Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our returning families and to extend a warm welcome to new families by offering some helpful information to ensure a safe and happy busing experience. At the Transportation Department, we have been preparing all summer long for an efficient and enjoyable beginning to your child ‘s school year.

The purpose of this letter is to assist you, the parent/guardian in understanding how you can contribute to the safety and success of your child's transportation. Please take the time to go over the [Bus Safety Brochure.pdf](https://drive.google.com/open?id=12naq0Okdr2A47lgVyvyNkdCKty--ecLi) with your child. All pick-up and drop-off times are approximate. Your child should be ready 10 minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time. Please be flexible; times may vary due to traffic, weather and road conditions.

For our Preschool-1 st grade students please make sure that a parent/guardian is there to receive your child. If no one is present, the driver will continue his or her route. Every effort will be made to contact you to let you know of this event. If no contact has been made, your child will be transported back to the originating school. All students are only permitted to ride on their assigned bus and utilize their designated bus stop.

Requests for child care transportation [Request for Child Care Transportation](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1TN0rtAVuW3ElIJjxv6hX2VhXda6nWNmQIBfS_O3KCSI/edit) must be submitted every school year, if needed. The request must be for five consecutive days and within the school serviced area as indicated on the form.

To request a bus stop changeyou must fill out the[Bus Stop Change Request](https://www.mersnj.us/domain/28)**.** Please understand that due to safety, accountability and efficiency, bus drivers are NOT authorized to modify assigned bus stops. The request will only be considered if it is a ***safety issue*** not pertaining to inclement weather. No changes will be made for house stops as our routes are designed to maximize efficiency. Therefore, designated corner stops that service the area are utilized.

All bus delays will be posted daily on our [transportation page](https://www.mersnj.us/domain/28) on the district website as well as our twitter account@MERSbusdelays.

**Please make sure you check the parent portal for the most current bus stop information a few days prior to the first day of school. Some bus assignments can change in order to make the bus routes as efficient as possible.**

I would like to wish everyone a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Christine Vastano

Transportation Coordinator