



To: Mr. Andy Kovach PSD

From: Mark Parm

Positive Bus Route Changes for 2016-17

The elementary building boundary changes have allowed Midco/PSD to make many long needed changes to better serve our students, parents, and schools.

- ✓ The design of the new schools by PSD will allow parent loading & unloading is well separated from bus loading and unloading at both new elementary buildings.
- ✓ Mid Columbia Bus Co. has purchased addition licensing with the routing program that we use which will eventually allow teachers and appropriate assigned school staff, as well as parents and students to view their individual student bus assignments with bus stops and pick up & departure times when they log into a particular students Eschool data which PSD uses. This information will be imported from Midco's routing program into the Districts program for viewing. We hope to have this added benefit fully functioning by September 19, 2016 when our elementary buildings start up but are currently working as fast as we can to clear up technical issues which will allow the two programs to communicate clearly and function in cooperation with each other.
- ✓ PHS and SMS students who reside on the west side of Main St. up on the South Hill area have always had to walk up and down the hill to the SW 14th & Frazer St. stop across from Hawthorne School Building. This year we will have bussing from these students to and from the SW Isaac bus stops which will significantly reduce the distance these students have to walk.
- ✓ The Chamber of Commerce bus stop has always only served elementary students but this will be opened up this year to also include PHS & SMS student who live in that immediate area.
- ✓ In the Pendleton School District due to old building populations and different elementary building boundaries most all school buses went to at least three elementary buildings every route am & pm. This year due to the new boundaries, each bus will only have one designate elementary building to travel to and from allowing for shorter bus ride times each day for students.
- ✓ All in town buses are no longer mixed loads meaning that elementary ride with elementary students not middle school and high school students. SMS & PHS students will be on separate bus loads reducing the possibility for misbehavior between grade extremes. Rural route buses still have mixed grade loads. This also results in shorter ride times for most PSD students to 15 to 20 minute rides.
- ✓ Our latest afternoon bus loading time is currently at the SMS building and that time is 3:41 pm.
- ✓ We have greatly improved the ability of our routing program pick-up and drop off times to be much more accurate, most stop times are now within one to two minutes of accuracy during test runs this summer.
- ✓ At this point all buses except one rural route bus will arrive at Pendleton school buildings by 8:00 am.

- ✓ We only have one rural route bus that will necessitate dropping students prior to 7:15 am. All SMS and PHS students will be dropping off after 7:15 and prior to 8:00 am.
- ✓ PSD staff and Midco are working jointly to restrict the number of daily interferences to routing and last minute accommodations which cause many other students to receive delayed rides to accommodate on or two unscheduled changes.
- ✓ Midco/PSD was able to add a bus stop at Pioneer Park for The North Hill students at NW 4th St and NW Despain Ave. This will accommodate students whose addresses are between NW 6th St and Main St. on the north side of the river.
- ✓ After school starts and student movements and school population adjustments level out we hope to be able to make more improvements to help provide better school bus services and experience for our student riders. It could take a couple of weeks for the system to settle out after school starts.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns please let contact me.

Thank You,

Mark Parm

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