

Swedesboro-Woolwich School District

Transportation Department

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Comet Community....Continuing our Partnership in Education
Dr. Kristin O'Neil, Superintendent

Dear Partners in Learning,

The start of the 2020-21 school year is quickly approaching! The Swedesboro-Woolwich Transportation Department has been working tirelessly this summer reviewing and revising routes in accordance with state reopening guidance. The safety and security of our riders is our number one priority but we need your help, too! Please review the *Comet Code of Conduct* online with your child, stressing the importance of adhering to bus safety rules and appropriate bus conduct. This will ensure successful transport for your child to and from school.

The Transportation Department is committed to providing services as consistently and efficiently as possible. You can assist us by remembering the following:

- **Be prompt.** Your child should be ready for pick up ten **(10) minutes prior** to the scheduled pick up time.
- **Be safe.** Masks are mandatory at the bus stop and on the bus. Stand at least 6ft apart from others when possible while waiting for the bus to arrive.
- **Be patient.** Please allow for some fluctuation in pickup and drop-off times, particularly during the first few weeks of school. **Most buses will experience delays at arrival and dismissal at the beginning of the school year but times will dramatically improve as students, staff, and drivers get into their new routine.** Also, our bus drivers wait a little longer at each bus stop to accommodate students who are unfamiliar with the location. Other drivers on the road must adjust to having our buses in the traffic stream. Remember, too, that throughout the school year, bus schedules may be affected by inclement weather, road construction, or use of a substitute bus driver.
- **Be present.** A parent/guardian/older sibling **must** be present to receive a young child; otherwise, the child will be returned to his/her school. Please don't wait in your vehicle or at your home. The driver will only release your child if you are standing at the bus stop to receive him/her. ***This pertains to students attending the Margaret Clifford School and Charles Stratton School.***
- **Be prepared for changes.** Changes are possible throughout the school year but will be communicated to you through the Transportation Department. Transportation can be very unpredictable! There are things that are out of our control. School Messenger notifications are sent to inform parents of bus delays usually greater than 10 minutes. Make sure your correct contact numbers are in the parent portal. If you suspect your child's bus is late and you haven't received a notification, please contact the transportation department. Sometimes, the transportation department is unaware of issues happening on the road.

Again, the safety of your children is our top priority and we continue to make every effort to keep them safe and secure while transporting them efficiently. Your cooperation and patience are appreciated.

Sincerely,
Maria Gialloreto
Transportation Coordinator