



Bloomsburg Area School District

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Dear Panther Families:

Welcome back to school! Over the summer, we updated the transportation schedule for eligible students. Please log in to the Sapphire Portal to access your student's bus schedule: <https://www.bloomsd.org/for-parents/sapphire-parent-portal>. This information includes bus numbers, bus stops, and bus pick-up and drop-off times. Please note that while we try to make the pick-up and drop-off times as accurate as possible, you should allow for time differences for the first week or two of school as we have a large number of new students enrolling and withdrawing during the beginning of the school year. Please review this information at your earliest convenience. If you need a copy of that information, please contact Stephanie Kessler (skessler@bloomsd.org). Also, please continue to check the portal during the year for updated times as the routes may change to add or remove students during the year, causing time changes.

To ensure families understand our transportation expectations, please carefully read all information contained in this letter. If you have questions about any of the information, you are strongly encouraged to contact us as soon as possible. It is easier to resolve issues a week before school starts rather than the first day of school.

Temporary Bus Pass

A Temporary Bus Pass allows students to be picked up/dropped off at a bus stop other than their scheduled stop on a temporary basis, (e.g., if parents are not at home one evening so the student must be dropped off at a grandparent's home). To receive a Temporary Bus Pass, a student must take a signed note from a parent/guardian to their school's main office. After turning in the note, the student will be issued a Temporary Bus Pass by the administrative assistant. Please be sure to adhere to this procedure and plan ahead if you know your child will need to be picked up or dropped off at a stop other than the one assigned to them. Also, please note that students with a Temporary Bus Pass will only be picked up or dropped off at an already established bus stop for their school.

Special Bus Stop Request Form

The Special Bus Stop Request Form is to be used to request a permanent change to a student's morning and/or afternoon bus stop. A new Special Bus Stop Request Form must be completed for each school year. **The Special Bus Stop Request Form is available electronically:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CKJkrDS4JGa8XINKwV1uhDryUKtDMJkte_nq3KyfGBNk/edit. As is the case with the Temporary Bus Pass, a student will only be permitted to change a bus stop to one that already exists for their school. After the form is submitted, you will receive an email indicating if the request is approved.

Delayed Buses

Parents will be notified, through ParentSquare, of any major bus delays (more than 15 minutes) that may result from a traffic accident, road closure, etc. Throughout the school year, any questions or concerns should be addressed to the transportation department.

Bus Stop Changes

As families move in and out of the district, there will inevitably be changes to the bus schedule. Long-term road construction projects may also necessitate a bus being rerouted until the project is complete. While we understand such events are inconvenient for our families, these events happen, and we respectfully request your understanding as we are impacted by them. Whenever a bus stop pick-up or drop-off time, or even location (in the case of road work), is changed, we will notify families as far enough in advance as practical. You may also check Parent Portal for updates on your bus stop times.

Student Behavior on Buses

In Pennsylvania, pupil transportation is a privilege, not a right. This being the case, our principals have the authority to suspend a student from district-provided transportation due to behavioral/disciplinary issues. We encourage students to tell the bus drivers of problems as they occur so they may be dealt with in a timely manner.

Bus Evacuation Drills

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) requires that bus evacuation drills be conducted at the beginning of each school year and again each March. These drills will be conducted at all schools in accordance with this PDE mandate.

For more information on the transportation services provided by the Bloomsburg Area School District, you are encouraged to visit the transportation section of our web site, <https://www.bloomsd.org/for-parents/transportation>. Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the course of the school year, please contact me by calling 570-784-5000 ext. 4427, or via e-mail at skessler@bloomsd.org. Due to the high number of parental inquiries, you are encouraged to send an e-mail if you would like to contact us. This way, we can more quickly respond to your requests and questions.

We look forward to seeing our Panthers return to school next week, and wish everyone a happy and safe 2026-2027 school year!

Sincerely,



Stephanie Kessler
Administrative Services Director