

Benton County Bus and Late Van Information & Policies 2020-2021

Transportation Coordinator

Halee Smith

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Bus Driver

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Bus Phone: 479- 387-0354

General Information

In accordance with The New School's mission, we are proud to offer morning, afternoon, and late van services for students in **Kindergarten through High School** living in Benton County.

To ensure the safety of our students, The New School bus is equipped with seat belts.

Prior to riding the bus, students must have an updated *Bus Permission Form* (including emergency contact information) along with an *updated Student Information Form* on file with the Front Desk at least 48 hours in advance to the child's ride. **There are currently limited seats available on the Yellow Bus.**

Due to the inability to socially distance on the school bus, parents who want to transport their students to school are encouraged to do so.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to a great 2020-21 school year!

All sign ups for the bus/late van can be found [HERE!](#)

Late Van

In addition to our morning and afternoon route, The New School provides a late route for Benton County students that require a later pick up time than our normal afternoon bus. **Only 8 seats are available currently.** If you are interested in using the late van please contact Halee Smith halee.smith@thenewschool.org.

Cost

The cost to ride the late van is **\$20.00 per week or \$5.00 per day**. All students riding the activity/late van must sign up at least **48 hours in advance** (if space is available). Regular bus fees are included in tuition.

Emergency Notifications-Remind App

For communication in the event of an emergency or other announcements regarding the bus, parents are encouraged to download the Remind app. You should be able to find this app in your app store. The icon is blue with a mini white brain in the middle. Upon downloading, you will need to **send a TEXT to 81010 with the message @bentoncoun** Doing this will ensure that you receive all necessary notifications in a timely manner regarding the Bus or Van.

You may also visit <https://www.remind.com/join/bentoncoun> on your phone to set up.

Bus Riding Policies

- Parents are not able to board the bus during drop off/pick up due to social distancing guidelines and safety practices.
- Bus riders are expected to remain quiet during roll call procedures.
- Bus riders must respond loudly and clearly by making eye contact and saying “here” when their name, and only their name, is called.
- Kindergarteners must be seated in the first 2 rows of the bus.
- The use of electronics is permitted. (headphones only)
- No food or drink may be consumed on the bus.
- Bus riders should not create any disturbance that may distract the driver’s attention while driving.
- Aisles should be kept clear at all times.
- Bus riders must remain seated, buckled and facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- Bus riders should keep their hands to themselves and should not engage in physical contact with other riders.
- Bus riders may not open or close windows without permission from the driver.
- Any item left on the bus will be given to the Front Desk. If it has not been retrieved in 24 hours, the item will be placed in Lost and Found.

Discipline Policies

Riding The New School bus is a privilege. Students who do not comply with the bus riding policies may be subject to the following discipline procedures:

- First offense - verbal warning
- Second offense - written warning, parent contacted
- Third offense - assigned seating, parent contacted
- Fourth offense - conference with parents and transportation coordinator/ Division Head, possible suspension from riding the bus

COVID Specific Information and Policies

- Due to social distancing guidelines and safety practices, students will sit one/two to a seat. To ensure the safety of our riders, there are currently limited seats available on the yellow bus and 8 seats available on the late van.
- Students will sit by household.
- Seat assignments will be based on a first on/last off in the back of the bus and last on/first off in the front with the exception of Kindergarteners without siblings. These students will sit at the front of the bus. (This limits the unnecessary passing of students on the bus)
- Because social distancing is not possible on a school bus, children may be exposed to others outside of their grade or cohort.
- Face coverings are required for all bus/van riders.
- Face coverings must be worn during the loading, unloading, and riding process.
- The Benton County Bus and Late Van will follow the same cleaning procedures.
- Due to social distancing guidelines and safety practices, parents will not be able to board the bus.
- Bus will be sanitized after each use and have hand sanitizer available; all students will sanitize hands upon arriving and exiting the bus/van and entering school.
- Students riding the bus will use a separate entrance.
- Students must maintain 6ft social distancing before loading the bus and after unloading.
- Loading time for the morning bus will be 7:30 am-7:40 am.

Morning Policies

- Pick up is at the Walmart Neighborhood Market located at 5000 Pauline Whitaker Parkway in Rogers. The bus parks in front of the store, near the Pharmacy.
- The bus will arrive for morning loading at 7:30am.
- The bus departs at a firm **7:40 am** and arrives at TNS between **8:05-8:20 am-** pending traffic.
- *Parents must email Halee Smith at halee.smith@thenewschool.org by **6:45 am** with any changes to their child's AM plans.*

Afternoon Policies

- Drop off is at the Walmart Neighborhood Market located at 5000 Pauline Whitaker Parkway in Rogers. The bus parks in front of the store, near the Pharmacy.
- The bus departs TNS at **3:50 pm** and will drop off between **4:15-4:30 pm-** pending traffic.
- Students will NOT be allowed to leave the bus stop without a parent or pre-approved guardian present.

- Parents must sign their child out prior to leaving.
- Parents must email Halee Smith at halee.smith@thenewschool.org by **2:00 pm** with any changes to their child's PM plans.

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Late Van Policies

- Drop off is at the Walmart Neighborhood Market located at 5000 Pauline Whitaker Parkway in Rogers. The bus parks in front of the store, near the Pharmacy.
- The Late Van departs TNS at **5:35 pm** and will drop off between **6:00-6:15 pm**- pending traffic.
- Students will NOT be allowed to leave the bus stop without a parent or pre-approved guardian present.
- Parents must sign their child out prior to leaving.
- Parents must email Halee Smith at halee.smith@thenewschool.org by **2:00 pm** with any changes to their child's Late Van plans.

Frequently Asked Questions

Whom do I call for bus questions, concerns, or changes?

All questions, concerns, or changes should be directed to Halee Smith, the Transportation Coordinator. She can be reached via email at halee.smith@thenewschool.org or by phone at **(479) 856-7653**

What happens if I am running late in the morning?

The bus leaves Rogers at 7:40 am. Any child not on the bus at 7:40 am will need to be transported to school by a parent or guardian.

What happens if I am running late in the afternoon?

Contact Halee Smith. Any child not picked up at designated time is placed back on the bus to wait for a parent/guardian to arrive. The bus will not leave until all children have been picked up by a parent/guardian.

How do I change which day(s) my children need the bus?

Contact Halee Smith. A Change of Bus Schedule Form will need to be completed. These can be found on our website.

How do I change who can pick up my child from the bus stop?

A Change of Authorization for Release must be completed. These forms are found at the Front Desk. For temporary pick up arrangements, contact Halee Smith.

