



January 2012



Your New JK/SK Student and the School Bus

As you prepare to send your little one off to school for the very first time, you may have many questions about school bus transportation.

Start with a visit to our website, www.mybigyellowbus.ca



You'll find information related to all aspects of school bus service in this area are conveniently located there.

Does my child qualify for a school bus?

Elementary students who live greater than 1.6 kms from their board-designated school qualify for transportation based on the home address.

To find out if your child is eligible for transportation from your residence to his or her new school, use the app

located @ www.mybigyellowbus.ca
It looks like this:



Note: the boundary information in there now is based on the current year. Any changes to school boundaries for 2012-2013 will be updated on our website by May 15th.

Bus route planning is done throughout the spring and summer. In late August, eligible families will receive in the mail your child's parent portal log in information. The parent portal is located on our website and looks like this:

Parent Portal Login

Your child's bussing information including their stop location, time and bus com-

pany information will be included in the secure online app.

Moving over the summer ?

Notify your school as soon as possible of your new address. Elementary school offices open the week before school starts. *Make sure to have your change of address in to the office by August 27th to ensure bussing for the first week of school.*

Contact Us

We can be reached by phone at 519-649-1160. A staff directory by school is available on our website. Email inquiries can be directed to info@mybigyellowbus.ca

For safety reasons, transportation information like bus stop times and locations are not given out over the phone.

2nd Annual School Bus Safety Day

Check website in July for more info. This family friendly event lets your kids practice riding a bus with Mom or Dad right next to them!

Get 'em on the bus...early!

We know you want the photo op on the first day of school, but the sooner your little one gets on the bus, the easier the transition. It helps your bus driver learn their students, parents, bus stops and routes. Welcome aboard!

Did you know?

- **Your parent portal log on information will be the same each year unless your student changed school boards or just enrolled. (JK, new to area etc). Keep the number handy for future reference.**

School Bus Basics

See our website for full details under Policies and Procedures; these are the most common inquiries we get as families transition to school-aged kids.

Babysitters:

Your student must qualify for transportation from your home address in order to access bussing at a babysitters if the babysitter address is in the transpor-

tation zone. If your address does not qualify for bussing and you select a babysitter in the transportation zone, your student will not be able to use the school bus. Check the "Alternate Address" info on our website for full details.

Before and After School Care:

Many school sites have "before and after" programs; register early.

Bus Stop Locations:

JK/SK students must be accompanied to and met at a bus stop by a responsible person. Bus stops for elementary students may be up to 800 m's away from their residence. Parents are responsible for the safe arrival to and from the bus stop location.

Driving your Student:

Many parents elect to drive their JK/SK kids. If you are not going to use the school bus, when you receive your Parent Portal information, you must log on and OPT OUT. You can OPT OUT of morning and afternoon or, if you are driving one way, opt out of either the morning or afternoon, depending on your schedule.