



August 2010

Hola LILA Parents,

The student transportation information on the back of this letter is to refresh your memory or help you become familiar with your transportation options if you are a family new to LILA. Please take a moment to look it over.

Traffic and transportation are a big deal here at LILA. We have an extraordinary number of students who arrive via car rather than bus so it's important everyone understand our traffic patterns, both for safety and efficiency reasons. We are proud of the personalized transportation methods we have devised and hope that you appreciate them as well.

Parents new to LILA: now is the time to determine how your child will be transported to and from school. As stated on the back of this letter, if you live in the District 831 busing area, we do recommend the use of district busing. You will receive, in the mail, a bus card from the District 831 bus garage stating your child/ren's bus number and pickup area. If you drive your child/ren to school, morning drop-off does not require you to sign up. However, if you will be picking up your child/ren after school, you must let us know if you would like to use our curbside pick-up or other options by completing the Pick-Up Method Form, which you will receive in the mail shortly. If you intend to carpool with another family, you will need to fill out the Carpool Permission Form. Knowing this information well in advance will help make our dismissal procedures on the first few days of school go very smoothly.

Finally, during morning and afternoon traffic times, there will be personnel and parent volunteers outside wearing orange vests. Please follow their direction, be patient and courteous, and drive safely while on school property.

# STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

## MORNING

### **Morning Transportation-Bus (strongly recommended)**

This option is available for **students living within the Forest Lake School District #831 busing area**. Buses will pick your child up at the end of your driveway or at a nearby location determined by the district bus garage. All elementary-aged students will sit in the front few seats of the bus, near the driver. LILA students will transfer to a LILA shuttle bus at one of the junior high schools. The shuttle will bring them directly to Lakes International. During the first week of school, LILA volunteers will be stationed at the junior high schools to assist LILA students with the transfer to the LILA shuttle. If you think you may *ever* want your children to take the bus this year, we strongly encourage you to have them use the bus right away, while we have parent volunteers and teachers helping at the transfer points.

### **Morning Transportation-Curbside Drop-Off**

This drop-off method is very convenient, especially for children who reside out of District #831 and are not eligible to ride the bus. Vehicles will enter at the main (west) entrance of the school and follow the lanes of orange cones around the entire parking lot. When you have reached the “straight stretch” at the **front (north side) of the school**, you will be directed to pull forward along the sidewalk as far as possible. Parents should remain in their vehicles and allow the volunteers in the orange vests to assist their children out of the vehicle if needed. This allows us to keep the drive through drop-off moving quickly and smoothly. We ask that if you need to get out of the vehicle for any reason, that you park your vehicle in the lot. When your child has left your car, exit from the far east exit yielding to buses if necessary. Please do not block the ambulance bays or use the middle exit/entrance. This is for bus and ambulance use only. \*Watch for opportunities to volunteer for this option. We need smiling faces!

### **Morning Transportation-Inside Drop-Off**

Because of our limited number of parking spaces and our growing student population, this option is discouraged for all but Kindergarteners in the first few days of school or those certain days when students need extra help carrying things into school (e.g. class snacks or large projects). If you intend to walk your child to his/her classroom, you must sign in at the front desk and put on a visitor’s badge. Please keep in mind that students may not go to their classrooms before 7:30 a.m.

### **Carpooling**

If your family is interested in setting up a carpool with others from your area, contact parent Laura Johnson for a list of families interested in carpooling who share your zip code: [lrjohnson@mywdo.com](mailto:lrjohnson@mywdo.com).

## AFTERNOON

### **Afternoon Transportation-Bus**

Students riding the bus in the afternoon will take a shuttle bus from LILA to Forest Lake High School. There, they will transfer to their home buses. Younger children will be assigned a “bus buddy” from LILA to help them find their home buses. As with morning bus transportation, during the first two weeks of school, teachers and parent volunteers will be stationed at the high school to help our students with their transition. Again, if you *ever* plan to have your student use the bus this year, the first day is the time to do it. Take advantage of all the adult help that is offered at the beginning of the school year.

### **Afternoon Transportation-Curbside Pick-Up**

This option is very well-used and **requires that you sign up in advance**. It allows you to have your student(s) delivered directly to your vehicle. It also helps keep our limited parking spaces from overflowing. Vehicles will enter the west entrance to the school and will be directed to form multiple lanes of parking on the “straight stretch” at the front/north side of the school. Please pull as close as possible to the car in front of you. Clearly display your number card in your front or passenger window. We will deliver your student(s) to you after the **2:10 dismissal time**. Exit the lane using the far east exit. The middle exit/entrance to the school is for bus and ambulance use only.

### **Afternoon Transportation-Inside Pick-Up**

We encourage parents to choose another option that does not require parking, due to our limited space and growing school population. Should you choose this option, enter the lot at the west entrance. At 2:10, you may enter the center west entrance (the one at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade wing, between the front office and gym entrances) where your child will meet you. Please be prepared to show an ID if necessary and always sign your student(s) out on the sign-out sheet.