



Transportation DEPARTMENT

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

August 1, 2017

Greetings Forsyth County Schools Parents & Students!

We in the FCS Transportation Department sincerely hope that you and your family have been enjoying the summer, and are getting ready to start another great school year in Forsyth County Schools. I know it is hard to believe, but the first day of school is only a few days away. Please know that our staff in the FCS Transportation Department has been working hard all summer to make sure we are ready to roll on the first day of school.

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.

Three Tier School Bus Transportation Schedule

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

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

*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, 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

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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 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 10-20 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, both to the school and at the stop. Most of our routes & tiers 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.

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 stop, and have your child to the stop five minutes early every day.

We also ask that you use the SOAR 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 **SOAR with Elvis** and **SOAR Fundamentals** links. 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 the community!**

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Finding 2017-18 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 page. Once on the Transportation page, select Parents & Students, and then click on the Bus Route Information heading to access the Bus Route Information page. Once on this page, you can click to open either I agree, continue to 2017-18 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.

<u>FCS Supervisor</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>	<u>Schools Served</u>
Deanna Bowen	dbowen@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Brandywine ES, Midway ES, DeSana MS
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, North Forsyth HS
Lisa Fiorenza	lfiorenza@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Haw Creek ES, Mashburn ES, South Forsyth HS
Pam Gilbert	pamelagilbert@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Brookwood ES, Daves Creek ES, South 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
William Phillips	wphillips@forsyth.k12.ga.us	Kelly Mill ES, Matt 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, 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

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

Sincerely,

Mike Satterfield

Mike Satterfield
Director of Transportation
Forsyth County Schools

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