



September 17, 2019

Dear School Bus Families,

Thank you for your patience this year while we decided how best to utilize the bus service. I talked with many of you at Curriculum Night, but I wanted to give an update to everyone so that all are aware.

As you know, we did a survey last spring to see how many families would utilize the bus if we moved the afternoon time from a 3:15 departure to a 4:30 departure. At that time only one response indicated that a 3:15 pm time would be preferred so we decided to begin looking for an afternoon driver. (Jackie Meyers, our previous afternoon driver, would not be available that late in the day.)

After posting the job for this driver and looking at training someone new, we surveyed families again to see the current need. The survey produced 17 morning riders and only 7 afternoon riders for 4:30 pm with EDP. Therefore, we have decided for this school year to suspend hiring a new driver and consequently suspend the afternoon route altogether. It costs us \$3.47 per mile to run the bus (driver, gas, maintenance, etc.) and we would need at least 12-15 students on a regular basis to justify that cost. I regret that the bus will only be running for the morning this current school year.

For those of you who have students in middle school, we *have* decided to utilize the bus this year for after-school activities and sports. You'll soon be getting notice about availability for the bus to take students to an after-school, away event so that you might meet your child there.

We'll also be using the bus on early release days for EDP field trips and for other field trips throughout the year, including the middle school trip to Mt. Baker in January.

Over the course of this school year, we will continue to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the bus. It will eventually need to break even in cost since it has been heavily subsidized these past two years. We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused for those of you that rely on the bus, but I know you also understand the need to be fiscally responsible. Thank you again for your patience and understanding.

**Please note that there will be no bus service Monday through Wednesday next week (9/23-9/25) because Mr. Segel will be out of town. Jackie Meyers will be driving as a substitute on Thursday and Friday (9/26 and 9/27) but there will be no Everson or Lynden service those days.**

Sincerely,

Dan Anderson