



MERRILLVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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Nicholas G. Brown, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Schools

"Every child. Every day. Whatever it takes."

Dexter Suggs, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent

August 23, 2022

Good Afternoon Parents,

The Merrillville Community School Corporation has been experiencing delays in our bus services. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to make improvements. Our three-tier schedule is helping the situation, but has not resolved all the delays.

We are making the following adjustments to the school schedule for Merrillville High School and Pierce Middle School. This change will help the buses arrive on time at the elementary schools and Merrillville Intermediate School. There is no change to the school schedule for the elementary schools and Merrillville Intermediate School.

Updated School Schedule	Schedule as of 8/22/2022		Schedule Originally Planned	
	School Start Time	School End Time	School Start Time	School End Time
Merrillville High School	7:30am	2:15pm	7:40am	2:30pm
Pierce Middle School	7:30am	2:15pm	7:40am	2:30pm

We are currently reevaluating all the bus routes to determine additional adjustments to improve the timeliness of school bus transportation. We do anticipate some route changes to improve service. You will be informed of any changes to your child's bus service before the Labor Day holiday for implementation beginning September 6th.

Also, we can use your help for a timely afternoon departure. We know that many students have after school commitments. If you are planning to pick up your child from school and they usually ride the bus, please call and inform the school office by noon. This will help us avoid the issue of a child on the bus when the parent is in the car line to pick them up.

The transportation issue is driven by our shortage of school bus drivers. Three years ago, we had 78 drivers and we currently have 48. Our drivers are working diligently to be on time, but most importantly they are being safe in transporting our students. Please encourage anyone you feel would be a good bus driver to contact the Merrillville Community School Corporation or [apply online](#).

It is my hope that you begin to see more consistent bus service starting this week. We are working diligently to make sure your child arrives at school and home in a timely manner. We ask for your cooperation, patience and understanding in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Nicholas G. Brown, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Schools

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