



In a continuing effort to communicate with parents/guardians within the Tri-County School Corporation, included is updated information regarding transportation for the 2020-2021 school year.

First and foremost, a big thank you to all of our bus drivers and transportation department. On a daily basis, our drivers safely transport our students to and from school. While safely transporting students is a priority, our drivers also support our students socially-emotionally. By greeting students with a welcoming smile, encouraging comments, or a positive attitude, our drivers are an integral part of the Tri-County School Corporation.

The biggest challenge in the transportation department for the 2020-2021 school year is social distancing on the buses. Bus routes have been reviewed, modified, and adjusted to provide the best opportunity for social distancing. Admittedly, social distancing on the bus is very difficult, and may not be feasible at all times; still, every effort has been made to promote social distancing.

As adjustments are made to promote social distancing on the buses, it is important to adopt a one-stop policy to protect the integrity of social distancing. Ultimately, students will be limited to one stop in the morning and one stop in the afternoon. By adopting this policy, students will not be able to transfer buses, which would skew our number of riders, consequently jeopardizing our social distancing. Below is the one-stop policy:

*Tri-County students using the transportation system to get to and from school are allowed to have one consistent bus stop in the morning and one consistent bus stop in the afternoon. An example of a consistent stop is when a student may get picked up at home every morning and then get dropped off at home on Monday-Wednesday-Friday and daycare on Tuesday-Thursday in the afternoon. These stops are the only place to which your child will be permitted to ride to and from school. The updated policy does not allow for transfers or changes to bus stops or alternative routes or stops. This policy is for the safety of all students and drivers, as well as to create consistency for students, bus drivers, office staff, and teachers, while also helping to eliminate any miscommunication. Family emergencies will be taken into consideration and handled on a case by case situation and will be handled via communication with the transportation department.*

In addition to social distancing and the one-stop policy, in accordance with Governor Holcomb's Executive Order 20-37, all students (regardless of age), drivers, faculty and staff are to wear a face mask, face covering, or face shield while on a school bus or other school sponsored mode of transportation. Our drivers are committed to cleaning buses at a minimum of two times per day. Along with regular cleaning, our drivers will be more strategic, assigning seats for our students and adhering to a seating chart. With the cooperation of parents/guardians, the updates to our transportation routes, seating, and social distancing will be achieved.

Yours in Education,

Patrick Culp, Superintendent