

# **Magnet Bus Route FAQ**

## **What are the numbers of the morning and afternoon shuttles?**

In the morning, students will get off their route buses at Eastern Middle School and board a shuttle to Takoma Park Middle School. The following buses are the morning shuttles: 1995, 3995, 5994, 6992, 6994, and 6999.

In the afternoon, students will ride on a shuttle from Takoma Park Middle School and transfer to their route buses at Blair High School. The following buses are the afternoon shuttles: 4991, 4993, 5991, 5993, 5994, 5995, and 5997.

## **Will there be activity buses?**

Yes. Activity buses will begin September 11, 2018. A complete list will be distributed to students at school. They will operate on a similar shuttle system with a transfer at Blair HS.

## **What do I do if I miss the shuttle in the morning at Eastern MS?**

Go to the main office at Eastern MS and ask them to call Takoma Park MS. You can call the magnet office at 240-740-5242 or the main office at 240-740-5220.

## **What do I do if I miss the shuttle in the afternoon at Takoma Park MS?**

You will probably need to call someone to come and pick you up at TPMS. On days when the activity buses are running, you can ride one of these buses later in the afternoon. Please be sure to call your parents and tell them you will be later than expected.

## **What if I miss my route bus at Blair HS?**

You will need to call someone to come and pick you up at Blair HS. You should alert the main office at Blair HS so they know you are waiting there for a ride. On days when the activity buses are running, you can ride one of these buses later in the afternoon. Please be sure to call your parents and tell them you will be later than expected.

## **What if I get on the wrong bus?**

Alert the driver immediately. If you accidentally got on a local TPMS route bus instead of the shuttle, the driver may be able to contact the buses at Blair to ask them to wait. More likely, however, you will arrive at Blair HS after the route buses have departed and will have missed your bus.

If you get on the wrong route at Blair HS, you also need to alert the driver immediately. The driver will either take you home along the way or take you to the bus depot to connect to another bus going to your neighborhood. If you have a cell phone, call your parents and tell them you will be delayed. If you do not have a cell phone, ask the driver to have the depot call your parents. Do not simply get off the bus at a stop that is not yours and never tell the driver. If you do this, we cannot help you.

**Will Mr. DeGasperis be at Eastern MS and Blair HS everyday to show me which bus to ride?**

No. In general, he goes to the transfer points for the first week of school. He will be at TPMS everyday. You need to get in the habit of looking in the bus window for shuttle signs and know your route. At Blair HS in the afternoon, the buses have assigned spots. Route 6999 will always be the first bus (farthest down the row) and the other buses will be in numbered order starting with the 1000's farthest down the row and the 6000's near the entrance to Blair's cafeteria.

**If my bus is pulling away should I run as fast as I can across the parking lot to catch my bus?**

Absolutely not! Students should walk only, stay on the sidewalk, and never run to catch a bus. If you are not on the bus and it is in motion, you have missed your bus. Chasing a bus is very dangerous and far more serious than missing it.

**What if a student does not show up at the bus stop in the afternoon?**

Parents may call TPMS until 4:20. MCPS school phones may not be answered after 4:20.

After 4:20, parents should call the bus depot for their child's route. The bus depot dispatchers can contact drivers or tell you if a bus has broken down. Parents may call the dispatchers of the bus depots at the following numbers:

<b>Route</b>	<b>Depot</b>	<b>Phone</b>
1xxx	Bethesda	301-469-1070
2xxx	Clarksburg	301-353-0815
3xxx	Randolph	301-929-6906
4xxx	Shady Grove North	301-670-8260
5xxx	Shady Grove South	301-670-3227
6xxx	West Farm	301-879-1065