



Transportation Frequently Asked Questions

Who transports students for Nova? How do I know who to contact for bus issues?

Nova Classical Academy contracts with Pride Transportation for school bus service. If your bus is running late, please contact Pride directly at 612-448-6947 as they have the most up-to-date and accurate information about the location of the bus. For all other bus issues or questions (including changing your address/stop, behavior issues, driver issues, etc.) please contact Nova Classical's transportation manager Michelle Ingram at mingram@novaclassical.org.

Is my student eligible for bus transportation?

Nova provides free bus transportation to the following students:

- Students living within the St. Paul city boundaries and two or more miles away from the school.
- Students living outside of the St. Paul city boundaries who ride from an existing St. Paul bus stop.

Nova provides bus transportation for an annual fee of \$200 per family for those who request stops with an address within two miles of the school.

How will I find out my child's bus stop information?

Bus routes are determined over the summer and we finalize them as late as possible due to our changing enrollment and the large number of new students added to our rosters throughout August. Families will receive an email from Nova Classical by mid-August with bus stop information for the school year.

What determines the location of a bus stop?

We consider many factors when identifying bus stops - the most important are safety, efficiency, and shortest overall ride times. Bus stops are located at corners or intersections whenever possible and are usually central to where all of the nearby students are coming from. This also allows the driver a wide area to scan for traffic and students. We do not send buses into cul de sacs or dead end roads because they are unable to turn around safely.

My bus stop is far away. How can I get a closer stop?

Bus stops will be closer to student's houses for younger students (generally within 2 blocks for Kindergarten and first graders). Older students are expected to be able to walk farther to bus stops (generally within about 6 blocks for middle and high school students). If you have concerns about your child's safety you are encouraged to accompany your child to the bus stop or arrange a neighborhood buddy to walk with your child.

My child will ride the bus but has an inconsistent schedule. Can we choose when to use it?

Somewhat. If you are riding the bus three to four days per week, that's okay. If you are riding infrequently (ie. less than once per week) we ask that you request your family be removed from the bus list. This helps us have accurate rosters for who's riding and can make the routes more efficient if your children are the only ones at the stop. If your child needs to ride one to two days a week, we can write a bus pass for them to use the closest stop.

Can the bus pick up and drop off my child at daycare?

Yes, we provide bus service to and from daycare locations as long as they are within the St. Paul city boundaries. Daycares located within two miles of the school are subject to the \$200 per family annual fee.

When transporting students to and from a daycare address we will need the name and phone number of the child care provider.

My child's bus stop time is very early/late/doesn't fit my schedule. Can it be changed?

The order of the route is designed to be the most efficient and within the shortest possible time. Students who are first on in the morning will not necessarily be the first off in the afternoon if it is a less efficient way to run the route. In general, the farther students live from the school, the longer the bus ride will be. The length of the bus ride is determined by both the distance from the school and the number of stops made.

The bus goes right by my house. Why can't it stop here?

School bus stops are placed in central locations to shorten route length and times. We do our best to find central stops that can accommodate students as efficiently as possible. A higher frequency of stops made by the bus also increases the dangers for an accident because of impatient motorists. By law, school buses must have at least one to three hundred feet between stops (determined by a road's speed limit). Also, stops are made at corners for efficiency and to accommodate other students who may move into the neighborhood.

Why do some children cross the street to board the bus?

We are not able to route all buses so that children can board the bus from the door side. We recommend that children wait on the side of the street where they reside. The bus will stop traffic in all directions to accommodate students that need to cross the street to board the bus. You should instruct your child to wait for the driver's signal before crossing in front of the bus.

What time should my student(s) arrive at the bus stop?

Students should arrive at the stop at least five minutes prior to their scheduled bus stop time. Drivers make every effort to run their routes on time.

What do I do if the bus doesn't show up?

Pick up and drop off times will be fairly consistent after the first two weeks of school. Circumstances beyond our control could make the bus late occasionally. Mechanical issues, impassable roads, emergencies, or drivers being ill are just a few reasons that could make the bus late. If the wait is longer than ten minutes, please contact Pride Transportation directly at 612-448-6947.

How do I find out if the bus is running late?

Pride Transportation provides a mobile app families can use to track the location of the bus. [Click here](#) for instructions on downloading the app. [Here are specific directions for Nova Classical](#) (My Ride K-12 & [Here Comes the Bus](#))

What if my student is riding the bus home with a friend?

Students riding the bus for a one time event or with another student should obtain a temporary bus pass from the Lower School or Upper School office. Parents need to email or provide a note to the Lower School or Upper School offices to provide advanced written confirmation that the child is allowed to ride home with a friend.

What if a student loses or forgets something on a school bus?

Families may contact the bus company directly to inquire about lost and found items. Nova Classical Academy and Pride Transportation are not responsible for lost items, but we will make every effort to secure and return items lost on the bus. Please contact Pride Transportation directly at 612-448-6947.