



Western School District

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

January 11, 2026

Dear Western Families:

I am following up from the message I sent out Friday regarding one of our bus drivers. With her family's permission, I am sharing more information about the status of our driver, April Smith (Bus #7).

Sadly, Mrs. Smith passed away late Friday afternoon (January 9th) due to the medical emergency she experienced earlier that day. The entire Western Community is mourning her loss. April has been a bus driver at Western for 32 years and will be greatly missed.

For tomorrow and the next several days, Steve Mills (transportation director) will be driving Mrs. Smith's bus route. In addition to Mr. Mills driving, we will have another staff member riding the elementary run to help put students at ease during this transition. When students arrive at school, we will have our school social workers, counselors and administrators available to help with any student who needs support throughout the day.

In our conversation with family, they have asked a small favor to honor Mrs. Smith with a special bus tribute. We will definitely be doing that when the time is right. She has been a special person to many of our students, families and staff. The loss of such a great advocate for children leaves a big hole in our district.

Sincerely,

Michael Smajda

Michael Smajda
Superintendent