

Q&A: Beavercreek Schools Transportation Changes for January 2012

Q: Who is affected by the transportation cuts?

A: Busing for *all* Beavercreek High School students is being eliminated, and transportation for middle school students who live within two miles of their school building is also being discontinued.

Q: How do I know if my middle school child is eligible for transportation?

A: Parents of affected students were notified if their child would no longer receive busing. Families with questions about transportation eligibility should contact the Beavercreek Schools Transportation Department at 429-7531.

Q: When will the changes go into effect?

A: The changes will go into effect Tuesday, January 17, 2012, which is the start of the second semester for students.

Q: Will the district have to make adjustments to school start and dismissal times as a result of the transportation decision?

A: Yes. Details follow:

- **Beavercreek High School students' school day will now begin at 8 a.m.** All 2,600-plus students will need to be in their first period class, seated, when the bell rings at 8:05 a.m. Dismissal will take place at 3:05 p.m.
- **Ferguson Middle School students' school day will now begin at 8:45 a.m.,** and students will be dismissed at 3:48 p.m.
- **Ankeney Middle School students' start and dismissal times will NOT change.**

Q: When will parents of middle school students who ARE eligible for transportation learn of the changes to their child's bus schedule?

A: Affected families will receive a One Call Now message from their child's building principal, directing them to the Transportation section of the district Web site: <http://www.beavercreek.k12.oh.us/Page/6767>. Parents should select "Bus Assignment eLink" from the list at left, and then click the "Login" button on the screen labeled "Tyler's Versatrans e-Link." (The username and password are "guest," and should not need to be re-entered.) From there, parents should follow the prompts.

--more--

Q&A re: Beavercreek Schools Transportation Changes, page 2 of 4

Q: What will happen on days when there are one- or two-hour delays or early dismissals?

A: Parents will need to adjust their family's plans accordingly. In the case of delays or an early release, parents will be alerted via One Call Now. Should an early dismissal occur, parents will be asked to pick up their children earlier than the normally scheduled dismissal time. School officials also ask parents to review their family's emergency dismissal plan with their children to ensure their child's preparedness in the event of an early release.

To ensure that information associated with their child's One Call Now account is up to date, all parents should visit the District Web site (www.beavercreek.k12.oh.us) and select "Alerts" from the Quicklinks bar at left. **E-mail and text alerts can also be created** using links from the "Alerts" page.

Q: When will parents be able to drop their children off at school?

A: BHS: Parents can drop students off at the school building at 7 a.m., but supervision will not be available until 7:30 a.m. Students will be expected to sit in a designated location within the Commons area and study or read quietly.

Ferguson: Students who no longer receive bus transportation can be dropped off at the school beginning at 7:30 a.m., and will be taken to the multi-purpose room or gymnasium.

Ankeney: Students who no longer receive bus transportation will need to be dropped off at the back of the building, as the front lot and loop will be used only for bus traffic. Students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:30 a.m., and will report to the cafeteria upon arrival. Parents are asked to begin using the new drop-off and pick-up procedures Monday, January 9, 2012, to give everyone a chance to work through the changes.

Ankeney's Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) plans to hold a meeting Thursday, January 5 to help parents connect for the purpose of creating car pools. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Ankeney Library, and the PTO will offer light refreshments.

Q&A re: Beavercreek Schools Transportation Changes, page 3 of 4

Q: Will breakfast be available for students who are dropped off early?

A: The Student Nutrition Department will serve breakfast to interested Ankeney and Ferguson students between 7:30 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. each morning. Details will be sent home to parents via e-mail and will also be posted to the schools' Web sites.

Q: How will the affected schools address the increase in traffic and changes to student drop-off and pick-up?

A: **BHS:** School officials have assessed parking capacity to maximize parking availability. 657 parking spaces have been allocated for junior- and senior-level students, and these will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with seniors given first priority. As of December 14, parking passes were still available for purchase at the BHS office.

Parents will be asked to drop students off at the main entrance to the school using the Dayton-Xenia access road loop near the Land Lab, just east of the building. Drivers will be expected to follow all posted signs to ensure the safety of students. Because the change in busing affects ALL students at Beavercreek High School (excepting students who are handicapped), school officials are asking parents and student drivers to be particularly careful upon entering the school grounds.

Ferguson: Parents are asked to drop their children off at the loop in front of the middle school by circling around behind the school using the road adjacent to the visitors' bleachers (Lantana Drive). Parents are asked NOT to use the access road from Dayton-Xenia in an effort to keep the Ferguson school bus drop-off zone clear.

Ankeney: Drop-off and release procedures for Ankeney WILL change. Students must now be dropped off and picked up at the back of the building, and parents will be required to enter the parking lot using the East entrance from Shakertown Road (closest to Grange Hall Road). All students will be dismissed at 3:45 p.m., but cars and walkers will not be allowed to leave the lot until all buses have been released. Any student that has not been picked up by 4 p.m. will be moved to the lobby area in front of the building. A map of the new traffic pattern will be posted on the Ankeney Web site: <http://www.beavercreek.k12.oh.us/Domain/306>

--more--

Q&A re: Beavercreek Schools Transportation Changes, page 4 of 4

Q: Who should I call if I have concerns about parking, drop-off or pick-up times?

A: Beaver Creek High School Office: 429-7547
Ferguson Middle School Office: 429-7577
Ankeney Middle School Office: 429-7567

Q: Will the changes to high school transportation affect the start time at Main Elementary?

A: District officials took Main's start time into consideration when scheduling new start times for Beaver Creek High School and Ferguson Middle School. However, parents of Main students who transport their children to school are asked to bring their students a few minutes earlier than they normally would.

Q: How much money will be saved as the result of these transportation cuts?

A: School officials project more than \$400,000 will be saved through the reduction of the aforementioned transportation services.

Q: Will transportation be reinstated for all students if a levy passes?

A: Yes. District leaders understand that the transportation cuts will present a hardship for many students and families, and busing will be reinstated if voters approve a levy. Of the reductions implemented thus far, however, busing is the only one that will be restored if a March 6 levy is passed. Busing will be reinstated no later than the beginning of the 2012-13 school year.

Q: What can local residents do to avoid traffic backups?

A: Given the amount of traffic expected, individuals who travel on Dayton-Xenia, Factory, Hanes or Beaver Valley roads between 7:20 a.m. and 9 a.m. are advised to budget extra time for their trip. All drivers are being asked to use EXTRA caution in school zone areas and on the roads immediately surrounding the schools, especially during the dark morning hours.

School officials would like to remind residents that safety of children is paramount, and that the speed limit in school zones is 20 miles per hour.

###