STWDSTS TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

September 2016

KINDY RIDE DAY!

August 30, 2016 is kindy ride day! Book your ride in advance between August 15-25. Come as a family. Your child's safety is our priority! For more information http://stwdsts.ca/home/kindergarten-ride/

OPT OUT OF TAKING THE BUS!

Those who are eligible for transportation can choose to **opt out of busing** by contacting our office at 519-824-4119. Your child will be removed from the bus list and marked as not riding. However, if you require busing in the future, you can call to re-assign your child to the bus at anytime.

VIDEO CAMERAS ON SCHOOL BUS!

Parents and schools need to be aware there may be a camera on the school bus. The school bus is an extension of the classroom and a camera may be required to monitor student behaviour. Buses equipped with cameras will have a sign posted at the front of the bus.

NEW OPERATIONS MANAGER!

In October 2015 we welcomed our new Operations Manager, Darren Gowing to STWDSTS. He can be contacted at darren@stwdsts.ca.

Service de transport de
Wellington – Dufferin
Student Transportation Services

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS!

Each year in August, due to possible route changes or email alterations, we are asking parents to re-subscribe so you have the most current, up to date information.
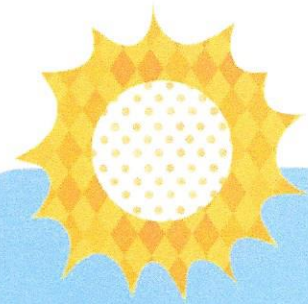**To subscribe** go to: https://www.findmyschool.ca/subscriptions/login.aspx and follow the instructions.

Subscriptions

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @STWDSTS!

Connect with us on Twitter to hear about inclement weather, cancellations and important information.

SEPTEMBER 2016 CHANGES

STWDSTS has completed a bell time review for some schools in the City of Guelph. These changes will affect student pick-up times in certain areas. Please ensure you check your child's transportation information.

BUSING INFORMATION FOR EXISITING STUDENTS

If your child is an existing student, go to www.findmyschool.ca and login to this secure site with your child's OEN number (located on report card), school name, birth date and house number. This will be available after August 22, 2016.

JK, SK & NEW STUDENTS

If your child is new to the Ontario school system and has been registered at a school prior to the end of June, transportation information will be mailed to your mailing address on August 22, 2016.

NEW TO THE AREA (i.e. not registered at a school yet)

If you are new to the area please contact your school to register your child. STWDSTS will not accept new student information over the phone for security reasons. Any new students throughout the summer will not receive transportation arrangements until they are registered at their home school. Once this occurs, you can contact your school directly to obtain your new busing information.

Please note that during September start-up, busing could take up to 2 weeks to be arranged.

FAQ's

Will my child be assigned to a school bus?

Transportation is assigned according to School Board policy. Your child must live within their school attendance boundary and live further from school than the maximum walking distance assigned to your child's grade level. Refer to STWDSTS **Policy 002 Transportation Eligibility** or go to www.stwdsts.ca and click on **"Are you eligible"**.

How do I change my student's bus information AFTER September?

Service de transport de Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Services (STWDSTS) will not accept any changes to student information over the phone for security reasons. Parents are asked to contact their school administration directly about any changes to their address. All information is downloaded from the school to STWDSTS and will be consistent across the board.

Can my child receive transportation from an alternate address?

Both your home address and the alternate/caregiver address must be within your school's attendance boundary and meet the distance criteria for transportation. Be sure to advise your school about alternate arrangements. The alternate address **must be used consistently 5 days per week** and there must be room on the alternate bus. Refer to STWDSTS **Policy 034 - Transportation for Child Care**

May a student temporarily ride another bus while parent(s) or guardian(s) are away?

All temporary transportation requests are refused, except under extraordinary circumstances. Refer to STWDSTS **Policy 029 - Temporary Transportation Requests**.

How do I apply for courtesy transportation?

Courtesy transportation is assigned based on the youngest of age (grade), then travel distance to school, using available seats and existing stops. Courtesy assignments **are not** done prior to October 31st of each year. To apply, refer to STWDSTS **Policy 017 - Courtesy Transportation** and **Form TF006**.

Can my child's bus stop be changed?

Requests for changes to bus stops should be submitted in writing for consideration (**Form TF033**). Requests for changes to accommodate parent/caregiver convenience will not be considered. **No changes to bus stops are considered during the first four weeks of school.** All students are required to walk to/from their bus stops. Refer to STWDSTS **Policy 009 – Walking Distances to Bus Stop**

Who is responsible for my child's safety prior to boarding the bus and after disembarking from the bus?

The parent or guardian is responsible for their child's safety prior to boarding the bus and after they disembark from the bus. Refer to STWDSTS **Policy 005 – Responsibilities of Parents and Guardians**

Where do I find STWDSTS Policies?

Our policies can be found online at http://stwdsts.ca/home/policies/