



Transportation

DEPARTMENT

3710 Matt Highway • Cumming, Georgia 30028 • Telephone 770.888.1234 • Fax 770.888.1289
www.forsyth.k12.ga.us/transportation

August 12, 2020

Greetings Forsyth County Schools Parents & Students!

I know it is hard to believe, but the first day of school upon us. Please know that our staff in the FCS Transportation Department has been working diligently to make sure we are ready to roll on the first day of school for our students, schools, families, and community.

First, I want to assure our community that we are doing everything we can reasonably do to keep our student bus riders as safe as we can while on the school bus. In addition to our normal school bus safety measures, we are taking multiple additional steps to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. Since last Spring, our department has been training all of our drivers, monitors, and staff drivers on updated safety and cleaning requirements. Our bus drivers, monitors, and staff will be **Masking Up, Washing Up, Covering Up, Backing Up, and Cleaning Up** every single day. All school bus drivers & monitors are required to wear a cloth mask/face covering while on the school bus with students and staff. Just as in our school buildings, cloth masks/face coverings are expected for all students riding the school bus. All staff will be self-checking their temperatures before reporting to work, and will be staying home if they are sick. All staff will be washing their hands regularly with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Although social distancing at 6 feet is not possible on the school bus, our bus drivers and staff will be spacing students as best we can. All buses will be cleaned and disinfected before every bus route & trip. Bus windows will be down as weather permits and circumstances allow to maximize the flow of fresh air. Our bus drivers & staff will seat students based on the order the students enter/exit the bus when feasible to minimize risk of exposure. It is our utmost desire to protect everyone as much as we possibly can during these challenging times.

As we start the school year, we ask that you be patient and supportive as our drivers get to know your child and establish expectations & routines designed to deliver your child to & from school safely every day. The first three weeks of school is a learning process both for our drivers and for the thousands of FCS students that have never ridden a Forsyth County school bus.

We will do all that we can to quickly establish a dependable bus schedule for you & your family. Please know that our first priority is to start the school year making sure we are keeping your child safe & secure on the bus at all times. Our goal is **to protect 100% of our students 100% of the time**. During the first few weeks of school, that means making sure all of our students are on the correct bus before they leave the school campus, ensuring that students are getting on & off the bus at the correct stops during the route, teaching students safe riding habits when entering, riding & exiting the school bus, and making sure our bus drivers are able to manage safely all of the traffic & road construction delays that they will experience on Forsyth County roads.

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Three Level School Bus Transportation Schedule

Forsyth County Schools currently uses a three-level system to transport students to & from school on the school bus. Level One services the Elementary I schools listed below, Level Two services the Elementary II schools listed below & all FCS High Schools, and Level Three services all FCS Middle Schools.

Level	Schools	School Start Time	School End Time	Early Release
Level One	Elementary I*	7:40am	2:20pm	11:50am
Level Two	Elementary II**	8:20am	3:00pm	12:30pm
	High School	8:25am	3:40pm	12:55pm
Level Three	Middle School	9:00am	4:15pm	1:30pm
	<i>Alliance Academy of Innovation</i>	9:00am	3:05pm	12:20pm

*Elementary I Schools: Big Creek ES, Brandywine ES, Brookwood ES, Chattahoochee ES, Chestatee ES, Coal Mountain ES, Cumming ES, Haw Creek ES, Kelly Mill ES, Matt ES, Pooles Mill ES, Settles Bridge ES, Sharon ES, Shiloh Point ES, Vickery Creek ES

**Elementary II Schools: Daves Creek ES, Johns Creek ES, Mashburn ES, Midway ES, Sawnee ES, Silver City ES, Whitlow ES

The First Three Weeks of School—What You Can Expect

During the first week of school, most of our routes will experience delays. Some of our afternoon routes may deliver their last student home 25-35 minutes later than what you should normally expect throughout the rest of the school year. We will do our best to work with your child’s school to communicate delays to you. Before leaving our schools, our drivers and school administrators will be making sure that all students are riding the correct bus home. We are also taking the time to explain & practice safe habits when entering, riding, and exiting a school bus. We will also have many students who will be returned to school because they get on the wrong bus or miss their assigned bus stop.

By the second week of school, most routes will have established a fairly reliable drop-off schedule and late buses should become the exception rather than the rule. Isolated bus routes may be later than their expected schedule by 15-20 minutes. At this point, most students are effectively loading & unloading at the school and are starting to practice safe riding habits. However, we will have a larger number of students than normal who have to be returned to school because they get on the wrong bus or miss their assigned bus stop.

By the third week of school and beyond, we expect to have established a regular, dependable routine, both at the school and at our bus stops. Nearly all our buses should be arriving when expected at their posted times, both to the school and at the stop. Most of our routes & levels should be running on the regularly scheduled pick up & drop off times. Students will be practicing safe riding habits independently, and students on wrong buses and missed stops will become the exception rather than the rule.

