Transportation Information for Families

We are looking forward to a successful 2024-2025 school year! Transporting students to and from school is a critical enabler for a successful learning experience. With that in mind, we would like to remind our community that transportation is a joint effort between families, the school, and the bus company. Below are important reminders for families.

Riding the bus is a privilege.

Family Responsibilities

- Arrive at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before the routed stop time in the morning.
- Have a plan if the bus is late, this often happens the first 2 weeks of school and during inclement weather.
- If you drive your student to a bus stop outside of your neighborhood then you must be at the stop 5-10 minutes prior to the routed stop time in the afternoon to pick up your child.
- For Pre-k to 3rd grade students who are dropped off at their neighborhood stop and they do not have a sibling that is in 4th-5th grade riding with them, a responsible person will need to be at the stop in the afternoon when the child gets off the bus. Please arrive at the bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to the routed time.
- Students are required to ride to and from their assigned bus stop(s).
- Ensure students are properly dressed for the weather.
- Promptly communicate any safety concerns, issues, requested route changes, requests for a new rider, or same day changes with the school. See below for appropriate communication channels.
- Review these rules for good behavior on the bus with your student(s):
    - Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner.
    - Remain seated until the bus stops.
    - Keep hands, feet, and other body parts to yourself.
    - Use quiet voices and speak respectfully.
    - Follow the directions of the bus driver.
- Support safe riding and walking practices, and recognize that students are responsible for their actions.
- If your bus stop is unsafe (e.g. your student must cross a busy street to get to the stop) please send an email to Jessica Gielen at transportation@isla.school ASAP.
- If you live within the Transportation Boundary and your stop is further than .25 miles from your home please send an email to Jessica Gielen at transportation@isla.school.
- Only Students and Language Ambassadors are allowed to ride the bus. Parents are not allowed to ride on the bus. Similarly, parents are not to board the bus for any reason.
- Drivers cannot make route changes or communicate when the bus is late, do not ask them to do either.
- Drivers are not allowed to use their mobile devices while driving the school bus for obvious safety reasons. Please do not ask for or accept a driver's mobile number.

Mobile Applications

At ISLA we use 2 mobile applications that are relevant to transportation. They are both available to download from the Android & Apple app stores. You will get sign-in information from the ISLA office prior to the start of school.

1. *Here Comes the Bus* – This application is used to track the movement of the bus when it is on its route. It can be set up to alert you when the bus enters an area close to your home. Occasionally, when a substitute bus is in use, the bus may show as "off route" and in that case, no tracking information is available.

2. *PickUp Patrol* – This application is used to manage your child's daily pick-up plan. You will need to set your regular schedule in this app before the start of the school year. For example, Jane will ride the bus Monday to Thursday and be picked up on Fridays. During the year you can make adjustments, for example, if Jane is doing chess as an extracurricular on Thursdays, then change Thursday to chess/pickup. Bus passes, if a student is riding home with a friend, are requested via PickUp Patrol. The friend's parent must also notify the school of their agreement to the student getting off the bus with their child in order for a bus pass to be approved. Any change must be submitted via the app prior to 3:15 pm on the day of the alternate afternoon plan.

Communication Channels

Transportation Safety Director (Jessica Gielen) at transportation@isla.school
- Safety concerns
- Behavior issues – these can also be directed to the Dean of Students
- New rider / Route changes
- Daily questions or concerns
- Tech support – these can also be directed to the appropriate app support services

PickUp Patrol
- Change to your student's pick-up plan
- Bus passes

Please email the Transportation Committee at transportationcommittee@isla.school
- Feedback about the bus program
- Policy questions or concerns

For more information: https://www.isla.school/families/transportation