



January 26, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Greetings from Henry County Schools Transportation Services Department!

It is with great excitement that we announce the implementation of a three-tier bus routing system, which separates bus services into three independent routes for elementary, middle and high school students. This routing system will begin at the start of the 2012-2013 school year.

Currently, we are transporting approximately 23,000 students twice every day. Our resources have reached their saturation point, and we are in need of additional bus seating. A three-tier bus system will ease this situation by creating new efficiencies in our routing capabilities. This is a common routing solution that is used by many other school districts.

By transporting elementary, middle and high school students separately, there will be several important benefits for students and schools:

1. The number of seats available to students will increase, which ultimately reduces overcrowding and improves safety.
2. The need for running a "second load" will be greatly reduced or eliminated.
3. The current one-mile non-transportation zone for middle and high school students will be eliminated.

Currently, we operate a two-tier system, transporting elementary students during one route and middle and high school students together during a second route. This system requires that our elementary schools have different starting and ending times from the middle and high schools.

Under a three-tier bus routing system, bell times for elementary, middle and high schools will all be separate. This allows for the separation of middle and high school students for bus service.

Under the new three-tier bus routing system, elementary bell times will not be adjusted. Adjustments to the bell times for high schools and middle schools will be necessary to support the new system, and will be as follows:

<u>High Schools</u>	
Approximate Starting Time – 8:10 a.m.	Approximate Ending Time – 3:10 p.m.
<u>Middle Schools</u>	
Approximate Starting Time – 8:55 a.m.	Approximate Ending Time – 3:55 p.m.

\*Note: Official starting and ending times will be finalized after route planning has been completed for next year. Additional communications will follow once exact times have been set.

We hope that you find the timing of this communication helpful as you make plans for next school year. Our vision in the Transportation Services Department is "to provide the safest, most effective, and dependable school bus transportation for each student as a part of ensuring a successful education." We believe that a three-tier bus routing system will allow us to advance this vision. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by calling 770-957-2025.

Sincerely,

Cliff Shearouse, Director

Murry Chambers, Assistant Director