

August 23, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Our bus contractors, Safe-Way and Lamers, have been working hard throughout the summer to ensure students needing transportation are placed on a bus route. If your child needs bus transportation, you will be able to go into Skyward Family Access on Thursday, August 24, 2023 to view **preliminary** bus stop information under the “Busing” tab on the left panel in your account. Instructions are included with this letter to help you navigate to the information. *Updates to the system will continually occur up until the first day of school*, so please plan to check Family Access periodically up to the first day of school to be sure you have the most up-to-date busing information. We have students enrolling and withdrawing every day right now, and this can impact bus routes and schedules.

If you review your student(s) busing information and have specific questions, please **contact the bus company directly first** (if you’re not sure which bus company to connect with, start with Safe-Way):

Safe-Way Bus (Mike)	email: swmike@wctc.net	715-423-1117
Lamers Bus (Ben)	email: benjaminr@golamers.com	715-421-2400, Ext. 2

If you need to leave a voicemail, please be sure to provide a detailed message including student(s) name, address, and whether the student(s) need busing in the morning, afternoon, or both as this will help with a quicker response.

This year the District is expanding transportation eligibility at no cost to families for middle school students (grades 6-8) who reside .5 miles to 2 miles from the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School. If you indicated an interest in having your child be transported, pick-up and drop-off information is still being worked out for this additional transportation service. As a result, we anticipate that the information in Family Access for these students will not be finalized until August 29th.

We will reiterate that it is **extremely important** for all parents/guardians to go into your Family Access account to review bus stop information *periodically between now and the first day of school* so that you know when and where the bus stop location and time of pick-up/drop-off will be for your student(s) – even if your child has ridden the bus for many years. Not all stops will be located at each student’s driveway and could instead be at a “group stop” location.

Lastly, please note that we had a staffing change over the summer in the [Transportation Department](#), and questions about your school attendance area (.5 or 2-mile eligibility), Pay-to-Ride services (for those ineligible for transportation), Alternative Bus Service requests, or Special Education Van Service should be directed to Paula Tesch in the [Transportation Office](#) at 715-424-6700 (email: paula.tesch@wrps.net). *If your child receives transportation in a **District van**, those routes are still being updated by Paula and you should plan to check back in Family Access after Tuesday, August 29th for the most accurate information.*

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work to get all students into the system and ensure they have the transportation service needed on the first day of school. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

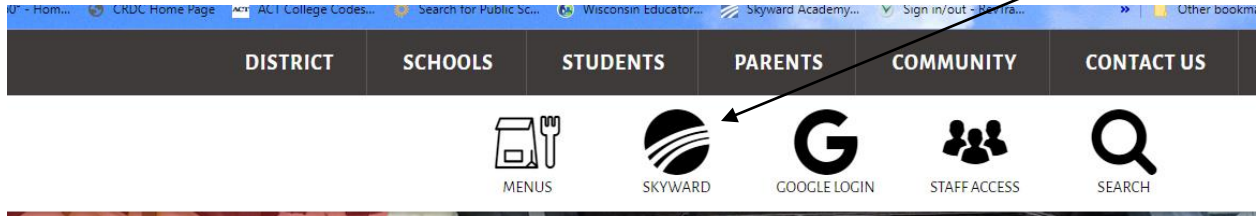
Thank you,
Aaron Nelson, Director of Transportation

E: aaron.nelson@wrps.net P: 715-424-6705

Enclosure

ACCESSING BUS INFORMATION IN FAMILY ACCESS

1. To access Family Access: Log into our district website, www.wrps.org, and click on the Skyward icon at the top of the page.



2. Click on Family Access



3. Enter the Login ID and Password that you used to complete the Online Enrollment Verification at the beginning of the school year. If you don't remember your login or password click on: [Forgot your Login/Password?](#) and follow the instructions. If you do not receive an email back with your log in information, please contact your school office and they can get that information for you.



4. Once you are logged into Skyward Family Access, choose the Busing tab from the menu on the left side of the screen.

