



## *Harford County Public Schools*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 15, 2012

### **2012-13 Harford County Public Schools Bus Schedules and Routes Released**

*First day of school for grades K-12 is August 27, 2012*

School bus schedules and routes for the 2012-13 school year for Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) have been released. School is scheduled to open for approximately 38,000 public school students on Monday, August 27, 2012. About 35,000 students will be transported by school buses daily. The bus schedules are available on the HCPS website ([www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org)) by clicking on the bus icon on the left-hand side of the homepage.

Since routes are based on estimated fall enrollments, school officials remind parents and students to expect minor adjustments in bus loads and schedules during the first weeks of school in order to alleviate any overcrowded buses.

A consolidated bus stop system for school bus transportation is utilized for all students attending HCPS magnet programs and alternative education. Students attending Harford Technical High School, the Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School, the Global Studies Program/International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Edgewood High School, the Natural Resources and Agricultural Science Magnet Program at North Harford High School and the daytime Alternative Education Program will be contacted by postcard with their bus information by August 20, 2012.

Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School students living in the Aberdeen High attendance area will ride the Aberdeen High School bus that provides service to their neighborhood (please see Aberdeen High School bus routes). Global Studies Program/International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Edgewood High School students living in the Edgewood High attendance area will ride the Edgewood High School bus that provides service to their neighborhood (please see Edgewood High School bus routes). Natural Resources and Agricultural Science Magnet Program at North Harford High School students living in the North Harford High attendance area will ride the North Harford High School bus that provides service to their neighborhood (please see North Harford High School bus routes).

John Archer School and any elementary Pre-K program students will be contacted by their bus drivers, as will all other students riding a special needs bus, both in county and out-of-county.

Bus routes are planned so that a maximum number of children are picked up and discharged at the nearest stop to their homes. Generally, bus stops are located at least one-fourth mile apart. The bus drivers will inform the children of the designated stops during the first few days of school.

The a.m. time for each bus is the estimated time of the first stop the bus will make on its morning run. This time may vary several minutes during the first few days of school until each driver is able to establish a definitive schedule. Students should plan to be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. Students attending magnet programs (Harford Technical High School, Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School, Global Studies Program/International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Edgewood High School, Natural Resources and Agricultural Science Magnet Program at North Harford

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### **2012-13 BUS ROUTES**

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High School), as well as the daytime Alternative Education Program, should plan to be at the bus stop at least ten minutes before the scheduled pick up time. Children who plan to use bus transportation are encouraged to ride the bus beginning the first day of school to facilitate the establishment of the time schedule and the busload.

The p.m. return time to home for each bus may be later at the beginning of the school year to accommodate students adjusting to new school settings. Once the schedule has been established, there will be a normal drop-off time for each student.

The Pupil Transportation Rules will be distributed to each student on the first day of school and discussed in class. Parents are urged to review the rules with their children, which can be found on the HCPS website ([www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org)), as well as in the Parent-Student Handbook and Calendar.

Questions or concerns should be directed to the HCPS Transportation Department at 410-638-4092.

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