



Challenging the mind, engaging the heart

April 2011

Greetings from the Transportation Office!

The Transportation team is eager to begin setting routes and working with families to provide safe and reliable busing of students for the 2011-12 school year. We encourage you to keep in mind the benefits of utilizing Blake transportation, which include but are not limited to:

- **Environmental Impact** — On average, approximately four passenger-size vehicles produce the same amount of carbon as a full-size diesel school bus traveling the same distance. By signing up your child to ride the bus you are helping to reduce a substantial amount of damaging pollutants that are emitted into the atmosphere.
- **Cost Savings** — When compared against the annual cost to operate your personal vehicle (according to the IRS), riding the bus may actually save you money, particularly for our shuttle riders.
- **Convenient Service** — The Blake bus system is designed to offer transportation options that help manage your family's time by choosing the service that best meets your needs. Not waiting in carpool lines or making multiple trips to and from campus saves you valuable time.
- **Friendly/Knowledgeable Drivers** — The Blake bus ride is an extension of the school day. Blake's drivers promote safety first, provide a supportive and friendly bus environment, and uphold values in line with Blake's mission.
- **Safety** — All Blake school buses meet the requirements of the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for crash protection, are inspected continually by professionals, and are driven by individuals trained and certified by the State of Minnesota to operate commercial vehicles.

New for 2011–12: Blake offers over 20 different shuttle pickup and drop off locations in support of our three campuses and we are eager to offer more. Please contact us to provide your thoughts for additional shuttle locations you would like us to add. Assemble five or more riders interested in a specific location, not already near an existing shuttle stop, and we'll set it up as a new location for this coming school year. Just be sure to have your information to the Transportation Office no later than July 1.

Rates: Blake is dedicated to providing the best possible service to you at the most affordable cost. To ensure the lowest possible price for your children's bus service, please be sure to return the enclosed transportation sign-up forms **prior to July 1** as all service prices increase by 15% after July 1, 2011.

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/)

The Blake Transportation team is excited to serve the School community with safe, customer-oriented bus service. We welcome your questions and comments, so please do not hesitate to contact us. Best wishes for a fantastic finish to the 2010–11 school year.

Sincerely,

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

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

P.S. Keep in mind the convenience of our late activity bus service between campuses. Students may ride a shuttle bus to either the Minneapolis or Wayzata campuses from Hopkins at no charge, if the student is signed up for afternoon bus service. In addition, activity bus services may be purchased on a per-season basis. See the transportation sign-up form for more information.