



**PLYMOUTH
MEETING
FRIENDS SCHOOL**

Busing to PMFS

During the school year, buses from more than twelve school districts drop off and pick up children at PMFS. Also, many parents drive children to and/or from school. Moving all our students from home to school and back again, all the while knowing how, when, and where they are going, is a big job. It is a job that PMFS does well because we (PMFS staff, faculty, and parents) work together at it. Here is what you need to know to be part of this operation.

Public school districts provide free busing for every resident child attending a non-public school within ten miles of their home school district boundary. All children in a district receive the same level of service, whether they attend public or non-public school. (This is why there is no busing for Kindergartners from the School District of Philadelphia. Also, there is no busing for Pre-K children in any district.)

Children must comply with the regulations and behavior guidelines set by the school district to remain eligible for busing. PMFS recognizes school districts' jurisdiction in establishing these regulations and guidelines. Additionally, the school expects children to meet Plymouth Meeting Friends School's safety and behavior guidelines while waiting for and riding the bus. We will review these expectations with children at the beginning of each school year. Please see the Redbook for more information about how the school responds to bus riding behavior issues.

How will my school district know if we want busing?

Maevé Sutherland, the PMFS Office Administrator, provides information for all children desiring busing to the appropriate school district's transportation office in the Spring for the following Fall.

Families with children eligible for busing this Fall are invited to fill out the Busing Request Form at this link: <https://forms.gle/yqxK8eKnETujK44KA>

How will I know what my child's bus route and times are?

School districts devise their bus routes based on the information we provide. They determine all pick-up and drop-off times and locations. School districts communicate this information to families in August in a variety of ways. (Many suburban districts print the schedules in the local newspaper. The School District of Philadelphia sends a notice to each family).

If you have questions about how you will be notified or about the established route, you should call your school district's transportation office.

How do we know that the bus is arriving at PMFS on time?

During the first few weeks of school PMFS staff who meet buses in the morning record the bus arrival times at school. We collaborate with the districts and bus companies to ensure that children are arriving on time (between 7:45 and 8:00 am) for school and leaving by 3:15 pm each day.

What should we do if we have problems with our bus route?

If you encounter problems with your bus route, parents should notify the following in this order:

1. The bus driver
2. Your public school district transportation office
3. Maeve in the PMFS Main Office. PMFS cannot change bus routes. Our relationships with school districts, however, allow us to advocate on your behalf with them.

What happens if we move?

It takes most school districts up to two weeks to change a bus route. Please notify Maeve as soon as possible of your new address if you are moving and will want busing from your new location. The office will contact the school district on your behalf to arrange busing.

How many buses can a child ride?

Students may only ride buses in their own school district. This means that if you live in Philadelphia, your child cannot ride home for a play date to their friend's house in Blue Bell. However, children who have two households in different school districts may register to ride buses in both districts.

PMFS has multiple Philadelphia bus routes, so Philadelphia students can ride a Philadelphia bus other than their own, provided there is written notice from a child's parent to the school. Maeve then fills in a change form and gives it to the bus driver on the day of the change.

Most school districts also allow an alternative bus stop in the morning or afternoon at the student's home or at another established stop. A request for this accommodation must be submitted in writing by the parent to the PMFS Office. This written request may be made before or during the school year.

Questions?

Feel free to contact Maeve Sutherland at office@pmfs1780.org. Or just stop in the Office and say hello!