



# EAGLE RIDGE ACADEMY

Dear Families of Eagle Ridge Academy,

We are planning for transportation for the 2017-18 school year, and a significant learning we had last year was to start the process much earlier. Thus, it is vital that you follow the timelines laid out in order to assure we are able to build the best routes, formally communicate and receive feedback from families, and then finalize and publish the routes.

In order for us to collect more complete data and have more accurate planning for our bus routes, we are moving the **deadline for transportation contracts to July 1, 2017**. Once the contract is signed and full payment is received, your child will be assigned a route. We will not guarantee transportation to contracts received after the deadline or without payment. Payment for the entire year is due on July 1, 2017.

Students transported within the Hopkins School District will ride at no cost to the family. Students transported outside of the Hopkins School District will be charged \$200 per student if signing up prior to July 1 with a family cap of \$600. Students who qualify for Educational Benefits will also qualify for a reduced transportation fee. A \$50 per student late fee will be charged if signing up after July 1.

Eagle Ridge Academy operates a hub system with convenient, centrally-located stops within communities. We do not guarantee a stop within walking distance of your home. Our goal is that each route runs no more than one hour in length, weather and traffic permitting. This time is considerably shorter than other area charter schools, which often limit their routes to a ninety minute run time. Please consider that your child may ride the bus for an hour to and from school if you choose to use Academy transportation. You will need to accompany your child in grades K-5 to the bus stop and be present to pick your child up from the bus as well.

We limit the population on each bus to 65 students on a 77 passenger bus. Students in grade K-5 can expect to sit three to a seat. We plan for students in grade 6-12 to sit two to a seat.

## Timeline

- **By May 15: Building of Initial Routes.** We will build initial routes using data from students CURRENTLY using our bus service, initial Transportation Request Forms, and include all NEW students for 2017-2018 that have requested transportation.
- **By June 1:** Initial routes will be published and parents will be able to meet with school and transportation company managers to provide feedback regarding routes.
- **By July 1:** All families must complete transportation contract and pay in full in order to have guaranteed transportation. Contracts received after July 1 will be subject to a \$50 late fee per student.
- **By August 1:** Final routes will be published based upon contracts. Additional changes to the routes will be made only for safety reasons and not convenience in location.

We thank you for your cooperation in the collection of information that ensures accurate planning for our bus routes for the 2017-18 school year.

Best Regards,

Jason Ulbrich

Executive Director, Eagle Ridge Academy