



April 2008

Greetings from the Transportation Office!

It may be April but the Transportation Office is hard at work preparing for 2008-09, and we are eager to get the word out about some changes and additions to our transportation services for next school year, as well as provide forms for sign up for next year.

Enclosed in this packet are two important forms we will need returned. They include:

- 1) Blake's Student Transportation Information Form (to be completed for each student attending Blake), and
- 2) Transportation Sign-up forms (to request transportation for the 2008-09 school year).

Please look these over carefully, indicate your preferences and return in the enclosed envelope by July 1.

As you consider your transportation needs for next year, we encourage you to keep in mind the benefits of utilizing Blake buses. Our top four reasons for signing up for Blake Transportation include:

- **Friendly/Knowledgeable Drivers** — The Blake bus ride is an extension of the school day. Blake's drivers use this time to your child's advantage by promoting safety first, providing a supportive and friendly bus environment, and upholding values in line with Blake's mission.
- **Convenient Service** — The Blake bus system is designed to offer transportation options that help manage your family's time. You can choose the service that best meets your family's needs (check out the new shuttle points!). Not waiting in carpool lines or making multiple trips to and from campus saves you valuable time.
- **Safety** — All Blake school buses meet the requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for crash protection, are inspected continually by professionals, and driven by individuals trained and certified by the State of Minnesota to operate commercial vehicles.
- **Environmental/Economic Impact** — By having your child ride the bus, you are supporting a mass transit system that helps reduce the amount of damaging pollutants emitted into the atmosphere. You also save money on rising fuel costs by not driving your vehicle as often.

Two important notes for next year:

- **Expanded Shuttle Service:** Blake is delighted to offer an expanded shuttle service starting in August 2008. We are adding one new shuttle point for our Northrop campus students, five new shuttle points for our Hopkins campus students and five new shuttle points for our Highcroft campus students. (See enclosed shuttle maps.) Blake Transportation has shuttle pick-up locations conveniently located in 10 different cities in the Twin Cities metro area. Remember that all of our shuttle pick-up locations are blended into routes that include home stops. Shuttle route times will vary but typically range from 30 to 45 minutes in length.
- **Rates:** Not surprisingly, you will see an increase in our transportation rates. Blake works hard to run our transportation program as efficiently as possible; however rising fuel costs, 29% over the previous school year, make such an increase inevitable. We encourage families to consider and utilize our shuttle service as a great way to balance convenience and safety with affordability.

There is lots of great information on the transportation section of the Blake web site. Be sure to visit the site for additional information and answers to questions not found in these materials. ([www.blakeschool.org/atTheBlakeSchool/transportation/](http://www.blakeschool.org/atTheBlakeSchool/transportation/))

The Blake Transportation team is excited about the opportunity to serve the School community with safe, convenient bus service. We welcome your questions and comments, so please do not hesitate to contact us. Best wishes for a fantastic finish to the 2007-08 school year. Go Bears!

Sincerely,

Brian Houghton  
Transportation Director, (952) 988-3457  
[bhoughton@blakeschool.org](mailto:bhoughton@blakeschool.org)

Eric Theisen  
Transportation Supervisor, (952) 988-3469  
[etheisen@blakeschool.org](mailto:etheisen@blakeschool.org)