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How Can You Help Us?

If your child is going to ride the school bus regularly, please make sure they ride from the first morning and continue to ride consistently through the first three weeks of school. Talk with them about which bus to ride and teach them to get off **ONLY** at their assigned bus stop. If you will not be at the stop, ask a sibling or neighbor you can trust to “watch out” for your child on the bus and/or at the stop if you can. Help your child learn to recognize your assigned stop, and teach them to ask the driver for help any time they are confused or uncertain. With you as our partner, your child will learn what to do more effectively if you help us establish the bus riding routine early and allow them to develop good riding habits by consistently riding the bus.

Please take the time to find the approximate time for the bus stop and have your child at the morning stop at least ten minutes early the first time your student rides the route. Check with the driver to confirm the “scheduled bus stop time” for your child’s bus stop, and have your child to the stop at least five minutes early every day.

We also ask that you use the S.O.A.R. resources available on the FCS Transportation website that we use to teach our students to be **Safe, Ordery, And Respectful (S.O.A.R.)** on the school bus. Help us teach your child about safe walking, waiting and school bus riding behaviors. You can find these resources on the FCS Transportation Department webpage by clicking on the **School Bus Safety Brochure** link. We know that we cannot successfully protect your child--and all of the children who ride the bus with your child—without the support of our parents and community!

Finding 2020-21 Bus Route, Bus Stop & Pick-Up Information

If you want to find your child’s bus transportation information online, you have two main options:

- Log into FCS Infinite Campus Parent Portal, select your child, and then click open the Transportation heading from the menu to see morning & afternoon bus route information for your child.
- Go to the Forsyth County Schools website at www.forsyth.k12.ga.us, click on the Departments heading and select Transportation to go to the FCS Transportation home page. Once on the Transportation home page, select and click on the Bus Routes heading to access the Bus Route Information page. Once on this page, you can click to open either I agree, continue to 2020-21 Bus Stop Map to see a Forsyth County map identifying bus stops or Parent Portal to see bus route & stop information without a map.

If you have any other questions or issues regarding your child’s bus route, ride, or stop, please contact the FCS Transportation District Supervisor serving your child’s school or an administrator at your child’s school. Our supervisor’s names & contact information are provided below:

FCS Supervisor	E-Mail	Schools Served
Deanna Bowen	dbowen@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Brandywine ES, Midway ES, DeSana MS, Denmark HS
Marni Cleveland	mcleveland@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Chattahoochee ES, Chestatee ES, Little Mill MS
Jennifer Cox	jcox@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Coal Mountain ES, Silver City ES, N. Forsyth MS, N. Forsyth HS

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FCS Supervisor	E-Mail	Schools Served
Don Parmele	dparmele@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Haw Creek ES, Mashburn ES, Lakeside MS, S. Forsyth HS
Pam Gilbert	pamelagilbert@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Brookwood ES, Daves Creek ES, S. Forsyth MS, Lambert HS
Hank Gravitt	hgravitt@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Johns Creek ES, Settles Bridge ES, Sharon ES, Riverwatch MS
Gretchen Higgins	ghiggins@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Big Creek ES, Shiloh Point ES, Whitlow ES, Piney Grove MS
Becky Newberry	bnewberry@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Cumming ES, Otwell MS, Forsyth Central HS, Alliance Academy
William Phillips	wphillips@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Kelly Mill ES, Matt ES, Pooles Mill ES, Sawnee ES, Liberty MS
Jan Wilson	jewilson@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Vickery Creek ES, Vickery Creek MS, West Forsyth HS
Leslie Horton	lhorton@forsyth.k12.ga.us	<u>South Area Special Education</u> Big Creek ES, Brandywine ES, Brookwood ES, Daves Creek ES, Haw Creek ES, Johns Creek ES, Mashburn ES, Midway ES, Settles Bridge ES, Sharon ES, Shiloh Point ES, Whitlow ES, DeSana MS, Lakeside MS, Piney Grove MS, Riverwatch MS, South Forsyth MS, Lambert HS, South Forsyth HS
Penny Martin	pmartin@forsyth.k12.ga.us	<u>North Area Special Education</u> Chattahoochee ES, Chestatee ES, Coal Mountain ES, Cumming ES, Kelly Mill ES, Matt ES, Pooles Mill ES, Sawnee ES, Silver City ES, Vickery Creek ES, Liberty MS, Little Mill MS, North Forsyth MS, Otwell MS, Vickery Creek MS, Forsyth Central HS, North Forsyth HS, West Forsyth HS

We hope that you and your child have a wonderful start to a successful school year. Please know that FCS Transportation remains dedicated to providing school bus transportation to you & your child that is designed to protect 100% of our students 100% of the time. We look forward to serving your family this year.

Sincerely,

Mike Satterfield
Director of Transportation
Forsyth County Schools

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