

- **Do you have a website?**
 - Though we are separate from Ben Franklin, the school does help by allowing us to present information about the uptown bus service on their website, www.bfhsla.org. From the “Current Families” page, scroll down and click on the box labeled “Transportation” or follow this link: (<https://www.bfhsla.org/transportation>) Scroll all the way down to the Uptown Bus Service where you will see links to our information.
 - Things you will find at the site include:
 - Bus route map showing stops and morning pick-up times for last year
 - This FAQ
 - Ridership Agreement that you accept when you register
 - Rider Registration Form that you use to register
 - Cheddar-Up link that you use to pay for the bus
 - A link to instructions for signing up for Remind
 - For any questions, you can reach us at uptownfranklinbus@gmail.com
- **How do I sign up?**
 - From the “Transportation” page of the school website (<https://www.bfhsla.org/transportation>), scroll down to the Uptown Bus Service and click on “Rider Registration Form”. This will provide a registration form for you to fill out and submit online. You will receive an email confirmation of your registration.
- **How much does it cost and how many riders can ride?**
 - The 2024-25 cost is \$1605 per rider for the school year. Historically, we run two buses (i.e., two separate routes). Our rider limit has been 100 riders total – 50 riders maximum per bus. During 2023-24 we actually had 115 riders served by two buses and a passenger van. If we do not have at least 85 riders sign up, then there will be only one bus for the first 50 riders who pay their initial payment. Other’s fees will be refunded. Should we get more than 115, we may run a third bus. This is TBD.
- **What is the service area?**
 - The service boundaries are as follows: the Orleans Parish line at Palmetto to Washington Ave. to Martin Luther King Blvd to Melpomene to the river and back up-river to the parish line.
 - **In 24-25, we will have two stops on the West Bank.**
 - The two stops, TENTATIVELY, are
 - DeGaulle and Holliday (at the Library)
 - Opelousas and Atlantic
 - The West Bank stops will be served in the AM and the PM, but will not be included in the late bus route.
- **How do I pay?**
 - **The cost is \$1,605 per rider.**
 - The payment window is open now. You can pay $\frac{1}{3}$ (\$535) to hold your seat, with the full balance due by July 1st.
 - This year we are again partnering with Cheddar-Up for online payments. There is a 59 cent transaction fee per payment. In addition, there is a service fee of approximately 3.5% for payments with credit cards, but no service fee for e-checks from bank accounts. You do not need a Cheddar-Up account to use their service; instead select to “pay as a guest” on their website.

- The link to the Cheddar-Up payment site is [here.https://my.cheddarup.com/c/uptown-bus-service-2024-25-to-bfhs-copy-50058?cart=628a7e7a-7723-4599-9d6c-c6dd5b5d9d91%21%2176112549](https://my.cheddarup.com/c/uptown-bus-service-2024-25-to-bfhs-copy-50058?cart=628a7e7a-7723-4599-9d6c-c6dd5b5d9d91%21%2176112549)

Payment plans are not accepted. The entire cost must be paid by July 1st.

- **Where are the bus stops? Is there a really great map?**
 - **You can see the 2024-25 stops on our map by clicking here.** <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=18ii3kk6ackXCHYPLfcjKD9pa-X8vKqk&usp=sharing>
 - The stops will depend on the addresses of the riders who are riding the bus. Typically we run a route where each bus has about 13-16 stops. Generally, riders have to walk approximately 3-4 blocks from their residence. The route is arranged each year once the riders have paid and we have a full bus.
- **Is there a late bus that leaves school after the extra curricular activities?**
 - Yes, a late bus will leave school 4 days per week (M-Th), at 5:45pm. The late bus does NOT run the regular route, but rather gets kids back uptown at limited stops. Be sure to check with your coach or sponsor about the compatibility of your activity with the late bus.
- **Can you get on/off different stops on your assigned bus?**
 - Yes. Riders will be allowed to use different stops at their convenience, both in the mornings and in the afternoons (i.e., they miss their stop in the morning, and go to a later stop on the schedule).
- **Can I just pay for taking the bus to school, and not taking it home?**
 - No. All riders pay the same amount for the entire year regardless of how much they ride. The contract arrangements with the bus company are for a set amount for the year and all monies are collected prior to buses beginning to run for the school year.
- **Can a rider take both buses?**
 - Yes, paid riders can ride either bus. If a rider has two separate homes that are on different bus routes, the rider will be placed on both bus routes.
- **My child will only need bus service for the first ½ of the year. Can we pay ½ the price?**
 - No. In order to fill the buses for the entire year, each rider must commit to the full price for the full year, even if they only ride for ½ the year, or only mornings, or only afternoons. **Bus fees are non-refundable.** The board locks in a price with the bus company for bus services for the entire year which is based on the number of confirmed riders when the service starts.
- **What time are the stops?**
 - The first stop of the day started at 6:50 am, but the start time is always dependent upon the number of riders, number of stops, and the route schedule. The full ride home due to traffic can sometimes be an hour or more from the time the bus leaves the school at approximately 3:40 pm. The timing of the stops will fluctuate each year depending on the number of riders on the bus and the number of stops. Riders are expected to be at their stop 10 minutes before their scheduled pickup time in the

morning to account for fluctuations in pickup times that may occur due to traffic patterns.

- We are happy to have stops on the West Bank. Those morning times will be earlier, and the afternoon drop-times will be later.
- A map of current stops and morning times is available on the BFHS transportation page.

- **How do I get involved?**

We need Board members! Please email to volunteer.

uptownfranklinbus@gmail.com or Michael Richard at 504-512-0210

Thank you-

Uptown Franklin Parents, Inc. Bus Board

Uptown Franklin Parents, Inc. (UFP) is a non-profit corporation formed to contract with a private bus service for Franklin students living in Uptown New Orleans (Uptown & Garden District). The board is made up of parent volunteers, whose children use the bus service.