

Good Spirit School Division Transportation News



Photo by: Macdonald School Bus Driver, Louise Szumutku, 2018

Winter 2018-19



Good Spirit School Division Parents/Guardians

With winter approaching we wanted to take this opportunity to remind all our families about procedures and expectations on the bus during the winter.



In the event of a bus cancellation due to bad roads or poor weather you can expect that your driver will contact you to advise you of the cancellation. In the event that you missed this communication message you can listen to GX 94 for route cancellations. All city route cancellations will be included on the GX 94 radio message.



If the bus did not run in the morning due to poor roads or weather, you can expect that it will not run in the afternoon.



On occasion the division will cancel routes for an entire area or the whole division due to current or impending road or weather conditions. You can expect that you will receive a voice message on your primary phone number advising you of this cancellation.



The Good Spirit School Division website will be updated daily, shortly after 8:30 am, of any current or upcoming known route cancellations.



If routes need to be cancelled in the afternoon, parents will be responsible to arrange for the pickup of their students from the school. It is a good idea to have an in town contact for such emergency situations in case you are unable to pick up your child in a timely manner.



We want your children to be safe and warm. Please do your best to ensure that your students are dressed warmly for the weather. While they may only be planning to be outside for a couple of minutes while boarding and leaving the bus, there is always a possibility that the bus could be delayed on route and the bus could get cold.



While we make every effort to work with our students, if the bus driver has reminded a student to dress for the weather and there is a continued lack of cooperation, the student could be refused bus service.

It is our goal to transport every child safely to and from school every day. When we are in doubt about the roads or the weather, we will always rule on the side of caution to protect your children and our staff.

Safety Protocols in Place at GSSD



Over the past two years, the GSSD Board of Education has committed to the safe operation of our school buses by approving the purchase and installation GPS units and cameras on every route bus. Installation of GPS units and cameras throughout the rest of our bus fleet will happen in the near future.

The GPS units will ensure we are always able to track a bus and know where they are on route should they encounter any difficulties and require assistance.

The cameras will verify bus activity and support the students and bus driver in ensuring that all students are behaving in a safe manner.



Bus Drivers are also required to carry a cell phone on the bus for use in the event of an emergency. For those locations where cell service is poor, a cell phone booster has been purchased for the bus.

In the event of a concern or complaint the Operations Manager is authorized to view the camera information and verify if there is any activity requiring further follow up.

Bus drivers have been reminded to practice safe driving habits and only use the cell phone when stopped and not while driving. As a result, if you are trying to reach your driver on route you may not get an immediate response.



Parents are encouraged to contact their driver prior to the start of the route to ensure the driver can safely receive and respond to their message.

What Can Go On The Bus?

Equipment required for school programs is allowed on the bus, with some exceptions

Allowed:



Lunch Kits



School Backpacks



Textbooks and school supplies



Sports equipment in regular sized sports bags (e.g. skates)



Not Allowed:



Skates in a plastic bag, skateboards, scooters



School construction projects—book shelves, tables, etc.



Sporting Equipment such as bow and arrow, fishing equipment



Other items with sharp or pointed edges or items too heavy to be easily carried

SGI Requirements:



Anything a student carries must be held on the student's lap or rest on the floor between the student's legs



Larger items cannot occupy a seat with a student and cannot exceed the seat back height or the width of the seat.



If items are stored under a seat they cannot enter the foot area of the seat in front or behind and must be secured from sliding.

Allowed with bus driver permission only:

(must comply with SGI requirements and dependent on bus capacity)



Large equipment bags (i.e. hockey bags)



Project boards/trifold displays for science fairs, etc.



Large band instruments



Bus Driver Recruitment

"BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS TO CREATE BRIGHT FUTURES"

IF YOU'VE GOT THE DRIVE... WE'VE GOT THE BUS!

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION IS SEEKING
SPARE BUS DRIVERS SPECIFICALLY IN THESE

AREAS:

CALDER

CHURCHBRIDGE

ESTERHAZY

GRAYSON

KAMSACK

LANGENBURG

MELVILLE

STOCKHOLM

What you need:
✓ Criminal Record Check
✓ Drivers Abstract
✓ "S" Endorsement
✓ Resume

What we offer:
✓ Training
✓ A company that cares
✓ Summers Off



**CALL THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TODAY!
306-786-5500**

On occasion routes have been cancelled due to lack of spare drivers.



The Board of Education of the Good Spirit School Division NO. 204

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"Building Strong Foundations to Create Bright Futures"