



Transportation - General Information

- As a charter school, we are different from a district school when it comes to providing our own transportation. WAA is represented by over 30 school districts, many of which are within the state-required, 10-mile boundary lines of our school building, and because of this are required by the PA Department of Education to provide transportation to Westinghouse Arts Academy. The method of transportation may be via bus, van, or through Pittsburgh Regional Transport (formerly Port Authority).

We charter a bus through Allegheny Transport for two of our own routes to serve districts with strong enrollment that don't provide transportation. This includes areas to the south with stops at the Brentwood Library and Steel Valley High School; and the east bus that travels along Route 30 into Westmoreland County, with stops from Latrobe to Hempfield Township (right outside of Jeannette). We will choose to expand these routes as enrollment demand increases.

It is traditionally said for charter schools that *parents/guardians are ultimately responsible for their child's transportation*. For example, if PRT (formerly PAT) changes their route schedules, that is a PRT decision, not WAA's and we are not able to make accommodations for students to get here. Each individual school district within the 10-mile boundary is legally responsible to provide transportation to WAA. If a bus breaks down from one of those districts, they will determine their plan of action, not WAA. For these reasons, the statement holds that parents/guardians are responsible for transportation. However, WAA will work with students who miss or are late for school due to circumstances beyond their control regarding their attendance/tardiness and missed class work due to transportation.

- ***Important to Keep in Mind:***

- WAA does not determine the bus routes or times, the home district does. Students are advised to be at their stop 10 minutes prior to the scheduled pick-up time.
- Each district's transportation policies and rules must be followed while students are on that bus. Please see Student Handbook for more information.
- Our home districts that provide transportation do not permit students that are residents of another school district to ride their buses. For example, if your family lives in Gateway SD, a student resident of Penn Hills SD is not permitted to ride home with your student. Riding the bus home with a friend if you live in different

school districts will not be permitted, and the bus driver will not let them on the bus. This is not our rule.

- Parents/Guardians and students, please be patient as each district works through the glitches of each route at the beginning of the school year.



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- **Please remember to let us know if you move throughout the year so that you are able to keep transportation. Remember that it is your legal responsibility to report any changes of address with your home school district.**

- The buses/vans drop-off and pick-up students at the front entrance of the school on Herman Avenue (auditorium entrance). Please know that dismissal is at 2:40pm, and it is recommended that students go directly to their bus after their last period. Buses will depart at 2:46pm (there is a final bell that lets the buses know to depart).

Information for ConnectCard Users

- Four school districts provide transportation to their residents via ConnectCards through Pittsburgh Regional Transport, formerly Port Authority. Those districts are Wilkinsburg SD, Woodland Hills SD, McKeesport and Pittsburgh Public SD.
 - Woodland Hills will mail the ConnectCards to their families directly. Please check with those districts for their replacement policies if the card is lost/stolen.
 - Pittsburgh Public SD works directly with WAA to provide the ConnectCards; WAA will give the PPS students their ConnectCards.
 - McKeesport SD will have the ConnectCards at their Central Administration building located at 3590 O'Neil Boulevard, 15132. Cards will be available for pick-up once your child is fully registered with WAA.
 - Wilkinsburg School District cards are available for pick up at their Administrative Office
 - It takes up to 72 hours to activate a new card, so if you lose your card please make the necessary arrangements for your transportation.

- Ms. Mary Furlo, the School Administrative Assistant and Transportation Specialist, is the liaison between Westinghouse Arts and the school districts for transportation. Please see Ms. Furlo if you have any questions, concerns, or issues throughout the year. She is located in the Main Office. You may contact her via phone at her direct extension 412-646-1718 ext 7000 or via email at mfurlo@westinghousearts.org

For further information regarding Student Drivers, or Parent Drop-off/Pick-up, please refer to the Student Handbook