

Paris Community Unit School District No. 4



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SNOW ROUTES/MUD ROUTES

Snow routes or mud routes are special locations designated for pick-up and drop-off, which are different from the routine stops. Bus drivers will notify students of these sites.

Crestwood School buses run regular routes whenever possible, but it is the practice of the district to implement snow routes when necessary. The decision to run snow routes is made with input from several sources and depends upon current road conditions, the temperature, and the weather forecast. Foremost is the safe transportation of all children. Snow routes will be announced through the ESDA emergency alert system first, the news media if possible, or in advance (notes from school and/or notification through the bus drivers) when possible.

It has been the practice of the district for many years that during the use of snow routes a child must ride in the morning to be able to ride the bus back home that day. The purpose of this practice has been to assure that everyone is aware of the snow routes and that the driver knows someone will be there to meet a child that evening. If someone is not at the pick-up location to meet a child, then the driver of the bus is forced to make a decision regarding what to do with that child. The school would prefer to take this decision out of the bus drivers' hands and have this be the parent's responsibility. Students not met at the pick-up point on the afternoon route will be brought back to school unless prior arrangements have been made with the driver. If a child is unable to ride in the morning, but needs to ride that evening, this can be done by arranging it with the bus driver before their route departure. Contact the driver or call the bus garage at 466-0255. If the pick-up point of a child on a snow route is not known, please contact the driver or call the bus garage.

Snow routes have been designated to incur as minimal turn-around as possible. Keep in mind that buses need two to three times the space a regular vehicle needs to turn-around. Routes are intended to keep buses in a forward direction, avoid slick spots such as hills, and avoid backing.

When snow is piled at intersections, there is not enough clearance for buses without hitting snow piles and a loss of visibility. While the main roads are clear, many secondary roads are snow-packed and only have one lane clear. With frigid temperatures, there are also clusters of ice. Driving a school bus is much different than driving a regular vehicle. Small vehicles or vehicles with four-wheel drive or front-wheel drive can maneuver much more easily than large buses.

PLEASE MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS IN ADVANCE. THE ESDA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM WILL BE USED FIRST. IF POSSIBLE, THE LOCAL RADIO STATIONS AND LOCAL TV (Channels 2, 3, and 10) WILL BE UTILIZED FOR BUS ROUTE AND SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION.