



TAKOMA PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

7611 Piney Branch Road • Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

PHONE: 240-740-5220 • FAX: 301-650-6430

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You will find the magnet bus routes for the upcoming school year posted on our website. Please look over the routes and choose a stop that is most convenient for your family. Keep in mind that these routes operate on a central stop system. The stops are placed at central locations such as schools, libraries, and community centers. It is the student's and family's responsibility to get to the central stop.

The Morning Routine

1. Students board a bus at a convenient central stop.
2. The bus makes a stop at Montgomery Blair HS and high school students get off. **Middle school students remain on the bus.**
3. The bus continues on to Eastern MS.
4. Takoma Park students board a shuttle bus which will take them to Takoma Park MS.

Morning Shuttles

<i>Route</i>
1995
3995
5994
6992
6994
6999

A few considerations...

- The departure times are approximate. Weather, traffic, and student load will affect the actual departure times
- One morning shuttle is designated as the "sweeper bus." It should not normally need to transport any students. This bus is used only when a route arrives late at Eastern MS and there are students who need to get to Takoma Park MS. The sweeper bus will leave Eastern MS at 7:50 if necessary. If a route arrives after 7:50, the students should go to the main office of Eastern MS and call Takoma Park MS. We will arrange for them to get to Takoma Park MS.
- If Eastern MS is your central stop, please be there by 7:35 to board a shuttle for Takoma Park MS.

The Afternoon Routine

1. Takoma Park MS dismisses at 3:00 and students board shuttle buses that will take them to Blair HS. The magnet shuttles will park in the first 7 bus spaces as you exit Takoma Park MS. The shuttles depart at 3:07.
2. At Blair HS, students find and board the route bus that will return them home. The buses depart Blair HS at 3:27.

Afternoon Shuttles

<i>Route</i>
4991
4993
5991
5993
5994
5995
5997

A few considerations...

- Remember that routes 6101, 6103, 6117, 6123, and 6126 are NOT shuttles. These buses make stops in the neighborhoods surrounding TPMS, but will NOT continue on to Blair HS. They are parked at the end of the row of buses.
- The route buses at Blair HS line up roughly in numbered order. The 1xxx buses are located towards the baseball field and the 6xxx are located closest to the door to the Blair HS cafeteria. The exception to this is bus 6999. This bus is the lead bus and is in the first space farthest away from the cafeteria.
- Students must be prompt in leaving school at the end of the day. Don't miss the shuttle to Blair! Unless you are planning to stay for the activity bus, this is not the time to see a teacher, buy a snack from the vending machine, or chat with a friend in the hallway.
- **Middle school students may not enter Blair HS.** In the past, students have missed the bus because they were in the building when their bus pulled out.
- Waiting for your bus at Blair HS is not a time to run around, clown around, or throw or kick any projectiles (including balls, stones, lunch bags, or snowballs).
- Bus drivers are not permitted to stop for a student once the bus is rolling. **Under no circumstances** should a student run to catch a moving bus. If the bus is already moving, **it will not stop for you** even if you do catch up to it. Instead, the student should seek help from an adult.
- Students should keep their belongings with them while at Blair. Especially, do not put your backpack on a bus and then get off to talk to a friend. I have seen many backpacks take a bus ride as their owner misses the bus.

Easing Transportation Problems

- Parents and students should have a back-up plan in case of a missed bus. The most important part of the back-up plan is that the parents, the student, and the back-up person know what the plan is so that anxiety may be reduced. Students should commit to memory parent work/cell phone numbers.
- Students and parents should know the route number of the bus they will ride. This is the number which is posted on the white label in the window of the bus (not the number painted in black on the side of the bus). Other valuable information to keep with you is the list of phone numbers of the bus depots (see the Bus FAQ).
- If a student does not return home when expected, parents should call the appropriate bus depot.

- Students must abide by bus rules. In addition to the standard safety rules governing behavior on the bus, parents will help by reinforcing these rules:
 - Students should stay on the sidewalk of either Blair or Takoma Park when waiting for their bus. They should remain there until the bus stops, opens the doors, and other students have disembarked.
 - Parents should ensure that students know the safety rules pertaining to street crossings.
 - Students must remain seated while on the bus, and must refrain from putting hands, arms, or anything else out the windows of the bus.

Transportation safety is critically important and a high priority for our school system. The golden rule is to exercise good judgment and common sense. Students who are not able to make good choices and jeopardize the safety of riders will be prohibited from riding MCPS buses.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott DeGasepris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Scott DeGasepris
Magnet Coordinator