

Transportation Information

2019-2020

ST. JOE'S PREP BUS & SHUTTLE SERVICE

St. Joseph's Prep contracts ~14 buses to and from their school every school day. Approximately eight of these buses service P.A. neighborhoods and six service N.J. areas. Students from Merion Mercy Academy also ride on some of them each day.

Prep buses generally arrive at the Prep between 7:45 a.m. and 8:10 a.m.; girls leave for Merion shortly thereafter via shuttles, which arrive at Merion by roughly 8:40 a.m. (in time for the start of instruction, after CNN10 TV news has aired). In the afternoon, a shuttle leaves Merion at 4:45 p.m. to return to the Prep. Buses then leave the Prep at 5:20 p.m. to return students to their respective neighborhood stops, closer to home.

We generally follow the same bus schedule as the year before; however, adjustments may be made, and stops may be moved, added, or deleted. Students should **not** expect to be picked-up at their front doors. Please anticipate traveling a short distance to get to your neighborhood drop-off/pick-up location.

Prep transportation rates vary depending upon geographic location. Last year, the annual cost to ride a Prep bus ranged from \$1700 - \$2400, depending on distance traveled and whether it was one-way or round-trip transportation. This charge includes the trip between home and the Prep and the Prep and Merion. The charge for one-way service is 75% of the two-way charge. Specific rates for the 2019-2020 school-year will be determined by the Prep in September. Transportation fees will be charged to the student's tuition account and must be paid directly to Merion Mercy Academy. Families who sign up for a Prep bus are obligated to pay for the entire school-year; cancellations and alterations to plans/preferences cannot be honored after the deadline posted by the Prep, which is Monday, August 5th.

In order to be eligible to ride on any Prep bus or shuttle, you must complete and return the Transportation Form to Mr. Pidot, Assistant Head of School for Student Affairs. An updated schedule including specifics about pick-up/drop-off locations and times will be sent to each registered family via email by the Prep's transportation office in late summer.

If you have any questions about routing, schedules, or fees, please contact the Prep directly by e-mail at transportation@sjprep.org.

MODIFIED DAYS

On days when the Prep is closed, Merion independently runs a *modified* service plan for riders of the Prep bus/shuttle. A forecast of anticipated "modified" days is communicated in September; on such days, there will be one vehicle that makes its way from southern New Jersey through Philadelphia to MMA (and in reverse), stopping only at a handful of designated, maximally-convenient stops along the way. The modified route and times are advertized in advance; please look for that to be communicated by Mr. Pidot in the Office of Student Affairs at MMA.

VAN SERVICES & SEPTA

MMA is pleased to offer a new combination of fee-based van services in 2019-2020. In short, there will be daily vans that transport students to/from the train stations in Merion and Narberth; to/from the Northwest region of Philadelphia (including stops in the neighborhoods of Andorra, Roxborough, Chestnut Hill, and Henry Avenue/Walnut Lane); and, in the late afternoons only, to the Western suburbs (for families living in the Villanova, Paoli, Newtown Square, Wayne, Media, and West Chester areas). The PM timing of the Northwest regional van can even accommodate students who do afternoon activities.

If you reside in the Philadelphia School District, you are also entitled to a SEPTA Transpass. These passes are delivered to and distributed from the Office of Student Affairs at MMA on a weekly basis; students should see Mr. Bernadette Fahy with questions – and/or to obtain a pass each week.

TIMETABLE FOR TRANSPORTATION SIGN-UP & CANCELATION

- **Friday, June 28th:** All forms due to the Office of Student Affairs at Merion Mercy Academy
- **Late July:** Notification from SJP to be sent to you re: your daughter's bus #, bus stop, and estimated pick-up/drop-off times
- **Monday, August 5th:** Deadline for all changes, withdrawals, etc.; must be submitted in writing and emailed to the Prep at transportation@sjprep.org with a copy to Merion Mercy Academy at spidot@merion-mercy.com.