



June, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

RE: 2015/2016 TRANSPORTATION FOR JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN

The coming weeks and months are exciting times for new students as they look forward their first day of school. In preparation for that big day, on behalf of your School Board and Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario (STSCO), I would like to provide the following information concerning transportation services.

New students and their families can expect a call from their bus company prior to the first day of school advising of bus stop location(s) and pick-up and drop-off times. For all students eligible for busing to school (i.e. those living outside their school's walk zone and inside their school's overall boundary), families may visit STSCO's website (www.stsco.ca) after July 18 and use the "Transportation Bus Lookup" link to obtain specific information on their child's specific busing arrangements (note: you will need your child's OEN number, found on their report card, to access the information). On the website, you can also register to be automatically notified by email, RSS feeds, Facebook or Twitter when your child(ren)'s bus is running late or is cancelled due to inclement weather (see the icons on the right side of the STSCO home page).

If this will be your child(ren)'s first time attending school, you will not be able to access their busing information online as they will not yet have been assigned an OEN. In that case, you can contact the STSCO office (see contact list below for your area) after July 18 to obtain their busing information.

Also, over the summer and throughout the school year, in order to increase student awareness of bus safety and to provide families with bus routing information, the following events and services will be offered:

-  **Student Transportation Services Website** – Visit STSCO's website (www.stsco.ca) to learn more about bus safety, student transportation (including summer school routing) and services offered.
-  **First Rider Program** – These sessions, approximately one half hour in length, will involve a fun introduction to safety training and a first bus ride for young students and members of their families. Please note the dates and times on your home calendar and take part if you are able to. No registration is required.

The First Rider sessions will be held on **Friday, August 28 (3:00 to 6:00 p.m.)** and **Saturday, August 29 (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)**, with locations as follows:

- Bowmanville – Clarington Secondary School, 200 Clarington Blvd., Bowmanville
- Cobourg – Northumberland Mall, 1111 Elgin St. West, Cobourg
- Peterborough – Lansdowne Place, 645 Lansdowne St. West, Peterborough



Bus Tag Identification Program – For Kindergarten students, schools will be provided with Bus Tags which will be offered to parents for use in recording their child’s busing information. If the need arises at the start of the school year, this will help school staff and bus drivers determine each child’s proper bus and stop location. JK and SK families are strongly encouraged to take part. A separate Memo on the bus tag program and instructions for filling in and affixing the tags to a student’s backpack were provided to the school for distribution to families. If you did not receive a copy, please contact your school.



Buster the Bus – Buster is a motorized, talking miniature school bus which, along with his friendly operators, will visit many elementary schools to provide a presentation on school bus safety. We have offered this program for a number of years and it has been well received.



Bus Safety and Emergency Evacuation Training – Periodically, throughout the school year, bus companies will visit schools to offer training sessions aimed at teaching students bus safety rules and what to do in the case of an emergency. The program helps keep safety in the forefront for students.

Any questions concerning the above programs and services offered by Student Transportation Services can be directed to STSCO by email to comments@stsko.ca or by phone to our office at 705-748-5500 or toll free at 1-800-757-0307;

- extension 231 for Clarington
- extension 232 for Northumberland
- extension 242 for Peterborough
- extension 260 for Out of Bounds/Day Care arrangements for all areas
- extension 241 for transportation of students with special needs for all areas

All of us at the School Board and STSCO wish you and your family an enjoyable summer and we look forward to serving your needs in the fall.

Sincerely,

Joel Sloggett,
Chief Administrative Officer
STSCO