



SHADY SIDE ACADEMY TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

If you have a question that is not answered here or would like to discuss a matter further, please call our Transportation Coordinator at 412-968-3022.

Will my child have busing?

State law requires districts whose border is within 10 miles of each Shady Side Academy campus your child attends provide students with the same transportation services they provide for their own students. If a district does not provide transportation for its own students, it will not provide any transportation to Shady Side Academy. For example, Riverview School District provides transportation for its seventh through twelfth grade students, but not for sixth grade. Therefore, Riverview will not transport any sixth graders to the Middle School even though it is transporting seventh and eighth graders.

What school districts provide busing?

Country Day School students are transported via school buses or vans by: Allegheny Valley, Deer Lakes, Fox Chapel Area, Hampton, North Allegheny, North Hills, Penn Hills, Pine Richland, Pittsburgh, Plum, Shaler Area and Woodland Hills.

Junior School students are transported via school buses or vans by: Allegheny Valley, Baldwin-Whitehall, East Allegheny, Fox Chapel Area, Gateway, McKeesport, North Hills, Penn Hills, Pittsburgh, Plum, Shaler Area West Mifflin and Woodland Hills.

Middle and Senior School students are transported via school buses or vans by: Allegheny Valley, Deer Lakes, Fox Chapel Area, Hampton, North Allegheny, North Hills, Penn Hills, Pine-Richland, Pittsburgh, Plum, Riverview, Shaler Area, Wilkinsburg and Woodland Hills.

Do I need to do anything to secure transportation for my child? If your child's school district provides services to Shady Side Academy, you may not have to do anything to receive busing. Shady Side Academy will set up your child's busing, and it is up to you to decide to utilize the service. The districts where separate registration is needed are East Allegheny and Penn Hills. Please see below for other exceptions.

- Allegheny Valley has an on-line form for all parents to complete. We will send out an email with the information.
- East Allegheny requires you to register your child at Logan Elementary School.
- Gateway has an on-line form for parents to complete. We will send out an email with the information.
- North Allegheny has an on-line form for parents to complete. We will send out an email with the information.
- Penn Hills has a form for all new students parents to complete and requires you to register your child at:
PH Elementary School-412-793-7000 ext. 7113 (Grades K-5)
Linton Middle School-412-793-7000 ext. 6124 (Grades 6-8)
PH High School-412-793-7000 ext. 5284 (Grades 9-12)
- Fox Chapel has an on-line form for all parents to complete. We will send out an email asking if the student requires busing.
- North Allegheny has an on-line form for all parents to complete. We will send out an email asking if the student requires busing.
- North Hills has a form for new students to complete. We will send this form to parents via email in May or June. The completed form will need to be submitted to North Hills at the address at the bottom of the form.
- Pittsburgh Public has an on-line form for all parents to complete. Parents are required to unregister the student from the magnet school he/she is registered before the student will be able to attain transportation. If your student needs transportation, this must be done before the beginning of August. You will need to call the PPS Magnet office 412-529-3991 or magnetoffice@pghboe.org.

- **Woodland Hills** has an on-line form for all parents to complete. An email will be sent in June and July asking Woodland Hills parents if their children need transportation. Our Transportation Department will notify Woodland Hills. If a parent declines transportation and later determines it is needed, please contact us as soon as possible.

When will I be notified of my child's bus stop and time?

Your school district will send a letter or postcard about one week prior to the start of school with the bus number, stop location and time. Unfortunately, some school districts do not notify the parents until two or three days prior. If you have not heard by the Wednesday before the first day of school, please call our Transportation Office at 412-968-3022 and we will try to assist you.

What if our home address changes throughout the year?

Please inform your school's office as soon as possible, and we will inform the school district. Some of the districts may take up to two weeks to make the change or to set up a new bus, so it is important to contact us as early as possible.

Will my preschooler have busing?

No, school districts will only provide transportation for students in kindergarten and above, only if the child is five years old by Sept 1, 2023.

Will my kindergarten child have transportation?

Yes, with three exceptions: North Allegheny, North Hills and Penn Trafford.

- **North Allegheny** only transports Kindergarten students one way.
- **North Hills** will provide busing for students in kindergarten only if the student is picked up at an already-designated SSA Junior School or Country Day School bus stop. Parents may walk or drive to that stop, but no new stop will be designated for your child. An adult must meet the bus for a driver to allow the student off the bus.
- **Penn Trafford** will only provide transportation one way.

Do I need to meet the bus at the stop for my child?

Only children in kindergarten need to have an adult meet the bus in order for the driver to allow the student off the bus.

Why does my child need to walk so far to a bus stop? Can I do anything about it?

