



May 1, 2019

Dear Parents,

The School Board, in coordination with Fr. John Stoltz, and on behalf of the School Bus Committee, want to follow up with you on the exciting potential for a bus program at our school. We are proud of the work that Bus Committee co-chairs Jennifer Roth and Ann Campbell have done thus far compiling data, communication, and recruiting for this opportunity.

This would be a brand new program. As such, there are several unanswered questions and uncertainties. This may be causing some of you to have reservations about participating. Because of that, **we are going to extend the commitment deadline to Friday, May 17.** During this extended time, we will attempt to get your questions answered to the best our ability with the information we have.

Getting this program off the ground and its continued success depend on the participation of the families that want to use it. To that end, we will need to meet a minimum level of participation to both start and continue a bus service.

Here is some helpful information from the Bus Committee on where things stand and answers to some of your questions:

Back in March, the School Bus Committee conducted a survey that showed approximately 110 families with about 194 riders were interested in a bus. That was promising! However, as of May 1, we have only had 11 families (18 students) commit and send in the \$250.00 deposit/family.

First, we would like to reinforce that the deposit is fully refundable if the bus plan does not come to fruition. We are not depositing ANY CHECKS until we have full confirmation of busing services in place. Once the bus routes are established, and your child is assigned to a route, the deposit will be applied to the remaining balance, which will need to be paid in full. If your child is not assigned to a bus route, you will get your full deposit back.

Second, we want to do our best to help you understand what your full financial commitment might be if the bus program goes forward. We won't have exact numbers until the participants are tallied and the routes are finalized (and we take into consideration any sibling discounts) but we can give you some scenarios that give an idea of what your maximum commitment could be:

- One bus costs \$36,000 for the year. A bus can hold 66 passengers. If one bus was booked at full capacity, you could expect to pay around \$650 per rider.
- Here is another scenario: If we get 40 riders signed up for that same \$36,000 bus, you could expect to pay around \$950 per rider.
- In an opposite scenario, if 110 riders were signed up, we would have two buses and you could expect to pay around \$700 per rider.

Our best-case scenario would be to offer 2 buses, which would cover much more ground and accommodate many more riders. Our survey in March showed that this was certainly obtainable! In this ideal situation, we would have 110 riders split between 2 buses, for approximately \$700/rider. If you break that down to the 10 months of bus service, that is equivalent to \$70/month. There are approximately 20 school days/month, so that cost is drilled down to \$3.50 per day, or \$1.75 for each way of transportation. This breakdown might make it easier to visualize the tremendous value that a bus service could offer.

Some of the questions/comments that we have received:

“What if I turn in my commitment form and deposit, but then change my mind?”

If you do not utilize the bus service, you will get your deposit back. If you do sign up for the bus service, and pay the entire fee, then that money is non-refundable.

“What time will the bus be at my house?”

Miller Transportation uses a computer program to calculate routes based on the best way to accommodate the most riders. They offer 1 hour of pick up/drop off service each day. There will be no manual adjustments once the route is established. Miller offers a GPS app to track the bus during active route times.

“I live in Forest Springs, so I am not sure I would use the bus being just 5 minutes away.”

Your time is worth something, so make your decision based on the value of your time. Consider how much time you spend driving to school, sitting in the carpool line, and then driving home. And multiply that times 5 days/week, 10 months a year. It really adds up! You may live only 5 minutes away, but you spend much more than that in transit. What would that time look like for you if your child rode the bus? Extra time at work? Child-free trip to the grocery store? Staying home with younger siblings or sick siblings? A visit to the gym? A pedicure? Being able to read a book or watch your favorite show uninterrupted? I feel pretty confident that we could fill a bus with mostly Forest Springs families, so you could feel confident that your child is riding the bus with neighborhood kids that they already know.

“I live in Oldham County- would the bus come out that far?”

The answer is - we are not sure yet. Based on the most recent survey, we had enough interest to warrant 2 buses. The ideal scenario would be for Bus 1 to fill with kids close to school - Forest Springs, Springhurst, Norton Commons, Lake Forest, etc. and then Bus 2 would be able to pick up in Oldham County and other areas just outside the Bus 1 stops. My suggestion would be to complete your form and turn in your deposit anyway. Without your name on the list, you would never know if it would have worked out. And that could also impact other families in a similar situation who aren't sure either. The more people who submit the form, the more likely things will work out, and then we can truly evaluate the need of the school. If the bus ends up not coming in your area, you will get your deposit back.

We'd like to say “thank you” again to the Bus Committee for working diligently to put all of this information together.

We ask that you prayerfully consider together as a family participating in the bus program for the 2019/20 school year. As with any new venture, there is some uncertainty involved. We believe if we can join together as pioneers to get this service started on its first year, it will run smoothly and provide a wonderful service to the families of St. Aloysius for many years to come. The first step though, is completing the interest form and sending the FULLY REFUNDABLE \$250.00 deposit. If you know of other families that are interested but not committed, encourage them. The more participation we get, the better it will be.

The ideal minimum number of riders we need to get to by May 17 to make the bus work is 48.



Again, the school bus program cannot happen without enough participation. If you or anyone you know is interested in the bus but still has reservations, please don't hesitate to contact Jennifer Roth sooner than later via email:

rothpartyof5@gmail.com or phone: 502-489-7695 or Ann Campbell via email: emailanncampbell@yahoo.com or phone: 502-303-4885.

With much appreciation, thanks and praise,

The St. Aloysius School Board