



**Cologne Academy**  
**Bus Fee and Payment Schedule**  
**2025-2026**

The cost for *out-of-district students/families* riding the Cologne Academy bus for the 2025-2026 school year will be as follows:

**Full School Year (9 months):**

- \$475 for the school year per family - Refunds are only available within the first ten days of school. After that, no refunds will be made.\*
  
- There is no charge for students living within the boundaries of the Norwood Young America (ISD #108) school district (they are considered in-district riders for our school district), **with the exception** of families living in The Village neighborhood of Cologne (south side of Hwy 212 within Cologne city limits); the family fee for The Village residents is \$240/year.
  
- Families who qualify according to the federal poverty guidelines, may submit an application to have the fee waived. (This is only necessary for out-of-district residents.) [Application for Student Transportation Reimbursement for Out of District Fee](#)

**Second and Third Trimester only:**

- Families who opt to enroll in the bus program after the end of the first trimester will be charged a prorated rate of \$300.

**Fee Payment**

The entire fee or waiver is due by August 19, 2025. No student will be allowed to ride the bus without payment. Payments will be made via [EduTrak](#) (Note: Families living in The Village of Cologne that wish to utilize bussing to their neighborhood stop should contact the office at [frontdesk@cologneacademy.org](mailto:frontdesk@cologneacademy.org) to have the fee added to their EduTrak cart)

- All fees must be paid in full to receive a seat on the bus.
- Students are transported to one location only.
- There are no discounts for part time riders.

**\*Fuel Escalation Surcharge:** School reserves the right to increase the fee should the vendor impose a fuel surcharge due to the volatility of fuel costs. For most families, school transportation will still be the most convenient and economical option.

As a public charter school, Cologne Academy has no official district boundaries. This means that all can attend Cologne Academy, no matter where you live, as long as Cologne Academy has a seat available. Since

there are no district boundaries for our district (ISD4188), we have families that reside in Glencoe to Eden Prairie, Mound to Shakopee, Lester Prairie to Belle Plaine and those who reside closer to Cologne in Waconia, Norwood Young America, Carver, Chaska, and other towns.

Cologne Transportation Services (CTS) uses their software program to route (same computer program as large districts like 112 and 110). Our goal is to keep all bus rides to 60 minutes or less. In order to do so, your route is likely to change so that all can have a reasonable ride time. As parent/guardian it is your responsibility to supervise the bus stop to ensure safety. Many times this means beyond the vantage point of your home window. Cologne Academy transportation was initially created to operate as a hub system with convenient, centrally-located stops within communities. We do not guarantee a stop within walking distance of your home. Our goal is that each route runs no more than one hour in length, weather and traffic permitting. Please consider that your child may ride the bus for an hour to and from school if you choose to use Academy transportation. You will need to accompany your child in grades K-5 to the bus stop and be present to pick your child up from the bus as well. Students in grade K-6 can expect to sit three to a seat. We plan for students in grades 7-8 to sit two to a seat.

Cologne Academy and CTS are not a private drive service. Like all bus runs, the bus routes are filled to bus capacity. Per CTS, students are only allowed to ride on their assigned bus. They are not allowed to ride other buses for example for early releases to friend's homes or Friday night birthday parties, etc. The liability for ridership is too great. Please plan accordingly.

Lastly, all riders will be required, with their parents, to sign off on bus behavior expectations. This is the only part of the day that some students do not display the PRIDE Star behavioral expectations. The drivers will enforce this policy. While we understand this is an inconvenience to you, know that the behavior your child is displaying on the bus would not be tolerated in your vehicle. Bus ridership can be suspended or permanently removed.

\*Cologne Academy pays for bussing as a full year contract based on calendared school days. If the buses do not transport students, CA is still responsible for full payment.