



Western School District

1400 S. Dearing Rd. Parma, MI 49269 • 517.841.8171

January 9, 2026

Dear Western Families:

We are writing to inform you of an incident that occurred involving one of our elementary buses during afternoon transfer in front of the middle school today.

While parked at the middle school preparing to leave after students were loaded, one of our bus drivers experienced a medical emergency. Thankfully, the bus was not moving at the time of the event. School personnel responded to the situation and notified emergency services quickly.

All students on the bus remained safe at all times. They were immediately taken by school staff to another location and boarded a separate bus to continue their ride home. Those students' families were notified by our staff, as not to alarm them for a later arrival of their children.

Our driver was taken by ambulance to the hospital as first responders took good care of her on the way. We are waiting for more information from the family, and will pass that along when appropriate. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

We want to reassure our community that student and staff safety is always our top priority. In addition, we will be offering support to students affected by this experience as they return to school on Monday. I am extremely proud of how our elementary students handled the situation in a calm and orderly manner.

We appreciate your understanding and trust, and are grateful for the quick response of our transportation staff and emergency personnel. Western is a wonderful community with many great people looking out for our students and staff.

Thank you,

Michael Smajda
Superintendent