northern Heights
Bus 59 Cordata	Bus 87 Cordata
Bus 55 Alderwood	

**Please call Debbie Wentz
at 676-6470, extension
4816.**

The following buses will take kindergarteners to WHATCOM

Bus 14 Roosevelt	Bus 31 Silver Beach
Bus 26 Silver Beach	Bus 8 Silver Beach
Bus 56 Northern Heights	Bus 54 Sunnyland
Bus 63 Cordata	

**Please call Aileen Walton
at 676-6470, extension
4380.**



After School Kindergarten Bus Drop-Off and Permission Form

*For Students Requiring Alternative Transportation
Arrangements*

Because the safety of your child is one of our primary concerns, we require that a designated adult be present when your kindergartener is dropped off at the bus stop each afternoon. If you want your kindergartener dropped off by the bus without an adult present, you must give us written permission to do so using the bottom of this page.

Thank you for helping us keep your child safe.

If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Department at 676-6546.

Student's name _____

School _____ **Teacher** _____ **Bus #** _____

_____ **I give permission for my son/daughter to get off the bus with an older student/sibling without my presence.**

Name of other student/sibling: _____

_____ **I give permission for my son/daughter to be met at the bus stop by another adult.**

Name of other adult(s): _____

_____ **I give permission for my son/daughter to get off the bus alone without anyone to meet him or her.**

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Phone Number

Alternate Phone Number

Please return this completed and signed form to your bus driver or to the Transportation Department by fax to 752-3347 or by e-mail to priscilla.powell@bellingshamschools.org.