State law says a fifth grader and younger can walk up to one mile to a bus stop, and a sixth grader and older can walk up to one and a half miles. With the financial crunch facing school districts, many are consolidating stops to reduce cost. Unfortunately, this can increase the distance students need to walk from their home to the stop. You may call your school district and ask them to change your stop. Some districts have forms to be completed before they will make changes. These can be found on the school district's website, or you may call our Transportation Office at 412-968-3022 to request the forms.

What if I think the stop is at a dangerous intersection or road?

If you think your child's stop is at a dangerous intersection or road, please call your school district's transportation department. Pittsburgh uses a form to process this concern, which can be found on the PPS website under **Transportation > Forms**, or call our Transportation Office at 412-968-3022 to request the form.

Where will my child be dropped off at the school in the morning and picked up in the afternoon?

Country Day School students will be dropped off and dismissed at the same place in front of the school.

Junior School students will be dropped off and dismissed at the same place in front of the school.

Middle School students will be dropped off in the morning at the Middle School circle. In the afternoon, students participate in athletics or activities at either the Middle or Senior School. All afternoon dismissals are from the Senior School campus, so those students who are still at the Middle School will be transported to the Senior School around 3:30 p.m. Buses for home depart from the Senior School gyms between 3:45-4:00 p.m.

Senior School students will be dropped off in the morning at the back entrance to Memorial Hall/Glimcher Tech Hub. Students who do not have an athletic or arts commitment after school, bus transportation will be available between 3:45-4:00 p.m. at the flagpole in front of Rowe Hall. Afternoon car rider dismissal at the courtyard side of Rowe Hall. Use most left-hand lane to drive around buses and make the right at the stop sign in front of Morewood. Proceed to curbside lane for pick up at the Courtyard.

Are there buses at 6 p.m. after Senior School athletics to take my student home?

There is **limited** bus access at 6 p.m. All 6 p.m. buses leave from Curry Gym or by the flagpole in front of Rowe Hall.

- Fox Chapel Area provides a 6 p.m. bus.
- SSA provides a bus to the East End/Squirrel Hill/Oakland. This bus will stop at any **intersection** along the route; it will not stop at any home or other location.
- SSA contracted vans/buses for Treesdale/North Hills/Wexford, Monroeville/Murrysville, Sewickley and South Hills.

My Senior School child has an athletic game that will return after 6:00. Will the athletic buses wait?

No, the buses leave at 6 p.m. and cannot wait until students return from an athletic event.

Will there be busing for orientation?

The school districts will NOT provide busing for orientation. The SSA contracted busing will NOT run for orientation. All busing begins on the official first complete day of school.

Will my child have a bus for an early dismissal?

If the school district does not provide early dismissals for their own students, they do not have to provide buses for Shady Side Academy.

- The school districts that DO provide early dismissals, if it's for all 4 Campuses are: Deer Lakes, Fox Chapel Area, Plum, and Riverview. Pittsburgh Public will do a single campus early dismissal (trip in and 1 trip out per building).
- School districts that do NOT provide are: Allegheny Valley, Gateway, North Hills, North Allegheny, Penn Hills and Woodland Hills. Hampton only provides early dismissals if both the Senior and Middle Schools are dismissed early.
- Wilkinsburg, Pine-Richland (2) and Shaler (4) offer a limited number of early dismissals. The dates are chosen in order as they fall on the calendar.

My Middle School child has an athletic event at the Middle School that is over before 6 p.m. Can someone provide transportation to the Senior School so he or she may leave on the 6 p.m. bus?

No, because of insurance limitations, coaches and teachers are not permitted to take your child to the Senior School. Middle School students are not permitted to use or wait for the 6:00 PM bus after athletic events.

Who should I call if my child's school district bus is late in the morning or late arriving home in the afternoon?

Please call your and give them your child's name and bus number to see where the bus is. This information is listed in the Parent Portal on the SSA website, or it was included with the other bus information from your district. This information is also on your school district's website under transportation. If the problem keeps occurring, please report it to the school district's transportation office. The first week of school the bus may be early or late until the driver has worked out the schedule and route. This is expected for the first week of school.

What if my child left something on the bus?

If an item was left on a school district bus, call the school bus company with the information.

If it was left on a Middle School shuttle, field trip bus or athletic game bus, please call our Transportation Coordinator at 412-968-3022 with the bus information and the article left on the bus as soon as possible

What if my child lives outside the 10 miles for busing?

Shady Side Academy provides private contract bus/van services for an additional cost for the following areas:

Mars/Treesdale, Wexford, Monroeville/Murrysville and South Hills. The availability is determined each year depending on need. The cost is subject to change.